State of South Carolina  
County of Anderson  

CORRECTED

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
RAY GRAHAM
KEN WATERS
TOM ALLEN
M. CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: Want to welcome each and every one of you here tonight. Part of our Council is geared towards proclamations and presentations. At this time I’d like to ask Council if they’d add to the agenda. I’ve got something to add to the agenda on the proclamations part. Resolution honoring Reverend Billy Graham. Put that in the form of a motion.

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a second by Mr. Graham. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. We’ll put that under (c).

Moving on to Item number 2(a). Resolution R2018-017. A Resolution to honor the Anderson County Library for its recent recognition as the best library in the State of South Carolina. Comes from all Council members. I’ll ask the Honorable Tom Allen if he’d read this into the record, please.

TOM ALLEN: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. This resolution, 2018-017 A Resolution to Honor the Anderson County Library for its Recent Recognition as the Best Library in the State of South Carolina; and other Matters Related Thereto.

WHEREAS, the Anderson County Library, as we know it today, began when the Anderson Library Association formed in 1900 with Ms. Margaret Evans serving as its first librarian and its opening hours on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and on Saturdays in a room of City Hall until the generosity of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and Col. Joseph N. Brown made possible the opening in 1908 of a stand-alone library on North Main Street in Anderson; and

WHEREAS, the Anderson County Library has expanded over the past century to serve communities throughout the County with branch libraries in Honea Path (1958), Iva (1958), Belton (1959), Williamston-Pelzer-West Pelzer (1960), Pendleton (1961), Piedmont (1970s) Powdersville (1980s) and at Anderson’s Westside Community Center (1998); and

WHEREAS, American Towns Media recently designated the Anderson County Library as #1 on its list “The 10 Best Libraries in South Carolina”, stating, “[The Anderson County Library] is everything a county library should be: a resource center for the community. Aside from a huge selection of books...the library also offers...tax preparation assistance, book clubs, a LEGO club, story time for kids, computer classes, how-to fairs, activities for teens, and so much more. This place will redefine everything you thought you knew about libraries”; and
WHEREAS, the Anderson County Library--as a community hub for lifelong learning and improvement where residents, starting at birth, move from infancy story times to after school activities to job training and advancement--carries on proudly the legacy of Benjamin Franklin and his vision of lifelong learning for all when he founded the first public library in 1731; and

WHEREAS, the Anderson County Council, in recognition of the central role of the Anderson County Library plays in the lives of the citizens we represent and in the success of Anderson County as a whole, do hereby congratulate the Anderson County Library for its selection as the best library in the State of South Carolina.

RESOLVED in a meeting duly assembled this 6th day of March, 2018.

And I’ll put that in the form of a motion, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion. I think the whole Council seconds it. Any discussion?

TOM ALLEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen.

TOM ALLEN: I would just like to say I, too, I really want to congratulate the library and the work they do because I remember as I was growing up going to the library in the covered wagon -- you know, the horse drawn wagon. And it just had books in it on great big tall shelves. And this library has books, too. But I am amazed at the different things that are over there that you can get into, as well as the lifelong learning and all the resources that are available over there. It really is a very impressive set-up. And if you haven’t been there, you really need to go and visit. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?

Ms. Wilson?

CINDY WILSON: Quickly, just to add to that, even the branch libraries on a smaller scale offer all of those activities and we’re very grateful to Ms. Line and her staff. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?

I’d just like to say I appreciate on behalf of Council the fine job the staff at the library is doing; all of them. And also the volunteer board that y’all work with so great and Friends of the Library. Appreciate very much what all y’all do and make Anderson County very proud. We’ll vote right quick. Put that in the form of a motion. We got a second. Had some discussions. Now we’ll vote. All in favor of the
motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

TOM ALLEN: Have everyone come down and we’ll do a little presentation for the library.

(PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION)

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to Item number 2(b) RESOLUTION R2018-018 A Resolution to Proclaim Friday, March 16, 2018 as “Bassmaster Day” in Anderson County. Mr. Ray Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Resolution R2018-018 a Resolution to Proclaim Friday, March 16, 2018 as “Bassmaster Day” in Anderson County, South Carolina and other matters related thereto.

WHEREAS, B.A.S.S. (Bass Angler Sportsman Society) is committed to enhancing the sport of bass fishing through advocacy for access, conservation and youth fishing and is considered the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport; and

WHEREAS, B.A.S.S. has been a leader since 1968 in tournament fishing, community partnerships, conservation efforts, and economic impact for fishing communities and is celebrating 50 years as an organization this year; and

WHEREAS, B.A.S.S. will host the 2018 Geico Bassmaster Classic presented by Dick’s Sporting Goods, the 48th annual world championship of professional bass fishing, March 16-18, 2018 on Lake Hartwell with takeoffs from Green Pond Landing and Event Center, a modern, $3.1 million launch facility; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Bassmaster Classic will mark the third time since 2008 the “Super Bowl of Bass Fishing” has been held on Lake Hartwell in Anderson County, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Anderson County Council, with gratitude for the enduring partnership between the County and B.A.S.S. and its continued positive impact on the quality of life of our citizens and the economic health of our region, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 16, 2018 as “Bassmaster Day” in Anderson County, South Carolina.

RESOLVED in a meeting duly assembled this 6th day of March, 2018.

Mr. Chairman, I bring that forth as a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Graham, second by Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.

CINDY WILSON: We finally have water back.
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, we do. Thank the good Lord. Any more discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Appreciate Mr. Graham doing that.

At this time we’ll move on to Item number 2(c) Resolution R2018-019. A Resolution to Honor the life and legacy of William “Billy” F. Graham, Jr. upon the occasion of his passing and other matters related thereto.

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham was born on November 17, 1918 in Charlotte, North Carolina to William Franklin Graham and Morrow Coffey Graham, the first of their four children and spent most of his boyhood interested in history and playing baseball with a dream to play professionally.

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham began his path to becoming the most important evangelist since the Apostle Paul, when, at the age of 16, he attended a street corner revival session led by the Reverend Ham and decided to become a Christian in 1934; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham graduated from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois in 1943 and married his classmate Ruth McCue Bell, his wife of 63 years, the same year, later having three daughters, two sons and nineteen grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in 1950, over his lifetime preaching in person to approximately two hundred and fifteen million people in more than a hundred and eighty-five countries and territories on six continents, including Anderson in 1950 at the old recreation center; and millions more by television and his thirty-four books; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham counseled every President of the United States since Harry Truman, visited and prayed with American soldiers in war zones in South Korea and Vietnam and preached alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for racial equality in New York City in 1957, and bailed Mr. King out of jail when King was arrested for protesting segregation, comforted the nation at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. following attacks of September 11, 2001; and served for nearly a century as a leader of faith with a singular ability to unite Americans from all walks of life, ethnic and racial backgrounds and political affiliations.

NOW, THEREFORE be it Resolved by the Anderson County Council in meeting duly assembled this 6th day of March, 2018, the Council honors the life and legacy of Billy Graham and his significant contributions to
the United States of America and to millions of people
across the world.

Put that in the form of a motion. The whole
Council seconds it. Any discussion? Appreciate y’all
letting me do that tonight. All in favor of the motion
show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion
carries unanimously.

This part of our Council meeting will be over.
We’ll reconvene back here at 6:30 start regular Council
meeting.

(SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:15 P.M.)
IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
RAY GRAHAM
GRACIE FLOYD
TOM ALLEN
CRAIG WOOTEN
KEN WATERS
M. CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: ... the March 6th Regular Anderson County Council meeting to order. Want to welcome each and every one of you here tonight. Appreciate y'all coming out.
At this time I’d like to ask Councilman Ken Waters if he’d lead us in Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. If we’d all rise, please.
KEN WATERS: At this time we’d like to have a moment of silence honoring the Reverend Billy Graham.

(INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY MR. KEN WATERS)

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on, are there any corrections to be made to the February 20th County Council meeting minutes? Anybody hear anything, see anything? Make a motion to accept the minutes.
CINDY WILSON: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. Show the motion carries unanimously. Show Ms. Wilson seconded that motion.

Moving on to Citizens Comments. Mr. Harmon calls your name, please restate your name and district for the record. You’ve got three minutes. Keep matters on agenda items only and address the Chair.
LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first speaker is Frank Pressly.
FRANK PRESSLY: I’m speaking to Item number 11. Frank Pressly, District 2. I went to the meeting last week for -- at Cheddar -- about the landfill. There was a pretty good meeting. There was a lot of participation. There was a piece of paper that was handed around that was shown to be, or claimed to be a part of the new contract and the new agreement with the landfill.
Several meetings ago I asked one of the County Council members about the contract that we’re talking about here. And they said that the contract had disappeared and that no one had it. This contract that we were given is not a contract. It’s an amendment. It says specifically on it that it’s an amendment to an agreement from October 29, 1997, which was the original sale agreement that this landfill was sold under. In South Carolina you’re not a legitimate business until you’ve registered with the Secretary of State. This contract was executed on 10-29 of ‘97. Anderson Regional Landfill which is the legal name of our landfill was not registered with the Secretary of State until a week later. Allied Waste was not registered with the Secretary of State until two months later. So I don’t even know that either of these entities was
Now, I’m not comfortable with this idea that we’re working on expanding and taking language out of a contract that isn’t in front of us. So, Mr. Chairman, I’d like you to ask the County Administrator to produce this contract that they refer to in this amendment, specifically in removing section 11 and referring to section 20. There’s bound to be a contract somewhere if somebody’s talking about it. But I don’t know about y’all, but I’m not comfortable with this notion of us acting on, improving and expanding the contract that is vapor, it doesn’t exist. They say it exists here, but you’re voting on something that I have been told on good authority doesn’t exist.

So, Mr. Chairman, if you would, ask County Administrator to please produce for us all this contract that we’re talking about. It’s at the center of this discussion and I don’t think any amendments should be made to it until we actually see the contract. And all you Council members, I mean, you’re talking and voting on something that you’ve never even seen. Are you comfortable with that? I mean I have to ask honestly. I mean, have y’all — any of y’all been intimidated or promised something in regard to this vote? Because it’s not adding up. It’s just not making any sense.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Elizabeth Fant.

ELIZABETH FANT: Good evening, friends. I have one correction to the amendment, to the agenda minutes. On page 19 line 17, it should be spelled W-a-t-e-r-s. His name is Waters, then you put the apostrophe.

I’m also speaking on number 11. I went to the meeting and it was — I’ve been to several of the meetings and they’ve all been very passionate and the people there are just so tired because for twenty years now basically nothing has been done. I’m not optimistic, but I would like to be.

But I want you to know that some of the concerns, one lady’s daughter was killed at the intersection of whatever that is 247 I think and Murphy Road, which is where the trucks are coming in and they’re not supposed to be coming in there. The trucks are flying down there at 70 miles an hour. These are witnesses that are telling this. They’re not stopping at stop signs. They’re going in areas that they shouldn’t be. They start up what goes on at the landfill whether it’s a truck leaving the landfill or whether it’s just starting up a truck, they’re doing this at four o’clock
in the morning. It’s continuing until midnight. The people over there can’t get sleep. Their children are at jeopardy along the way because the trucks are coming through and throwing rocks. I mean we’re talking about big chunks of rocks. There’s been another accident out there where there’s no guardrail and somebody overturned and went into the ditch. The buzzards are horrible. The stench is horrible. And I would like to ask those of you who live in Anderson County, the rest of Anderson County, how you would like to live in a situation like this where things have been promised for twenty years. And it’s not happening. I think it’s egregious. I think as a county we need to get our act together. We don’t need to be subsidizing some business to make their wishes happen at the expense of our own people. These people are passionate, they are not kooks, they are backing up everything they say with evidence and we don’t seem to be getting anywhere.

I have an article, a ten page article about the landfill that happened under the former Administrator. It never should have happened the way it did. There doesn’t appear, as Mr. Pressly says, to be a contract that we’re working on. There was a contract but it just somehow or another just ---

LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

Next.

LEON HARMON: No one else is signed up.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. At this time a little housekeeping thing. I meant to do this earlier. Item number 7(a) Supplemental ordinance for the budget, that’s part of the Finance Committee thing, so we won’t be doing that under 7(a). It’ll still be a public hearing and all, we’ll do that at the -- and vote on that over on the finance committee thing.

And Item number 7 under the Finance Committee executive session, potential land contract, that will be moved up first. That needs to be took care of first, because that’ll be part of -- could be part of the supplemental budget, from my understanding.

Moving on next will be discussion concerning the Anderson County Fire Protection Commission. Before we get into that, make a quick statement before we -- how we got here. Fire Commission came to County Council and asked for a four mil tax increase. This was put in the Public Safety Committee. Some Council members had some questions and some answers and wanted to get with the attorney. Attorney advised to go get some opinions from the Attorney General’s office. Public Safety Committee brought this before the full Council and the
full Council voted on this to go to these hearings. I had a conversation with Chairman of the Fire Commission, Mr. Holiday, said he understood what we was doing, where we was at. I wish this thing could have been quicker. Things that we’ve got no control over. But it just so happened today the Attorney General -- we got his letter and got his thing. But we saying that is a moot point. We got a letter here from the fire commission stating they withdraw their request. Tonight, we don’t have nothing before this Council requesting a four mill tax increase. Just want to get that for the record. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Last week maybe in January 23rd, we all received a letter from the Anderson County Fire Protection Commission. The letter kind of flabbergasted me a little bit because I didn’t know what was going on and no one had said anything to me about it. So I wanted to find out for myself what did all of this mean.

One part of the letter really got to me. And I’d like to read that part to you now. It is written, the last paragraph in the letter says, it is unfortunate that an agreement on this matter could not be reached and that communication seems to have stalled between the fire service and Anderson County. Considering this request is over a year old and there have been no formal meetings to present our needs or have an opportunity to discuss options, we have decided to withdraw our petition for public hearing and will not pursue the general obligation bond as a funding stream. The commission staff and many of our volunteers have voiced disappointment in the lack of support Anderson County has expressed during this process.

When I read that, I did not understand, because the Anderson County I serve is not supposed to do that. We’re supposed to listen and we’re supposed to understand what the needs of the people are and what their wishes are. I didn’t say we were supposed to agree with them. I said we were supposed to listen and what they were saying is they wanted to -- they did not get an opportunity to discuss options that we have -- did not get the opportunity to discuss options. I didn’t think that was right. I wanted to know, and I knew that you, the public, wanted to know, too.

So, I went down to the fire department to understand it more. And after talking with our chief, Jimmy R. Sutherland, I understood a little more about it. But I didn’t know about it. I understand that this was supposed to go to the Public Hearing folks, I mean to the Public Hearing Committee and I was Chair of
the Public Hearing Committee last year and I didn’t hear a word about this. No one told me anything about this.

But after listening to them I thought it was important enough to have them come and let them speak to this and see what the ends and everything else was about. So I invited them to come, not knowing the information that our Chair just told us. I never hear that before.

But anyway, I welcome the Fire Chief, I mean the fire people here from wherever you are. No matter what district, what fire district or no matter what station. I’m glad you’re here. And please, use this opportunity to tell us what it is that you want and what it is that you would like for the county to know. I’ll call on -- I was supposed to have Chief Sutherland and Mr. Moon’s name on the agenda, but it didn’t get there, but that’s okay. Whomever is going to do the speaking, please come up now.

Mr. Burns, would you help them get situated, please.

RUSTY BURNS: ???

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh. Okay. Good.

MR. MOON: ... Chairman Holiday and Chief Sullivan to provide you with just a little bit of background information. I want to keep that as brief as possible so that we have time for Chairman Holiday to make his statements. And the power point is coming up. And I do want to express like I said to Ms. Floyd’s invitation and to the entire Council for the opportunity of a public forum to discuss the Anderson County Fire Protection Commission and our nine hundred volunteer firefighters that serve every day. We always look for any opportunity we can to talk about the fire service. We feel like we do a good job. Our volunteers do a good job. And we want to let the citizens know that they are there every day serving at their will.

So the Anderson County Fire Protection Commission that was established in 1961 by the state legislature. It’s a special purpose district that provides -- was intended to provide equal and efficient fire protection throughout the unincorporated area of Anderson County. But once it was put into service in 1963, it started having stations operating within the county, we grew to also include other municipalities. The only area of the county that’s not served by the Anderson County Fire Protection Commission is the city of Anderson, the city of Belton, the town of Honea Path and the town of Williamston and the Piedmont service district. But we
do have automatic aide and mutual aide agreements with those departments, so they help us and we help them.

Right now the special purpose district is composed of the fire commission, which are volunteers, too. They’re not compensated for what they do. That’s a five member board, one assigned to each school district to oversee the operation of the special purpose district. We have an administrative staff and I’ll break that down for you in a few minutes. But we basically run and support at the volunteer fire stations throughout the county.

As of right now, we have right at just under 900 volunteer firefighters in the county. That number fluctuates as you can imagine as there are people leave and come on. We fluctuate between about 850 and 900. They’re assigned to 27 individual organized fire districts, so that’s your community fire district such as the Hopewell area, Friendship area, Creightonville, Iva, things such as that; those smaller jurisdictions. And they are operating out of -- we’re operating out of a headquarters station on McGee Road and out of 31 fire stations throughout the county. Reason we have 31 fire stations versus 27 is some of the areas are very large and distant so those individual stations added a second station so that they could better serve the community and reduce response times. A lot of that has taken place over the last ten years. We utilize a fleet of over 140 pieces of apparatus including engines, tankers, ladder trucks, rescue trucks and just a multitude of support vehicles.

In 2007, just to give you a brief picture, we ran right at 6074 calls for service. As you can imagine, from just about anything. We tend to be a catchall. If you don’t know who to send, send the fire department. And our people are more than welcome to show up and do what they can. And we have always been proud to know that and be ranked as one of the largest volunteer fire service organizations in the country. At one time it was easy to track and we knew we were the fifth largest fire departments that was all volunteer in the country. Some of those numbers are -- have blurred a little bit because of the volunteer departments switching over to combination departments, but we still know we’re in the top in the nation.

We operate off of a six mill tax levy that was put on in 1987, which was 31 years ago. There’s been no adjustment to the six mills since that time. There’s been no indebtedness placed on as any additional millage. We’ve operated off of that six mills for the last 31 years.
We provide operations to the district and to the individual volunteer fire districts and to any capital improvements throughout the special purpose district. The fire millage is a little bit less than a county mill and that’s because of what we spoke to earlier is the city of Anderson and several municipalities are not included in how it’s calculated. So from what the County Council is used to dealing with as a mill, our millage is actually less than that. So anywhere between five hundred and fifty and five hundred and seventy thousand per mill is what we operate off of.

Out of that tax levy, the commission has a multitude of obligations. Of course, administration of the district. We have a county chief and assistant chief. I’m the assistant chief. Chief Sullivan is the county chief and we have two office staff there that helps with the accounting, bookkeeping, purchasing and things such as that. Commercial building fire code inspections, we have two full time fire marshals that go out and work with the county inspectors to do fire code inspections and they also do our yearly inspections which are required for our volunteer stations to receive what we call state one percent funding, which gives them money to train with and money to do recruitment and retention. So that money comes directly to those volunteer stations. So our inspectors help them and support them to receive that money.

Fire investigation, we have two full time fire investigators. That’s a little bit unique. Not -- most fire departments do not do that. We do that to assist the volunteer stations with origin and call determination. They prosecute any arson fires in the county and they also handle burn complaints throughout the county during daily process when they’re on duty. If complaints come in about illegal burning such as that, the investigators go out and check into that.

Apparatus maintenance. I mentioned over 140 vehicles in our fleet. We have a shop there onsite at the county headquarters. Three technicians in there that provide expert service on the fire trucks. It takes a special trained person that knows how to work on fire equipment apparatus and equipment. So we benefit by having those guys in the shop.

County fire communications. We are out of the central dispatch 9-1-1 center, but we continue to pay the salaries for our dispatchers. That was part of the arrangement when we moved to central dispatch. We also had to upgrade our radio system because of the FCC narrow banding several years ago. We had to go to a
1 simulcast system which put more antennas throughout the
county and that was right at five hundred thousand
dollars that we had to spend on that upgrade.

Training. Of course you can imagine the number of
hours that these volunteers must go through. We have a
full time training office that coordinates that
training within these departments. We have several
part time instructors that we pay to go out and do
training for these volunteers. We work closely with
the South Carolina Fire Academy to provide economical
training. We get a break on cost by going with them
and we’re able to do training a lot of times in those
volunteer community stations so those volunteers don’t
have to travel. But we do have a training facility
here in the county that they can utilize so they don’t
have to go to Columbia to take training. Recruitment,
retention. Like I said, a large volunteer
organization. We felt like several years ago when we
was lucky enough to receive a grant to hire a
recruitment retention coordinator. And we have
retained that person because once we put that person in
place, we started seeing our volunteer numbers creep up
from about 800 to like I said we’re close to 900 now in
just about 4 years. So we felt like that was a
significant increase. They also do fire prevention.
They go out and talk to civic groups about fire
preventions. Go to our schools, talk to our children
about fire prevention. And we also do a smoke detector
campaign where we provide smoke detectors to needy
residents. If they need them, we will come install
them and we’ll provide those smoke detectors to them.
We provide insurance. All workers comp for all
volunteers and staff and we also insure all the
facilities all the volunteer stations, all the
equipment, all the apparatus.

Volunteer station operations. About one third of
our budget every year goes directly to the volunteer
stations for them to operate off of. Their utilities,
their equipment they need to keep up, fuel for their
trucks. And things that they need to be able to
operate. They are supported through that. And that
support has greatly increased over the last ten years.
The Commission has increased the amount of money that
goes directly to those stations so that they’re not
struggling.

We also give -- we have a county technical rescue
team which is a joint effort between us and the city.
We provide financial support to it and also with
vehicle support. We provide a vehicle for them.
Actually we’ve helped on two vehicles for that.
The Haz-Mat team, we provide a yearly amount in the budget for those guys and we also provide them with facilities there at the headquarters station to store their equipment and vehicles.

And like I mentioned, the Anderson County Training Facility where we train at is a joint effort among all the fire departments in the county and we pay -- we have to pay a dues that’s calculated off our tax revenue each year to be a member of that training facility. So that does keep our volunteers from having to travel to places like Columbia to train. They also have to provide medical physicals to all firefighters each year. They have to take a -- basically a DOT physical. It’s a little bit less than a DOT physical so you can imagine the cost of that to each of -- for each of those volunteers. Personal protective equipment. The turnout gear, the bunker gear they wear has to be replaced at ten years no matter what the shape that it’s in. It has to be taken out of use.

The Fire Commission, we have 27 stations. There’s two fire pumpers in each station that are provided by the fire commission tax levy and that’s on an ongoing replacement basis. Usually based on years of operation and the status of the vehicle. Also replacement of air apparatus or ladder trucks that we use. We have two county owned. There’s three that the individual volunteer fire departments have purchased on their own. The problem we see there is they were able to get them reasonably but there’s not a funding stream to replace those station owned vehicles. The two apparatus that we have currently are 20 years old. One was bought new, one was bought used. They are getting very close to needing to be replaced. And you’re looking at anywhere from a million to a million and a half dollars a piece to replace those.

What do our volunteer districts do? They have financial obligations out of the station allotment that they receive, but they are also 501(c)(3)s, so you can donate to your local department. They can use that money for in-district community specific needs. They keep up their stations. If they need to build a new station, most of the time they’re using that community money that people has donated to them. District specific equipment replaces some. The Cheddar community down towards the tank farm, they have a specific need for that area, so they may have a little bit different equipment needs. Brush trucks, or what they use on grass fires and woods fires they purchase on their own and replace. Rescue trucks, speciality apparatus, anything they feel they need for their area.
Extraction equipment like jaws of life, and stuff like that, it’s important to remember that they are -- that was something that we kind of just inherited. If you’ll remember, we used to have volunteer rescue squads in the county. That transitioned over to full time EMS services and the fire department basically just adopted the rescue side of things as far as emergency services. There was no funding stream for that so those stations have met that obligation out of their district money.

A classification that we have, the ISO insurance service classification or ISO classification, you’ve probably heard about it, you maybe not have heard. Basically what it does is grades the fire department on manpower communications or capabilities, water supply and fire suppression. We have consistently over the last decade dropped our ISO class down to a 3 size 3Y, which is very good for volunteer fire departments. And we feel like that classification has saved taxpayers in insurance premiums; business owners and residents. And the reason we say that is even if you have built-in inflation into your insurance policy it probably has not grown at the rate it would if you had a bad fire department. We feel like we’ve worked very diligently on keeping the ISO coming down and we don’t want it to go in the opposite direction.

We are looking at an increase cost in the fire service. The annual medical physicals that we have to do, you know, prices go up. We have more firefighters. We recruit, we retain more firefighters, so we have to add more physicals. The tenure on protective equipment is something that has happened just in the last decade. That’s something that we’re working very hard to make sure we can do. Fifteen years on air pack cylinders. The air packs they wear, the cylinders on there regardless of their quality they have to be replaced at 15 years.

Tire replacement on our apparatus. Go back to 140 unit fleet, excess of 140 unit fleet. Seven years regardless of the mileage or the condition of the tires, they have to be taken off and replaced.

Increased training hours. We have significant training hours and we have to pay for instructors to do that training. Insurance increases, like everybody else. And we’re not wanting -- not different than any other organization as insurance costs go up. Ladder trucks certifications, we do every year. Most of the time they pass. Sometimes they don’t. We have to make repairs to get them to pass. That’s costly.

SSE narrow band I mentioned affected our radio
system. It continues to be an issue because FCC is thinking about narrow banding again. We don’t know what it will do to our radio system. We may have to add more antennas.

So this is how we got to the GO Bond, which we feel is -- was an attempt to stabilize and sustain the volunteer fire service in Anderson County for the next 10 years. We was looking at replacing equipment, our ladder trucks, needed turnout gear, the air pack replacement on the fifteen year schedule, keeping up our radio communications so our volunteers can receive the calls and also by increasing our ability to purchase bulk buying if we were doing a single point buying system we were buying at one time for some of this stuff we can get a pretty significant decrease in price.

Basically what we’re looking at is the bond was one avenue. If the bond does not go through and we can’t -- we don’t pursue the bond then we’re going to have to figure out a different vessel to recoup some of this money or to bring the revenue in. But one thing the GO Bond was going to do we felt like it was going to say to our volunteer firefighters that you’re important to us, we care about your safety, you do a good job so we’re going to give you good equipment to work with.

I can’t -- I don’t know that I can put into words what these volunteers do. When you think about someone calling 9-1-1 for just about any reason, a lot of times they’re the first to arrive and the last to leave, all hours of the day and on the weekends, on holidays. I can’t tell you how many times we’ve been out on Christmas morning with these 30 or 40 volunteers on large structure fires. And nobody complains. They are there to serve the citizens of Anderson County.

The volunteer fire service is a tremendous savings. We’re talking about money and no one wants to talk about a tax increase. But if you did not have the volunteer fire service in this county with its size and population growth and how the county is growing, you would not want to see what the tax millage would have to be to have career firefighters in these departments.

So what we’re looking at is we want to create volunteer incentive programs, and that was part of the bond. We was going to move capital improvement obligations to the bond so we could purchase the equipment, free up some of our operating capital and we were going to try to give some incentives to these volunteers for staying on board with us. I’m also a volunteer in this county, been one for the last twenty-seven years. There’s countless numbers of other
volunteers that have been doing it longer than I have. And I mean there’s people out there been doing it for fifty and sixty years and they’re still getting up in the middle of the night and answering these calls.

So why now? As the Chairman spoke to the letter, Mr. Holiday’s going to speak to that. We just have a sense of urgency. We want to try to find a fix so that we can be sure that we are doing right by the citizens and right by these volunteer firefighters. And that’s our biggest concern. We started this process over two years ago. We had conversations, we had meetings that we felt we had gained some support and had voiced our needs and I don’t know, something just -- something happened and it stalled. And we just seemed to lose that communication. And maybe that was on both sides, I’m not sure. But I know that all we’re looking at is can we do something now that will sustain this system, this volunteer system for the coming years. Our rescue -- our equipment that we need, it goes up from three to six percent a year, that’s apparatus and equipment. Our growth, we bring in about an extra hundred thousand dollars a year off of growth.

One of our major concerns is fee-in-lieu-of agreements with business takes away eight hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars a year of our budget on fee-in-lieu agreements. That’s growth that we do not get. If we had that money, we probably would not be here tonight. We could continue and maintain with that money. But because over the years we have gotten behind, it’s going to take more to catch up. That’s why we have a sense of urgency about us.

Industrial settings require specialized equipment. And these and training for people and it’s only -- to me it’s only right to these volunteers that these businesses are supporting their effort.

So I’m not going to get too much into conclusion. I just mentioned most of that, but I do want to introduce Chairman Glen Holiday and he’s going to speak to our efforts so far and to where we’re at tonight.

Thank you.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, I apologize to interrupt, but we’re right at 25 minutes.

TOMMY DUNN: I think it’s only right to let Mr. Holiday talk. I make the motion that we -- how much you need Mr. Holiday?

MR. HOLIDAY: Three minutes.

TOMMY DUNN: Give Mr. Holiday three minutes to put in motion. All in favor of the motion to give Mr. Holiday three minutes, show of hands. Show the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Holiday.
MR. HOLIDAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Honorable Councilmen. Appreciate this opportunity to come to you. I’d like to just cover -- and some of the things I had to cover would be repetitious of him so it’s okay that we go to this.

But just to beginning with the growth. The growth has not been -- as he explained, the in-lieu-of has kind of got us a little bit behind on that. In other words, the growth you would expect to have been substantial that we would -- it would be a wash that the money that has increased over the years since 1987 would be a wash and we’d be having about the equivalent what we were getting then. But that in-lieu-of does have us behind.

The growth, I’m going to mention a couple of items here. The growth and the time change from ’87 to now. When we bought a truck in 1987, that truck cost somewhere in the 80 thousand dollar range. Today, that truck, the ones we bought last fall, were over three hundred thousand dollars, around three hundred and twenty thousand dollars. Anything special that has to go with it, of course, would be in addition to that.

And then in 1987 we thought nothing about aerial equipment. Now, we’re looking and we’re facing times when that’s going to be essential.

Ladder trucks. A ladder truck is over a million dollars with the equipment and things on it. And believe me, when you walk and ride around your county and everything, you see apartments going up and everything, they’re going up like crazy with three stories high. We don’t want to put our firemen in a situation of having to fight a fire from the ground that they can’t reach. And heaven forbid that they would try to go in. So for protection, we’re looking at some things like that.

Mr. Moon also mentioned about the new equipment -- I mean the safety of things. OSHA and other organizations, we do have increases there that we didn’t expect until just recently coming along. The additional responsibilities that we’ve taken on. He mentioned that. I think in the county all the extraction at wrecks and everything is under the fire department now. That was not so in 1987. Dispatch, we had to deal with radios all this time, and Mr. Chairman, you know as well as I do how these things with the radios has always been a problem. Radios any more, we don’t have people to repair them any more. We have to buy new radios. And it’s cheaper in the long run than having to repair. So we’re having to constantly replace radios.
We now support organizations we didn’t -- or committees that we didn’t anticipate having in 1987. For instance, we have our training center that we support. We have the confined space team that we support. Haz-mat had just begun to think about in ’87. So these are things that we continue to support.

So let me wrap it up real quick by saying volunteers are our greatest resource. And we want to -- and have and I hope we have the best that we could as a commission have supported our volunteer firemen. We want to continue to do that. This year is the first year in the last few years wherein we have ordered only one truck. We’ve been ordering two. I hope that we don’t have to resort to that. I hope that we don’t have to think -- and it won’t be me around having to think about it. But 27 years from now, with 27 stations, thinking of somebody having to drive a 27 year old truck. So I hope that we can continue on the route that we’ve gone with the funds that we need.

I just want to mention right quick that our fire commission wholeheartedly supports this GO Bonds issue. We wholeheartedly support it. We have looked at it, we have studied it, analyzed it and this would be the cheapest way we could go. Now I say that to say this. Yes, we probably did jump the gun, Mr. Chairman, on withdrawing. But contacts have been lost. And communication was not occurring and as Mr. Moon said it could have been on both parts. I’ll assure you that. We take blame for it, too. And as you. Because we waited for some answers that we thought were coming because we were told that within certain periods of times that we would be hearing more. And we should have been in better contact with you so we’d have known that there was a reason for these not to occur. So we take blame along with you on that.

We have always had a great working relationship with County Council and this is not going to stop. Whatever the results are here, if you all determine that this is not what you would like to support us with, we go on. I personally am of a mind that I don’t like too many things going on at one time. That was one reason that the letter was sent was because we felt like there was a bit of a break down there and we knew, with the figures that we’ve given you here, we needed to begin and we desperately need to move on in a way that we know that funding is going to be available. We as a commission and I say the total commission, are in full support of the GO Bonds. And we believe that this gives us a plan that stabilizes the fire system for the next ten years. We believe that this method is going
to be the cheapest and could be the cheapest.

So, Mr. Chairman, we extend our hand to you and I
hope you extend your hand back to us. But if that not
be the case, then we will move forward and we’ll do
what we can in funding the fire system. Appreciate you
listening to us. And if anyone has a question for any
of us commissioners, we’ll be happy to hear them.

TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate it, Mr. Holiday.
I think time we’ve gone over a little bit. I
appreciate it.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. The three things
that you said to me that made a big difference just
hearing it, number one, was that the bond that you’re
trying to float was structured based on the fire
commission borrowing capacity and not Anderson County.
In other words, this would not be on Anderson County’s
borrowing capacity. But you guys were going to do
that. All you needed from us was a letter saying that
you got from the legislative -- you got a letter from
them saying that you could proceed with this and you
got a letter from somebody -- the Anderson County
delegation and the Anderson County Fire Chief.

The second thing was that you have not had
adjustment in over thirty years. So we’re running the
fire department, our fire system, from 30 year old
money, how it was back then.

The third thing that really made an impression on
me is that because of fee-in-lieu of taxes which is a
good thing for Anderson County because it does give us
jobs and everything else. But it also cut into the
needs that we have. You guys lost eight hundred and
fifty-five thousand dollars because of fee-in-lieu-of
taxes. But yet, when the thing catches fire you are
expected to go down there and put it out and do
everything else you can.

I think that we need to give this some kind of
consideration as a Council -- not one person but as a
Council, we should have been able to get together to
decide what we are going to do and if we needed to call
you in for more questions or whatever. We should have
had the opportunity to do this.

But I am not the Chair, nor do I want to be the
Chair, but I want to apologize for my part of what has
happened here through the county. It has taken you so
long to do something that is so needed because of
whatever reasons. But any part that I might have
played in this delay I apologize because I know how
important how you are. And we know, too, because
almost every other time we have fire people come up here and we give them awards and we pat them on the back and we tell them how wonderful they are. But when it comes down to supporting them financially we’re looking the other way.

And I thank you all for coming.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank y’all. My fellow Council members, can I ask to extent the time? Let me talk for three minutes. Put that in the form of a motion.

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries.

I want to say I appreciate the fire commission and all the firemen. I am one of those firemen. Been over 35 years. Know exactly what goes through and what the firemen need. But I want to say this, Mr. Holiday. Known you a long time. You known me. Know I ain’t never lied to you. I’m a phone call away. I told you in that conversation we had that all you had to do -- we had to wait on that -- and it wasn’t Tommy Dunn, wasn’t Ray Graham. This went through the proper channels of full Council and voted on this about this opinion, and I’ll get -- from the Attorney General -- which we have now.

I want to touch base on something about the fee-in-lieu-of we’re kicking around here. Since 2008, I believe, y’all got an average of a hundred and forty thousand dollars on average in fee-in-lieu-of money. I know it sounds -- but there wouldn’t be no companies here if we didn’t do these fee-in-lieu-of agreements and people having good paying jobs to be able to buy stuff to put tax things to get these things. Fee-in-lieu-of is a very important tool that we use. Just for one sense, down at First Quality down there -- was an old empty vacant building which would have paid no taxes in a few years and now we got something down there and it’s over what, seven, eight hundred jobs. So that’s what -- fee-in-lieu-of is not a dirty thing. It’s a very important tool for our economic development thing. Now I challenge the Fire Commission -- y’all send a letter withdrawing this. Y’all send one back saying y’all want this reinstated and we’ll sit down with other things and we’ll get something started. You got my word on that. Thank y’all.

Moving on to Item number 7(a) this is third reading. Be 2018-002 a Supplemental ordinance to amend to Ordinance -- I’m sorry, I just told y’all we weren’t
going to do that until we got to the Finance Committee. So we’ll be moving on to 7(b) 2018-003 an ordinance authorizing a fee-in-lieu-of-Tax agreement on behalf of Opperman Webbing, Inc. (the “Company”) pursuant to a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement between Anderson County, South Carolina (the “County”) and the company; authorizing a 5-year extension of the investment period for all investments over the statutory minimum investment; authorizing the execution and delivery of an Infrastructure Financing Agreement (IFA) granting certain infrastructure credits to the company.

This will be a public hearing. Anyone wishing to speak to this, step forward, state your name and district and address the Chair. Anyone at all? Hearing and seeing none, public hearing will be closed.

Mr. Burriss you got anything you’d like to say?

BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, nothing other than this is a great company. It’s established, it’s a European company with their ownership a hundred and seventy years old. Very stable, very sustainable company and they’ll be generating about sixty-five thousand dollars of new property taxes each year for the next however many years, thirty years in the agreement. But they are already paying taxes of about that amount each year as they exist today. So a good opportunity for the aggressive and support of Anderson County Council in recruiting companies like Opperman to bring jobs and money to our tax base. This is a great opportunity for us. It’s 71 new jobs.

Thank you and members of Council for your support and we certainly ask for your consideration of third reading. Thank you so much.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. We have a motion?

KEN WATERS: Mr. Chairman, can we have questions now or we ---

TOMMY DUNN: Yeah. Well, let’s get a motion on the floor and get the discussion. Motion Mr. Allen. Have a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Now Mr. Waters.

KEN WATERS: Okay. Just looking at this. You mentioned the sixteen -- seventy-one dollars -- seventy-one jobs at sixteen dollars an hour. Can we give the annual payroll on that? Can I say that?

BURRISS NELSON: The annual payroll, certainly. That’s just on this portion.

KEN WATERS: The annual payroll is two point two million dollars almost two point three
1 million dollars per year.
2 BURRISS NELSON: That’s right.
3 KEN WATERS: And that’s of new jobs, right?
4 BURRISS NELSON: Correct.
5 KEN WATERS: Brand new. I know we have a map of all of the new stuff that we have. And I’ll have to say just one job is important to me, because that’s one job that somebody’s not on the welfare or depending on the government to -- for their living. And so I appreciate everything y’all have done. And you know, this is just one of the many things. And I like the way you explained the -- do you happen to have the taxes before?
6 BURRISS NELSON: No, sir, not in front of me. I can get a list for Council.
7 KEN WATERS: Okay, that’ll be fine. But I just wanted you to mention that because this is very good news. I mean this is very good news. And a lot of times we take for granted, you know, just that one job is important to us. And so we take for granted what we’re getting. And so we still have that same vision. Just one job is important and you and I have talked about this many times. I appreciate what you guys have done to get this here and thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
9 Thank you, Mr. Burriss.
10 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of Council.
11 TOMMY DUNN: There is no 8 or 9, second or first readings on ordinances. There are none. We’re moving on now -- there are no resolutions in Item 10.
13 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Anderson County was represented by Greg Smith, Solid Waste Director, Holt Hopkins, Director of Public Works, Roads and Bridges engineers Matt Hogan and Megan Young and our county attorney Leon Harmon and District 7 Councilman, South Carolina DOT, District engineer Kevin McLaughlin, Cheddar Fire Department volunteers. And Tim Fadul, the regional director for Waste Connections also participated, along with approximately forty residents. You have before you a list of complaints and concerns that were voiced in the 30th of January.
meeting. And in working together there has been some progress made in several areas. Greg Smith is placing a trash dumpster and a recycle bin at the MRF in front of the landfill entrance for the local residents’ convenience. Mr. Ray Graham, District 3, is meeting with our tax assessor’s office to address tax assessment issues in that area and we will have a report on that soon. The community members are setting up a facebook site as a method to share photos and complaints with appropriate authorities. Our county has initiated a new effort working with Big Creek Water Company to obtain grant funding for waterlines and fire hydrants in the area that are desperately needed. Kevin McLaughlin of South Carolina Department of Transportation addressed issues relating to the Big Creek Road. The huge pothole in front of the Cooley’s homes which had a full depth rebuild two summers ago, has now developed a new hole. He said a new fix, after a temporary fix, after a short repair will be made and then when the weather warms up there will be a permanent fix.

Mr. Hopkins and Mr. McLaughlin are working on the site distance issues where Big Creek, Hamilton, Cannon Bottom Road and Mahaffey Roads all intersect. Mr. McLaughlin gave brief updates on Highway 29, the Jockey Lot and Highway 29 Cherokee Road bridge projects and intersections. Highway 247, Shady Grove Road and Murphy Road had flashing lights and 35 mile an hour speed limits installed not too awful long ago. But the truckers and others are continuing to break the speed limits and ignore other issues. Murphy Road has had four tanker wrecks and spills within the last 18 months. South Carolina DOT expects funding for Big Creek Road within the next 5 years. Big Creek Road has been on the list to be resurfaced numerous times in the last 20 years. However, funding was never completed. Now it looks like it needs to be rebuilt instead of just resurfaced from all the heavy traffic. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Hogan reviewed the Rector Road flooding issue and will send crews to re-ditch soon. Mr. Hopkins is working with SCDOT, Cheddar Fire Department, the neighborhood road committee and local industries to coordinate better route, public safety for trucks and public safety for truckers and some funding for the fire department from the local industries that expect fire protection from all the volunteer fire departments. Cheddar is trained and equipped to fight residential fires, not ethanol, fuel, pipeline and landfill fires. According to the fire chief, only Colonial and Marathon have given a hundred dollars
Kinder-Morgan had promised a foam buggy not long before -- had issued a date and place for the fire department to pick it up and when they called to confirm the date and the place, they had reneged. Transportation police will be called again to deal with overweight trucks and highway patrol for the speeders. District -- Direct landfill complaints that are being dealt with right now are that the landfill company has gotten a federal permit to shoot and to kill the hundreds of buzzards that create health and sanitation issues. The landfill company will pick up trash daily on Big Creek Road and Rector Road when they’re open. Santee Cooper Generators that are so loud will be gone in 5 years and in the meantime the landfill manager is requesting that smaller, less noisy generators will replace what is currently in place.

There are ongoing issues centered on the contract. Number 1, permit operating hours for the landfill are 6 AM to 4 PM per contract, but the DHEC permit indicates 6 AM to 6 PM. However, residents have complained since 1997 of trucks coming and going all hours of the day and night, loud clanging, bright lights on top of Mount Trashmore. The residents require that we enforce the 6 to 6 measure. The horrible stench that residents endure has gotten far worse since SC DHEC permitted the dumping of auto shredder fluff from a local industry. The residents nor this Councilman were advised of this. The use of alternate daily cover and truck hours are required by residents to be changed and adhered to as they currently are. The pricing of county solid waste disposal has been agreed on and several other important points. It is hoped that our work will be completed soon for final approval. Mr. Harmon, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Graham, does anyone have anymore to add? We’re definitely a work in progress and process. There’s a lot to be worked on. We do have a new regional representative from the landfill who is actually attempting to do some better things over there. It’s going to take a while before we come back with our contract. So thank y’all for the opportunity.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. If there’s no objection, we’re going to take about a five minute break.

(RECESS 7:29 PM TO 7:34 PM)

TOMMY DUNN: At this time we’ll be moving on with the Report from the Planning and Public Works Committee. Ms. Wilson. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please find enclosed in your agenda packet an extensive report by Mr. John Batson of our Stormwater Department
regarding issues at a development off Long Road. There
have been many complaints over the years about this
specific property and many other tract home builders
and projects in the county. At our meeting we had
directors from all the county departments related to
these concerns to discuss what could be done from
county permitting and enforcement to ensure better
quality development and building in our county. Omega
Farms is currently under a cease and desist order put
into place by our Stormwater Department requiring them
to make corrections as noted in the complaint. There’s
been extensive flooding; even basements flooding and
water going over the road, muddy water going into the
pond, the retention pond not actually working. A lot
of issues there.

Mr. Burns, Mr. Hopkins and Chairman Dunn and I met
out there to check on progress last Thursday and it was
noted that while work remained to be done, there has
been noticeable progress. In our meeting we discussed
the difference between cease and desist and stop work
orders. The stop work orders would be served by the
Sheriff’s Department. We asked if there was anything
further that could be done by the county to encourage
more solid quality development and building and our
Building and Codes director indicated to us that
inspections by his department are governed by state law
based on the international building codes which are
minimal. So we kind of didn’t accomplish a lot except
that I think things will improve in some of these
developments because there are civil matters that a lot
of the people who live there are beginning to demand of
their builders. And one of the advantages those type
development have that we don’t -- I should say the
regular builders and developers in our county don’t
have is that most of them are large out-of-state
builders and developers and they can finance their
product to people who perhaps would not be able to
qualify for a bank loan under the current banking
industry.

So there are a lot of issues in this area and it’s
important that we all share information and that we
advise people that caveat emptor, buyer beware. A lot
of buyers just simply don’t know what they’re looking
at. If a new house looks cute and they can get
financing for it, they may not notice that it’s down in
a hole and water’s flooding into it. So we’re going to
continue to monitor this with everybody’s help. Mr.
Batson with our stormwater has done everything that he
can and continues to do to make sure that the runoff
and other issues is properly managed.
So thank y’all very much.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

Moving on to the report from the Finance Committee.
Ms. Davis, we’ll do the Executive Session before we get to the amendment of the supplemental budget -- in the supplemental budget.

Moving on first will be Grant Community Development Block Grant. Chairman Waters.

KEN WATERS: Ms. Rita, you want to go over the grant for the Community Block?

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir. Sandy Springs Water Company is just asking that we act as a pass-through for a community development block grant. This is no financial obligation on the county’s behalf. This will be the second type grant that we have acted as a pass-through for them.

KEN WATERS: Okay. And all of the motions are passed by Finance Committee with full support.

TOMMY DUNN: Coming from Finance Committee doesn’t need a second. Any discussion? All in favor of the Grant Community Development block grant for Sandy Spring Water show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on to Item number 4(a)Bid #18-043 Agricultural Cab two wheel drive type tractor with tiger side mower attachment. Mr. Chairman.

KEN WATERS: Yes. That’s a new tractor that they’ll be needing and also (b) is an attachment. I don’t know if we can group those together.

TOMMY DUNN: We can, if y’all would like we can do that.

KEN WATERS: Okay. And then we can bring both of those in the form of a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Coming from the Finance Committee doesn’t need a second. Ms. Rita, this money is coming from capital; right?

RITA DAVIS: That is correct. It was a budgeted item, sir.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I did have a question. On the two agricultural cab two wheel drive type tractors and the tiger side mower attachments. There was only one bidder and we requested to know if, I think it’s Ag-Pro, it’s the John Deere dealership that had received a request to participate and do we know that yet?

RITA DAVIS: No, ma’am. Did he ---

RUSTY BURNS: We do know this, we do know
that this was publicly bid. It was on Fiz-bow and other sites. Since that event we have reached out to Ag-Pro and we've had contact with an individual who we can send those things to directly.

CINDY WILSON: Oh, good. Because we didn’t know if maybe there was a service issue that we didn’t reach out to them or not. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank y’all. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. That was 4 (a) and (b).

Now Item number 5 a Memorandum of Understanding between South Carolina DHEC and the Anderson County Environment Enforcement. Mr. Burns, you want to ---

RUSTY BURNS: Part of a project that we undertook last year, a pilot project. This applies to Narcan. If someone takes an overdose, this reverses the effects. This will be a continuation of that.

GRACIE FLOYD: An overdose of what?

RUSTY BURNS: Prescription drugs, heroin.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Chairman, you got anything?

KEN WATERS: No, that’s all. Bring that in the form of a motion as well.

TOMMY DUNN: Coming from Finance Committee again doesn’t need a second. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries.

GRACIE FLOYD: No, I abstain.

TOMMY DUNN: I said it carries. I didn’t say it was unanimous.

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Let the record show that Ms. Wilson -- I mean Ms. Floyd abstained.

Moving on to Item number 7. We have a motion -- do we have a motion to go into Executive Session to talk about contract ---

RITA DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, if you don’t mind, did we cover the mower and those eight Dodge Chargers for the Sheriff’s office?

TOMMY DUNN: We did the mower but we didn’t do the Dodge Chargers.

RITA DAVIS: So we did the tractor and the mower?

TOMMY DUNN: Yeah. Did them at the same time.

RITA DAVIS: And the ---

TOMMY DUNN: Didn’t do the Dodge Chargers.
RAY GRAHAM: The Chargers are ---
RITA DAVIS: Would you mind -- they did
them in the agenda, if you don’t mind, to cover that.
TOMMY DUNN: Yep. You want to hit that,
Mr. Chairman? The Dodge Chargers for the sheriff’s
office.
KEN WATERS: Would be there -- here we
are. The twenty-five ---
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Davis, you got that?
RITA DAVIS: Oh, yes, sir. It’s eight
Dodge Chargers, Performance Auto Group, two hundred and
forty-five thousand and zero four zero. That comes out
of the one point nine million that’s been set aside for
the Sheriff’s capital, his vehicles.
TOMMY DUNN: And how many cars is that?
Eight?
RITA DAVIS: Eight, yes, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Eight Dodge Chargers.
RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: It’s what the Sheriff’s
thing -- what he has spec’ed out and what he’s asking
for.
RITA DAVIS: And they’re in critical need
of these. That’s why we’re asking to amend.
TOMMY DUNN: That’s the reason it was
amended at the Finance Committee; right?
RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Coming from Finance
Committee doesn’t need a second. Any discussion? All
in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like
sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
Now, do we have a motion to go into Executive
Session to talk about potential land contract?
TOM ALLEN: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Allen. Second
Ms. Wilson. All in favor of the motion show of hands.
All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
unanimously. We’ll go right back here.
(EXECUTIVE SESSION)
TOMMY DUNN: Council meeting will be back
in session. We have a motion to come out of Executive
Session?
TOM ALLEN: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: Motion to come out of
Executive Session having received information with no
action taken.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Allen. All in
favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like
sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
Now we’ll be moving on going back now to 7(a).
This will be 2018-002 a Supplemental ordinance to amend
Ordinance 2017-016, the operating and capital budget
of Anderson County for the fiscal year beginning July
1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018. This will be a
public hearing. Anyone wishing to speak to this,
please state your name and district and address the
Chair. Anyone at all? Seeing and hearing none, public
hearing will be closed. Go back -- do we have a motion
to amend?

RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I’d like to
---

TOMMY DUNN: I’m sorry. We need a motion
to move this forward, the original thing being caught
up here. We got a motion to move the ---
RAY GRAHAM: Make a motion to move.
TOMMY DUNN: Make a motion to move
forward the supplemental budget orders. That’s 2018-
002. We have a second?
KEN WATERS: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Waters. Any
discussion?
CINDY WILSON: May I quickly, Mr. Chairman?

CINDY WILSON: You know I was very
concerned in our supplemental budget that we didn’t
identify funding for our roads and bridges. And I want
to report that we’re working really hard on that. We
made a motion in our Finance Committee meeting to come
up with a million and a half dollars in the new budget
for roads and bridges. And possibly set up special
appropriations for the municipalities for the stipends
that we’ve given to them in the past to continue under
separate account so that they have that funding. They
can go to the Transportation Committee with that small
amount of money to get matches.
For example, in Honea Path they had a forty-eight
thousand dollar appropriations. It’s been two years
ago since we’ve had money for paving. And they took
that to the Transportation Committee and got about six
hundred thousand dollars worth of road work. So that’s
the philosophy behind that. Anyway, I have assurances
we’re going to work on that. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am. Mr. Graham.
RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I’d like to
put this in the form of a motion that we amend the
supplemental budget to include that we allow Mr. Burns
and Mr. Harmon to go into negotiation for the purchase
of the former Glen Raven Equinox Mill site.
TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion. Do we have a second?
KEN WATERS: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Waters. Any discussion? Vote on the amendment. All show of hands.
Show the motion carries unanimously. Now back to the original motion. Any more discussion for the original motion? All in favor of the original motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
We’re moving on now to Item -- is that all, Mr. Chairman, out of the Finance Committee?
KEN WATERS: That’s all.
TOMMY DUNN: Be moving on to Item number 14, Road Acceptance into the county inventory, Avendell Drive. Mr. Burns.
RUSTY BURNS: ????
TOMMY DUNN: Been through the whole process and everything meets standards and everything approved and all. We have a motion to move this forward?
KEN WATERS: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Waters. Second Mr. Allen. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
Moving on now to Item number 5, Appointments. I’d like to make a motion to nominate Mr. Ted Wentzky to the Neighborhood Centerville Zoning Board. I put that in the form of a motion.
CINDY WILSON: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
Anyone else have any appointments that I’ve overlooked. Hearing and seeing none.
Now Requests from Council members. Mr. Waters.
KEN WATERS: I have none.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen?
TOM ALLEN: You caught me off guard. There’s three of them I’d like to do them all at once if that’s okay.
TOMMY DUNN: Okay.
TOM ALLEN: For the Foothills Alliance I’d like to donate a thousand dollars out of my recreation fund to support their programs for sexually abused men and women and children. Also for the National Archery Competition that’s being sponsored by both Department of Natural of Resources and District 4
here, as I did last year, I’d like to donate two thousand dollars to them to go to both the state championships and the national championships which will be held up in Louisville, Kentucky. And the final one is for the New Light Community Center for their recreation center out there, I’d like to donate a thousand dollars out of my recreation fund. And I’ll put those in the form of a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion Mr. Allen any second?

KEN WATERS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Waters. Any discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Allen, on the Riverside Middle and Pendleton High School Archery Teams, is that a school related activity?

TOM ALLEN: That portion of it is. They’re in conjunction with Department of Natural Resources and run this thing. They just had a competition here at the Civic Center with four hundred and seventy kids from all over the Upstate area in that. But they’re kind of the local conduit here, if you want to, for that whole process; DNR and District 4.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Anything else, Mr. Allen?

TOM ALLEN: That’s all.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: No, I don’t have any tonight.

TOMMY DUNN: District 5 would like to appropriate five hundred dollars to the Foothill Alliance out of its rec account. Put that in the form of a motion.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

I’d also like to take two thousand dollars out of District 5’s rec account and transfer it into District 3’s rec account. Put that in the form of a motion.

TOM ALLEN: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Allen. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. You opposing, Ms. Floyd?
GRACIE FLOYD: I was trying to make up my mind on that one, but I will agree to that.

TOMMY DUNN: Show the motion carries unanimously. Moving on Mr. Graham?

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’d like to request -- put this in the form of a motion -- to allocate three thousand dollars to Belton Alliance which is primarily responsible for putting on the chili cook-off for the Belton area. They are actually bringing in a lot of tourism and people as far as putting heads in beds and definitely a good avenue. Somehow due to some change of positions as far as with them, they were unable to get the correct application and get other funding, so I’m doing this through the rec fund. Three thousand dollars. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Wooten?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, I would like to make a motion to allocate twenty-five hundred dollars to the Foothills Alliance for their trauma outreach activities, but most importantly for their recreation activities, I guess a Walk in Her Shoes, that’s coming up. I put that in the form of a motion.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Wooten, second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Wooten, anything else?

CRAIG WOOTEN: No, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson?

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, there are many worthy projects, but District 7 is broke.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to Item number 17. Administrator’s Report.

RUSTY BURNS: Nothing at this time, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Number 19 -- I’m sorry, moving on to Item 18. Make a motion we go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and this will involve opium litigation matter. Put that in the form of a motion.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

TOMMY DUNN: Call the meeting of County Council back in session. Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I make the motion that we come out of discussion in Executive Session regarding the opioid litigation matter, with no action taken.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion. Have a second?

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Graham. Any discussion? I’m sorry. No discussion. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

To clear the record up, what Council intends to do is meet several attorney groups, let full Council meet with them, talk to them, ask questions, get discussions, then we’ll hopefully decide no later than by next Council meeting. Mr. Harmon will be in touch with these attorneys in setting up the meeting for them to come and we can talk. And actually, just for the record, these meetings will be announced to the public, but by taking legal advice and discussions will be in Executive Session.

Moving on now, Item number 19, Citizens Comments. Mr. Harmon calls your name, state your name and district, address the Chair, and you have three minutes.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, the first citizen signed up is Frank Pressly.

FRANK PRESSLY: Frank Pressly, District 2 again. Back to the contract on the landfill. Just heard the full report from the committee Chair. Committee Chair doesn’t even have a copy of the contract. What’s up with that? I mean, this amendment that they’re passing around specifically refers to section 11 being taken out of that contract. Do any of y’all know what section 11 of that contract says? Does anybody? I mean we’re acting and operating on something that’s air. I mean, if we can’t find it, then we need to do something. We need to do another one or whatever, but these references to this amendment, I don’t know who is writing this amendment, but he’s making references to specific sections in the contract. So I mean, if the writer of this amendment can refer to sections in the contract, where is the contract? Where is it?

Mr. Chairman, you can ignore us, but ---

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Pressly, let me tell you something and get it straight right now. You know how the Council meeting works, and how it’s set up. It’s not an answering questions thing. That’s in our ordinance. But I’m listening. I can do two things at
one time. I’m listening to every word you say. So carry on.

FRANK PRESSLY: Okay. You don’t need to be upset.

TOMMY DUNN: I’m not upset. I said carry on.

FRANK PRESSLY: The important thing is, this is a big deal to this county. I mean we’re talking about spending a hundred million dollars here in the next fifteen years. That’s a lot of money. And if we don’t have a contract in front of us, what are we dealing with? Everybody’s talking about it, but nobody’s showing it to us. So we’re on the record asking for it. And it may take a while to figure out. It took ten years to figure Mr. Preston out. But something’s up with this landfill deal and y’all need to take a closer look at this.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next speaker is Elizabeth Fant.

ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District 3. I have something on my mind that I want you to look at that has nothing to do with anything that we’ve talked about tonight. It’s the weather. It’s almost spring. We’re going to be moving back -- moving forward with our time. Days are getting longer. I’ve already got my garden plowed the first time. Can’t wait to get out and dig in the dirt. But I notice when I go by the Farmer’s Market, that it’s looking pretty raggedy. Mr. Burns, we need some help out there. Needs a fresh coat of paint around the facing. Needs some updates. We’ll be soon having groups that will be out there in May with their items to sell before we get to the agricultural part. And that really is a jewel. And I’d like to see that it really gets used this year. Hopefully we’ll have a good growing season.

And I hesitate to say it, but I’m going to say it. Wow. Mr. Dunn, you really need to get some anger management under control. There is not any reason to lash out at people out here in the audience. There are few of us who even come. You did it to Mr. Pressly tonight. You did it to him the last time he was here. He doesn’t deserve that. And every time you do that, I get so embarrassed. The meeting was going real well tonight. Real well. And then you have to end it on those kind of notes. And I know you’re going to always have the last word.

TOMMY DUNN: That’s right.

ELIZABETH FANT: Yep. He’s already telling me he’s going to do that. But it’s not necessary.
Only people who feel like they have to be the big dog and have to stomp on little people have to have that attitude. For once, I wish you would say nothing.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?

LEON HARMON: No one else is signed up.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

GRACIE FLOYD: Before we go into the remarks from Council, I’d like to ask you if you would clear up something you said earlier that I really didn’t understand.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: You want to do it now?

TOMMY DUNN: It’s up to you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, is it the proper time?

TOMMY DUNN: Well, it would be better to do it on your comments.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate everyone’s efforts dealing with the landfill issue. It has been a nightmare of historic proportions in our county. Everybody knows there was no public competitive bidding for the gift of the landfill to the company or the disposal or hauling contracts at the time. And we have indeed been taken pretty hard. But in the interest of not having an interruption of service, which could be a pretty rough deal in our county, even though we couldn’t find the real contract, what we had was -- there were some signatures on it. There were a lot of blanks. There was only one attachment, and that was the operating agreement. Schedules like who got royalties and commissions, that was not in it, not attached or incorporated as it should have been. We did find out that the engineering reports were available from DHEC. So all we really had to deal with was the draft. The proposal from Greenville County would have cost the county a fair amount to set up a transfer station. And it would have taken more time. There were a lot of considerations that I personally wade through on all of this, along with people in the community and the staff. And one of the considerations is with the landfill that no longer belongs to us, it’s in our county and should we have gone to Greenville, which would have been less expensive on burial, but more expensive on hauling, and some other complications that would have been difficult. But with our having some agreement with that landfill and continuing to use them, if we had stopped in mid stream and said we’re no longer working
with them, can you imagine the out of state garbage
that would have come in? That element of our contract
would have been null and void. And things are awful
over there for the people living there. But there
would have been no control. No leverage to help those
poor people at all. As it is, we have an opportunity
that we haven’t truly had in the last twenty years and
I’m so grateful Mr. Graham has been working on this.
Y’all have all had to sit through many meetings. And
Mr. Gregg Smith has worked on it. I can’t say enough
for everybody working on it. And it’s still not
exactly what I would like. I mean, I wish the landfill
had never been sold. If we had kept the landfill and
run it properly ourselves, that was an agreement that
shouldn’t have been done twenty years ago. And yes,
indeed, you’re correct, it’s cost this county two
hundred and fifty million dollars. You’re right on
that.

But going forward, I had to personally weigh all
these other factors. Other people had to weigh those
factors, too, and it has been heartrending. But we do
have the opportunity to right some wrongs and make it
better over there. And we’re also getting a less cost
for the county taxpayers. And there will be efforts
with the meeting that’s being set up with the
Transportation Departments and the industries and
others, to get funding for the fire department over
there. And to have a better routing. Murphy Road may
not continue as the desired and approved road. That
will take place in the upcoming meetings.

But thank you all for hanging in there with us.
It’s not real pleasant, but I greatly appreciate
everybody’s effort. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.
CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes. A couple of months ago
on Oak Hill Drive I had some residents where people
were coming off the Connector and driving pretty fast
and going through people’s yards and spinning out and
taking out mailboxes and actually wrecked a couple of
cars. And so, we were able to sit down with county
staff, SCDOT, at Ingles one morning and it worked out
wonderful. We worked out a plan that I hope is going
to work well. SCDOT actually slowed the speed limit
coming off the Connector. County staff was very prompt
and got up a flashing sign with a speedometer. And
then also were able to put in some reflectors in the
road and also some turns on the lane. And so residents
are extremely happy. It seems like it’s having an
effect and people are slowing down. And I was just
telling somebody, you know, we spend so much time
talking in meetings and rightfully so, we’ve got to hash out, it’s always great to see that the state and county and even city came together to just correct some wrongs at the request of the taxpayer. So those -- just good news to share. That’s it.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten. Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ve got a couple of things. I want to apologize right off the bat for the length of it, but I just want to share a couple of things. I went to the Association of Counties meeting this past week, week before. And one thing that seems to be brought up every meeting, and Ms. Fant, I’m surprised you have not brought it up tonight because normally you bring it up every meeting. And that’s the litter in Anderson County. Coming from law enforcement, we’ve always been known to steal good ideas from other people. And while I was sitting in one of the meetings, it was actually on opioid, is what the meeting was concerning, we was kind of in the middle of a break, Pickens County was sitting behind me, a couple of their Council members. And they were talking among themselves and they had stated that they have a date scheduled in Pickens County for the county employees to -- and it’s the non-essential county employees -- that could basically leave their station and that day go and actually pick up litter throughout the county. Well, that automatically just caught my attention and I turned around and said, do what? I said that’s a good idea. I said, do you think it’s going to work? And we got to talking and, you know, there’s so many values there. Because number one, as we -- I’m saying we as county employees as well, because I feel like that’s what we are. We are here to serve the citizens of Anderson County, even as County Councilmen. But with that being said, you know, if the citizen sees that type of action being taken from employees, people that’s, you know, going out in this county every single day and they see a day that’s put aside strictly for that, I think there’s some huge actions that can be received on that. And I hope, you know, we can get report back on this. I’ve asked Mr. Burns to speak to Samantha Porter -- I forget her married name now -- but Ms. Porter about seeing if we could get something like that established in Anderson County. And you know, in talking to some of the other Council members, even possibly do some type of reward benefit for the employees to take -- that’s willing to take that action. So hopefully we can see this coming to fruition in the very near future. We have got a
major litter problem. Just this past, I mean couple
weeks, I mean it seems like just about every day I’m
getting a call from someone complaining about this.
And you know, there’s times that we scratch our heads,
and say really, did they waste their time doing that?
But I’m telling you, ride out in the county, you’re
realize real quick, it is a legitimate complaint. And
I mean, it’s not on this side, it’s not on this side,
it’s throughout the county. The great thing is, I mean
we’re got litter control to carry some inmates out and
they might pick up this road today, but next week it’s
going to be dirty again. So hopefully we can get some
type of action in the near future on that and get a
report back with the possibility of moving forward with
that.

My next thing is kind of addressing the landfill.
Mr. Pressly, you throw accusations on a regular basis
as far as on how we’re handling that. I personally had
nothing to do with the original agreement. And neither
did no one else up here. Maybe one of them was here at
that time, but I mean, that was beyond our time. With
that being said, what I do have something to do with
and my fellow Council members, is we’ve negotiated that
price down. Our county employees negotiated that price
down. Is it where it should be? No, it could always
be better. I mean, I think we always have room for
improvement. But we’ve negotiated that price down
cheaper. In fact, at the end of this contract, that
gets signed, it will be cheaper than what we’re paying
today. So we’ve made progress. Is it where we need to
be? Absolutely not. Ms. Wilson, along with other
Council members, along with Mr. Harmon, along with
county employees, has led numerous, numerous meetings
in the community to try to get what is the answer?
What are some solutions that we can make your quality
of life better in your community? And as Ms. Wilson
read earlier, I mean, it’s numerous, numerous things on
the list. We didn’t take that and stick it back into a
file. We have been working on that, along with the
county employees. And it continues daily. We’re still
not where we need to be and I will be the first to
admit that.

But what I would like to do is challenge you to
focus on improving the quality of life and come back
with some solutions. Because the old contract I can’t
do nothing about. We can do something about the new
one. We can do something about improving the quality
of life for the citizens that’s in Anderson County,
even though they’re in the Cheddar community, they’re
in Anderson County. We represent every bit of Anderson
County. It does not matter what district we have. And I feel comfortable in saying that my fellow Council members feel the same. We represent every one in this county. I will not support sending trash to Greenville County. Now that’s my opinion. But part of our complaint is people bringing trash into Anderson County. So how can we reverse that role and say let’s send it to Greenville. That’s the reason I fought so hard and I stood my ground on trying to get a better rate with the only option we have. Should we have more options? Absolutely. But again, that was beyond our control. Because that happened years ago.

So I mean, I would definitely encourage you -- I appreciate your comments but I definitely encourage you to come to me with solutions. I’ll listen to you. And if you’ve got a solution, we’ll see what we can do. But pointing fingers and directing it towards the previous contract, it’s a waste of time. I mean, it truly is because that’s beyond our control. And I don’t want my time wasted. I’d rather focus on something as far as improving Anderson County. And Ms. Wilson, along with other Council members, along with the County staff, has worked tirelessly on improving the quality of life for that community over there. Are we where we need to be? Nope. But we’re heading there and we’re going to continue to fight for them. I assure you of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Graham. Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Burns, I had a constituent to call me today and he was talking about phone numbers for the county. He can’t find them when he needs them. They’re not listed in the phone books and he’s asking for a way -- he’s asking you to please do something so the public can find different departments when they need it, okay? Years ago I printed them out, so I will let you look at what I have to see if you could use it as well. Okay? You could probably reproduce it and get it out.

Also, this same person is complaining -- now you can’t do anything about this and I told him that, but he complains that after the meetings you don’t have anything -- not you -- but there’s nothing in the papers that will dictate what happened at the meetings. He doesn’t know what ordinances have passed, he doesn’t know what’s going on. And I noticed that as well in the newspaper. We’re getting less and less stuff about County Council. We used to get at least something about the wolf. But we don’t get hardly anything now that I know. I quit taking that paper. So I’m just
passing this on to you.

Mr. Pressly, I might be able to help you. If I can get out in my back building, my husband was on that -- well, we didn't have committees then. Whole Councils worked together on our situations, but I will go through his box and see if I can find the contract. Okay? I know that he worked diligently -- what's wrong? He worked diligently with that landfill commission, okay, whatever they call themselves. But I will see if I can find the original contract. I haven't been able to get myself to go through his things. His sons took all his clothes, so that's gone, but his papers and all of his stuff is downstairs -- I mean outside in that building. And if I can get in there before the next meeting, I will look see if I can't find that for you. And I will give you a phone call. Okay?

Secondly, you have a right to speak. You have a right to speak.

Thirdly, Mr. Chair, right before the fire people came up to present their thing, present their situation here, you mentioned something about you were waiting for the -- I didn't understand what you were saying. Would you please pass that by me again?

TOMMY DUNN: I said, when they first asked for a four mill tax increase, it was put in committee of Public Safety. Then the Public Safety made a recommendation to full Council, which was voted on by full Council, to get -- wait before we took any action until we got the opinion back from the Attorney General of South Carolina. That's what I said.

GRACIE FLOYD: The opinion for what? The opinion to ---

TOMMY DUNN: For several questions, legal questions that was asked.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Sir, I don't really understand.

TOMMY DUNN: I didn't think you would.

GRACIE FLOYD: I beg your pardon.

TOMMY DUNN: I said I didn't think you would.

GRACIE FLOYD: Why?

TOMMY DUNN: Because you didn't. You're telling me you don't.

GRACIE FLOYD: No. But anyway. Do you know what the questions -- I don't understand the questions. What type of legal questions?

TOMMY DUNN: Well, one of them would be how much could that bond go for? How much taxes can we raise? What's the legal -- who has the legal authority
over the fire commission to raise taxes? Some of them.

   GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now -- that came up in that meeting?
   TOMMY DUNN: What came out in that meeting?
   GRACIE FLOYD: The one that they voted on?
   TOMMY DUNN: They voted on it to come to full Council and full Council voted on it.
   GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Were the questions in the minutes at that time?
   TOMMY DUNN: I don’t think so, no, ma’am.
   GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Because I don’t know if I were here or not.
   TOMMY DUNN: I can’t remember. You probably wasn’t, but I can’t remember.
   GRACIE FLOYD: Well, this came about last year. It started right there.
   TOMMY DUNN: That’s exactly right.
   GRACIE FLOYD: And last year I think that I was on that committee. And I was ---
   TOMMY DUNN: No, ma’am. You were not, not on Public Safety Committee.
   GRACIE FLOYD: Maybe I wasn’t. But still I was a member of Council. And I didn’t ---
   TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am. And this was before Council. This was voted on in full Council.
   GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I’ll see if I can -- I asked for everything that has come up on the fire commission in session, but I didn’t see that. But maybe I’ll just look again. Maybe I just overlooked it. Yeah.
   Okay. But the fire situation, folks, belonged to all of us. We’re going to have to decide what’s going to happen. If my house burns down I don’t want to see a fishing boat coming to my house to put it out. I want to see a fire person. We are not doing well by them. We can -- the airport’s getting a new airport because they wanted one. Getting a new terminal, excuse me, because they wanted one. We have other people getting everything they want because they wanted one. But now our fire people are coming to us asking for help.
   Now, I’ve talked to several of them and they have complaints, too, about things that they are doing within the department. Well, that’s something that they’re going to have to work out among themselves. And I believe that they can do it. But that’s not our concern. Our concern now is to pave the way so they can get the funds they need to build a bigger and
better department, fire department. Not a building, but the structure of how it’s going to be done. Also, please remember that these men and women are working as volunteers. If they walked off the job because they don’t have what they need, or they fear for their life because they don’t have what they need, who is going to put out the fire? Who is going to put out the fire? Now, I don’t know how many of you all got the message. I know they talked to some of you. I know they talked to some of you. But the -- this situation doesn’t belong to only one person who makes the decision. It belongs to all seven of us.

I think that’s all I have to say. And I thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen.

TOM ALLEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

Just wanted to make note that this past weekend over at the Civic Center, for those of you who didn’t see it, they had a Junior ROTC drill competition over there. And they were just three teams short of having the largest meet in the nation and it’s really interesting to see these kids in high school going through the drill competition, army, air force, navy, marines, it’s a very good program. They’ll have it again next year. And by that time I think it’s going to be the largest in the nation. And I would encourage people to attend.

Second item, litter. We have worked -- since I’ve been on Council, and I know Ms. Wilson knows, too, and everybody else, we have worked and worked on different ideas regarding litter. We’ve tried everything. We’ve caught a lot of flack sometimes for things that we proposed, rewriting ordinances, trying to keep things clean. Bottom line of the whole thing is, I don’t care how many times all of us go out and pick up the roads, and I pick up Ashley Drive quite frequently where I live, it’s going to get dirty again. We have people from the county here that go into the schools to try to educate the kids. Don’t throw litter out. We’ve tried everything. Until the mindset can be changed, I don’t know what’s going to stop litter. We can go out here and clean up a road, and as I think Ray said, it’s going to be dirty next day, next week. It’s going to be dirty again. I don’t know how we change that mindset. If anybody has suggestions -- we get letters all the time about litter. We need suggestions on what to do to clean it up. We don’t have enough people in the detention center. Okay? And there’s two people with ideas. Good. Give them to me. But that’s what we need. Logical ways that we can do that and then ultimately in the long range is changing a mindset. And I don’t know how we do that.
The third item I think Ms. Floyd kind of touched on something there and I’m going to call it communications in general. And that’s one of the toughest things since I’ve been on Council, one of the toughest things to do in Anderson County is to get the word out to people. Was the newspaper here tonight? Okay. I know some of our meetings are kind of boring, but as the gentleman apparently said, he doesn’t know what goes on in the Council meetings. It doesn’t get in the newspaper. There might be one story and it might be many times the story that’s put in the newspaper is something that was ten seconds worth of the meeting where somebody said something they shouldn’t have said or got mad or whatever, that’s what will be in the paper. Not about what actually happened in the meeting. Not everybody takes the paper. Not everybody has a computer so they can follow this on the internet. Not everybody is on Charter cable where they can watch what’s going on in the county on channel 193. There is no good way to communicate with everyone in Anderson County. Again, if somebody’s got some ideas on that, let me know. Short of sky writing out here with an airplane, I don’t know what else to do. But that is a difficult thing to overcome is the communication and trying to do something with litter.

And I’ll shut up now, Mr. Chair. That’s all I’ve got.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Ms. Floyd had one other thing she wanted to mention.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman has allowed me to go back to one more thing I did forget. I want to talk to y’all about litter. Let me introduce to you Mr. William Meredith. Bill, stand up please. All right. William -- I call him Bill -- Bill is -- came to me about some ideas he had for littering, to stop it or to control it or to make people aware. He and I met with Greg Smith this week -- last week, I don’t know when it was, last week. We met with him and Greg seemed to like some of the ideas we had and you’ll be hearing more about this. I am on the litter waste committee. And who else is on that committee with me? You are? Oh, great. Who else? Okay. All right. I will be calling a meeting. I didn’t do it last year. But this year I will be calling a meeting because I’m really excited about some of the things he said. And please know that I have been picking up trash. I have been picking up trash in Anderson County for a long time. I have picked up on the alphabet street. I have picked up in my neighborhood. And I have picked up on Booker and Susan Street. And I have picked up on
Broadway Lake. Nobody up here can match that. I know the litter problem. Okay? And I thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Waters.

KEN WATERS: Can we take a break because I have a good bit on here. Just listening to everything that’s been said, you know, all of this has been good. I can’t think of how busy we’ve been because I get tired. I mean, this is a lot of stuff that’s been done. In the last year I’d love to just see what all has been done. And I’ve got different stuff to talk about, too. Orange bags. We supply those orange bags so people can come get them and they can pick up trash. I saw about 8 of them on the side of Mountain View Road today. An 80 year old lady and her granddaughter has been picking that up for about three years. Now, you know, an 80 year old woman and her granddaughter can pick it up I don’t see why somebody else can’t pick it up, too.

Now, not only is Bassmaster coming, can we talk about the baseball? Can we talk about that? The thing about that is, we just sit back and listen to that. Somebody else put that together. It’s the citizens of Anderson County and the employees that work here that do this stuff. We actually have a -- is it three -- they only went to bid for two youth league tournaments to come to the Civic Center and play and ended up with three because they heard the gentleman that run it was so good so they went ahead and gave him that one, too. And that’s not bass fishing.

Wrestling. We just got finished with wrestling. ROTC. You know, we could keep going on and on. I mean the good stuff that’s happening. We joke and have a good time. We’re friends and Councilmen that have been elected to do this. I’m okay, you know, these are my friends. When Mr. Allen, you know, he said he wasn’t going to do it anymore. And so, but he’s not going to quit. And the employees, the citizens, the Councilmen, you know, we’re citizens, too. Sometimes people don’t believe that, but we’re citizens, too. And even talking to another county about doing something. Man, we’re looking at Upstate now, instead of just Anderson County. We’re spreading our wings out and we’re communicating with other people.

Now y’all know I’m going to say something about the Bass Tournament. I can’t wait until that comes to the TD Center. I have been saving money so I can go buy some new toys. And I just wish, you know, when this happens, the TD Center, how busy it is over there. And then they got Krispy Kreme right on the corner, too. So, you know, all of this is working together. I
I remember when we couldn’t hardly find anything to do
and now we’ve got so much to do. We’ve even got Ron
White coming to the Civic Center. I mean, just sitting
back and looking at the fruits of our labor, I’m really
impressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Waters.

Just like to say, appreciate the words of Mr.
Graham said. Also people said, you know, you got a
right to talk. There’s no doubt about it. But when
you get up here and you want to start making
accusations about county employees being lazy, crooks,
county Councilmen crooks and all that, that’s your
privilege but be very careful because when you dish it
back, if you’re going to dish it out, you ought to be
able to take it. When you make faces at Council
members and tell them they talk too much, shut up.
Dish it out, you ought to be able to take it. Be a big
person.

I want to thank all the volunteers and county
employees last Saturday that picked up litter in parts
of the county. Also, you know, we talked about here
about picking up trash. People, that ain’t the
problem. Not people picking up trash. We need to stop
people from littering. We got to educate, whatever we
got to do to get better off because like they said
about our jail. You know, if you build a jail big
enough to hold a thousand beds, you’ll fill it up. If
we put out ten crews picking up trash, we could always
use two more. We’ve got to stop. We need to stop the
problem. One way to stop that problem, talk to our
folks, is work with the magistrate court system. You
know, I don’t care how financial strapped you are, if
you can throw a bottle or beer can or something out a
window, at least you can go on the side of the road and
pick it up for a day. Courts ought to adhere to that.

I want to -- the fire department is a thing. Keep
in mind, we don’t have absolutely no control over the
fire department. I’ve been one for thirty-seven years.
But there’s two sides to every story. There are good
people on that fire commission board. But good firemen
out here. Just got to find a happy medium. Just
because the firemen want something -- lot of people
want a lot of things. And believe you me, I’ve talked
with the fireman. All the firemen ain’t wanting this.
But we got to listen to the citizens out here. Come
for four mills on our taxes what that will do. Find a
happy medium somewhere. Them eight hundred volunteer
firemen that’s talking about now, it’s up to nine
hundred. They volunteer. Ones that was here tonight
was talking, the chairman, he gets paid a salary. The
backbone of the fire service are the volunteer firemen. Want to appreciate all the hard work county employees are doing about the economic development. Really want to appreciate Mr. Burns, Terry Gilstrap. They’re going to be -- they’ve been working for quite some time. I brought this up some time ago with Dr. Booth and Mr. Burns and talk about this. It’s going out in the community and giving people -- hitting another group of people for employees and job training. I’m really excited about this and moving this for Anderson County. Think it’s going to be great for the citizens of Anderson County and look really forward to Mr. Burns and them rolling this program out and getting this started. My hat’s off to them. And talking to Terry, she’s just a real passion for a job and we’re real lucky to have a lot of the county we got.

Meeting be adjourned -- be over. Thank y’all.

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:46 P.M.)