ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

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

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: At this time I’d like to call the Special Presentation part of Anderson County Council meeting of September 18th to order. Appreciate everybody coming out tonight. Sorry for any inconvenience. As y’all know we had an elevator safety issue at the courthouse. So until further notice we’ll be making arrangements here and I appreciate the staff and all for getting on this and making this as suitable for Council meeting as best as possible. We don’t know how long it’ll be out. We hope it will be sooner than later. We’ll take the time to get it fixed.

So at this time we’ll move on with Resolutions and Proclamations (a) it’ll be R2018-049. Be from all Council, Ms. Wilson be presenting it. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a real pleasure to do this one. THIS IS A RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE HOLT HOPKINS FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO ANDERSON COUNTY AND MOST RECENT DISTINCTION AS THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER OF THE YEAR AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Holt Hopkins began his career with Anderson County in 1997 as the Roads and Bridges manager with the responsibility of overseeing the overall operations of the Roads and Bridges Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 Holt became the Public Works Director taking on the role of managing the overall operations for the Public Works Division and the management of the Roads and Bridges, and Engineering Departments; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 Holt became the Deputy County Administrator and Public Works Director. He is currently responsible for the overall county operations and procedures and managing the 11 Public Works departments; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Holt assumed control of Paws Animal Shelter which became the 11th department of the Public Works Department. Holt immediately began restructuring the management at the shelter. He coordinated with the council to update ordinances to ensure animals were receiving proper care, initiated a plan to help build a better budget and organized better resources needed by the staff to provide appropriate care to the animals and he appointed a new director and veterinarian. Because of the success of the changes implemented at Paws it is now the largest no-kill shelter in the Upstate of South
Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2018 at the Statewide APWA Conference, the South Carolina Chapter of the American Public Works Association named Holt Hopkins as the Outstanding Public Works Manager of the Year. This award is given to the Public Works Manager who demonstrates outstanding initiative, innovations, and improvements while providing the best qualities of leadership and management; and

WHEREAS, Anderson County Council and the residents of Anderson County are pleased to recognize Holt Hopkins who passionately serves our community, county and state. We are appreciative of your dedication and personal commitment to the future of Anderson County.

RESOLVED in meeting duly assembled this 18th day of September, 2018.

And may I put that in the form of a motion, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, you may. We have a motion. We have a second?

TOM ALLEN: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second by Mr. Waters. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: I think we have a large group of family and employees. It’s a good thing we’re at the Civic Center to honor Holt today.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen.

TOM ALLEN: Yeah, I just wanted to add my compliments to Mr. Hopkins for the work that he’s done. And I can tell you this; everything I’ve asked for, he’s been very responsive on. And I’m especially proud of the way he’s handled the animal shelter down there. And along with Dr. Sanders they’ve done a tremendous job down there and are one of the no-kill shelters in the state now. It’s an amazing operation. And I think Holt deserves a lot of credit for that, too. So I thank you, Holt, for the work you did there. That’s all, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? I’d just like to say I’ve know Mr. Hopkins and his family a long time. And I appreciate the job he’s done. A few things that stand out in my mind. The big part in the animal shelter and the turn around and getting headed right. And I know the employees, the staff, the county, Council, even the animals really appreciate what you’ve done down there.

One thing that stands out in my mind I really appreciate what Mr. Hopkins has done. When this Council first come on, going on coming close now to
about ten years ago, finishing up, we had some turmoil; we was in a bind; we needed an interim administrator. Some people messed up and put the cart before the horse. And I really appreciate Mr. Hopkins stepping up that night and taking the reigns and holding things in the county together so we could see a little bit better light. We went through some rough times and some highlights during that. And Holt weathered it. I think it worked real good. Mr. Burns and I think they’re a good team. Sometimes a good cop, bad cop. And I think Mr. Hopkins gets a little bit blamed and sometimes don’t deserve some of the stuff he has to do. But I really do appreciate the job that Mr. Hopkins has done. And one thing, nothing against Tony Owens, he’s a friend of mine, but he hired Matt Hogan. I think Matt’s an outstanding addition to the county and just go on and on. And I think he’s brought the Roads and Bridges department up to today’s standards. And I think we take a backseat to nobody on that. Professionalism and what they try to do. And talking about when Holt first come there and today, it’s the difference between night and day. And we really do appreciate what all he’s done for the county. And like I said, he’s always one to step up and do things. Got a lot of -- been around a good while and got a lot of insights about stuff about how to handle the situations, storms and stuff. Been around and handling. Really do appreciate what he’s done and continues to do. So, thank you very much, Mr. Hopkins and your family and what y’all done. Anyone else? If not, hearing none, we’ll have a vote. All in favor of the motion show of hands. Show the motion carries unanimously.

(PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION)

TOMMY DUNN: That concludes our part of the presentation here tonight. We’ll be adjourned --

I’m sorry.

HOLT HOPKINS: I just want each and every one of y’all to know I thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Burns because the animal shelter thing couldn’t have happened without y’all’s trust and support in what we did down there. And I’ve also really got to thank the staff, of course, but I’d like to thank Greg and Megan because they were there the first day we walked in without a clue what to do and they stayed by my side to help me figure it out.

TOMMY DUNN: It’s a team effort in Anderson County and we appreciate what everybody does.
We’ll adjourn and meet back here for the start of regular Council meeting at 6:30.

(SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:09 P.M.)
IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
KEN WATERS
CRAIG WOOTEN
RAY GRAHAM
GRACIE FLOYD
TOM ALLEN
M. CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: At this time I’d like to call the regular Anderson County Council meeting of September the 18th, 2018 to order. Like to welcome everyone here tonight. Thank you for coming. Hard as it may be, we might be having to have the meeting out here, but it’s a safety issue. And getting people in and out of the Court House, we have an elevator down. Making do. Appreciate the staff getting on this as quick as they did. Everybody working involved and making this happen.

Moving on at this time, ask Ms. Floyd if she’d lead us in Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. If we’d all rise, please.

(INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY GRACIE FLOYD)

TOMMY DUNN: At this time are there any corrections or changes to be made to the September 4th Regular County Council meeting? Hearing none, we have a motion to move forward?

CINDY WILSON: May I move to accept the minutes as presented?

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson to accept the minutes as submitted. Mr. Graham seconds it. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on to Citizens Comments. As Mr. Harmon calls your name, please again state your name and District for the record. You got three minutes. And please keep matters on agenda items only this first go around. Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first speaker is Frank Pressly.

FRANK PRESSLY: I want to speak on a couple of items here. First of all, number Item 7(b) which is asking for rezoning of a property on Crestview Road. I think that the Council should disapprove this. The project has tentatively been named Preston Place. And I think that the climate in this county right now with anything named Preston is a little bit dark.

Item number 8(b). This is part of the sale of some property from the county to a company that is a for profit company. Not sure what the county rules are regarding selling off county property but that’s something I’d be interested in hearing from Mr. Burns.

Item number 8(d) Special issuance providing for the issuance of bonds in the amount of twenty-eight million dollars. I’d be interested in hearing from
Ms. Davis about what this money’s going to be spent for.

Resolution number 9, says a resolution approving the development agreement with Peach Properties. If you look at your agenda packet, you are not in fact approving the development agreement, you’re approving Mr. Burns to negotiate for that agreement. So read carefully what the fine print is in that, because you’re not approving that project, you’re approving Mr. Burns to negotiate that project.

I have some questions about Item number 10, but we’ll speak to that after the meeting.

Thank you, sir.

TOMMY DUNN:       Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON:      Next speaker is Elizabeth Fant.

ELIZABETH FANT: I have several concerns as well, but since there are public hearings on one or two of those, I’ll address them then.

I, too, have questions about number 9, the resolution. I read through the supporting literature and it really is -- it doesn’t tell you much of anything. It just says that you’ve got an agreement to have an agreement with the properties and they’re going to do something on the County Square, but we really don’t know what that’s going to be. It could be office space. It could be family dwellings. It could be some commercial. And all of that. I was really hoping that that space would remain empty and that it would become green space. There’s hardly anything downtown that’s green space any more. We have the Wren Park which is really nice. And across from the Bailes building we have the electric wheel from Electric City and a grassy area there. But we’re becoming nothing but pavement downtown. I went to Greer last night for a meeting and Greer has a nice city park and there’s areas that their office buildings -- not office but city buildings -- have nice grassy areas outside. We’re fast becoming a New York City with nothing but pavement and buildings. And I was really so hoping that we would not develop this area at all. Whatever they do there is going to need parking and I don’t know what you’re going to do for parking because your sewer people already use all of that up and down.

Council people use the first row to park, unless you’re lucky enough to get here in time to get one of the two in front of the Court House. It’s really going to put a crunch on parking spaces downtown. So I would like you all to totally rethink it, even
though this is nothing but a resolution at this time. I was very hoping that we would put nothing up there except green space. Maybe picnic tables, maybe some nice trees, maybe places for people that want to have their lunch downtown. We need more green space downtown.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: No one else is signed up, Mr. Chairman.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

Moving on to Item number 5, Emergency Preparation. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: I had the extreme pleasure last week of working with the Emergency Preparedness folks. I have worked with them several times in the past. This wasn’t my first rodeo. I worked with them several times in the past. But this time it was just remarkable. And I wanted to make sure that you folks know what happened there.

First of all, we have a new person who is heading that department. His name is David Baker. Mr. Baker and I have been working on other things all through. But this was different. From the beginning, from the incept (verbatim) of what happened or what was going to happen, he was on the ball. He had a meeting every single day, including Sunday, to make sure that the people of this county was ready. I worked -- excuse me for saying I, but yes, I did -- I worked in the District 2 -- that’s my area -- Mr. Baker gave me the water that I needed. And we went over to the senior citizens homes that we knew of and we passed out the water. It was really funny, kind of cute, because I saw one lady and I called her and asked her was she prepared and she said no. Did you have any water? She said no. So I gave her some water. She called the lady that she saw out there walking along and then they called somebody else. So it was really fun to see this. We found a man who was sitting on the front porch who was not ready. He told me that somebody was supposed to have brought him some water yesterday, back then, yesterday. They didn’t. But that was okay. All we needed was to find somebody who could lift it out of my trunk and we gave it to him. When we left there, we went over to Susan and Booker Street and we knocked on doors because they have a flooding problem over there. They had one. They had one a couple of years ago. And Holt Hopkins and I cleared that up. But this was going to be a different kind of storm, so Holt and I went over there -- no Holt -- I and the community leader went
knocking door to door and we talked to most everybody who answered the door. Those who needed water, those who had no preparation or what.

And then the funny thing that we did -- and I’ve done this several times before -- we went over to Homeland Park and we passed out a flier that was made by one of the ladies in Emergency Preparedness with phone numbers on it. Did you all get one with phone numbers on it for everything. Who to call when. What to call when. Where to go when. We stood in the middle of the street and we passed them out to any car that came by. Ninety-five percent of the people took them. Of course, you have your people who wouldn’t, but that’s fine. Ninety-five percent of the people that we saw took it. Then we went home and we started calling churches to make the pastors of these churches aware that we thought it would be a good idea if they would talk with their people in the church and make sure that their seniors were being taken care of. After that, we went back up to the Emergency Preparedness Center.

The next day I explained to Mr. David Baker that I found a ninety-six year old female living by herself and she didn’t have a phone. Mr. Baker was very, very encouraging to her and to me. He told me that I will have a phone for her by that afternoon. And sure enough, that afternoon somebody from the Emergency Preparedness -- wish I could remember names better than I do -- but brought the phone over to my house and we took it to the lady so she could have a phone if need be. We talked to people about trees. It was hard work and I fell in bed exhausted.

But we were there. We were there. They were there. We have one of the most effective Emergency Preparedness systems that I have seen in a long time. I was proud and privileged to be accepted by them. I was proud and very pleased to be able to help the people in my district and I am so pleased with Mr. Baker and his staff. Wish I could name them for you, but if you see him, please give them a pat on the back. Let them know that we thank him and we do appreciate all that he did -- that he and his staff did to help us get prepared. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on Ordinance Third Reading 6(a) 2018-014 an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a Joint County Industrial and Business park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park.

Mr. Nelson, would you like to say a few words before we have public hearing about this?
BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir. Be happy to.
Mr. Chairman, this is a project that we’re in cooperation with the city of Anderson in the development of some property along -- we refer to this as Project Ferguson -- along Main Street in front of City Hall. There are a number of vacant buildings there that also includes -- this will also include the Palmetto building, really on Murray Avenue. For the most part these are the most dilapidated buildings along Main Street. This is a redevelopment project. Currently those are in the TIF, Tax Increment Financing District. They generate no tax income for Anderson County. And the city uses those dollars that come in for redevelopment of those properties for infrastructure development.
This will be a two million -- initial two million dollar investment over a six year period. Tax income will actually begin by 2024 and it will continue to grow as the development grows and those facilities are filled with clients and with some residential has been discussed. But it is a cooperative project with the city of Anderson and Anderson County Economic Development Advisory Board. And staff brings this as a recommendation for your consideration.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. At this time we’ll have a public hearing on this. Anyone wishing to speak to this, please step forward state your name and district and address the Chair, please. Public hearing. Anyone at all? Seeing and hearing none, public hearing will be closed. We have a motion?
KEN WATERS: So moved.
CINDY WILSON: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson, second Mr. Waters. Now any discussion?
GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.
GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burns, is this the building -- I’m getting different messages here now. I was told that this was the downtown hotel that’s going to move there? And you mentioned him to build it.
BURRISS NELSON: This is for Ferguson project. Accommodation is the hotel project. This is a little further down on our list.
GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I know we have three on here for downtown. But is this -- this is not the hotel?
BURRISS NELSON: That’s right. It’s not.
GRACIE FLOYD: Could you please tell us
what this is? Because I wrote down when I talked
about this yesterday, I wrote downtown hotel here,
but it’s not.

BURRISS NELSON: Well, that could have
confused you when we were talking about that. The
Ferguson project is about the buildings that really
started on the corner of Market Street, on the south
side of South Main and go all the way down through
the Glenn Pharmacy. It goes all the way down Murph’s
Grill, ??, all those buildings that are directly
cross from City Hall and the police station.

GRACIE FLOYD: It used to be an old hotel
years ago. Is that the property?

BURRISS NELSON: I think you’re correct. I
think it might have been a hotel many years ago.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Okay.
Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? All in favor
of the motion show of hands. Show the motion carries
unanimously.

Moving on to Item 6(b). This is also a public
hearing. 2018-031 a third supplemental ordinance
providing for the issuance and sale of Anderson
County, South Carolina Solid Waste System Revenue
Bonds, Series 2018, in the Aggregate Principal amount
not exceeding $2,800,000 fixing the form and certain
details of the bonds; authorizing the Chairman of the
County Council, the County Administrator and the
Finance Director to determine certain matters
relating to the bonds; providing certain payment of
the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds
thereof. Ms. Davis, would you mind just tweaking
this a little bit before we go into a public hearing.
Just speaking on this just for a little bit, just for
the folks.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir. This came from
the Planning and Public Works Committee with a
unanimous vote. It’s for two million three hundred
fifty thousand to expand the Starr C&D Landfill,
three hundred seventy-five thousand for the bailer.

TOMMY DUNN: And I stand corrected. I
said twenty-eight million. But it’s two point eight
million. I’d correct that.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Anything else?

RITA DAVIS: Well, yes, just wanted to
remind you Mr. Smith is the solid waste fund, they’re
currently at this moment just rolling off 4/1/2019
and this is coming on the books. It’s a little bit
less. So, of course, we’re look at the debt coverage
and we feel confident that his fund will be paying
this back.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Davis. Now we’ll go into a public hearing. Anyone wishing to
speak to this matter, please step forward, state your
name and district and address the Chair.

FRANK PRESSLY: Frank Pressly, District 4.

Mr. Chairman, I have serious concerns about this
supplemental ordinance, particularly when the power
of the County Council as a whole is usurped by the
authorization of certain details, certain matters,
certain payments, and distribution -- disposition of
the proceeds thereof fall on yourself, Mr. Burns, and
Mr. Carroll. I’m not sure that taking the power of
the Council and reducing it down to three people is a
good public policy. But I have serious concerns
about this and other items in the agenda that don’t
exactly reflect what the back story is. They ask
Council to approve something, but they’re not really
disapproving or approving that item. They are
approving or disapproving somebody to negotiate for
the item or some other variance of that. So I think
the agenda should probably reflect what the actual
back story is on this. And as I said, my concerns
are that we are usurping the power of the County
Council and reducing it down to the decision made by
three people.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Seeing and
hearing none, public hearing will be closed. We have
a motion to move this forward?

RAY GRAHAM: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Graham, second

Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. What I want to know
and we’ve got to spend two million -- well, we’re
going to float a bond for two million eight hundred
thousand dollars for the solid waste system. But in
next year, next year, we’re going to pay off a bond,
Ms. Davis, am I correct?

RITA DAVIS: That is correct.

GRACIE FLOYD: We’re going to pay off a
bond?

RITA DAVIS: That is correct.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. If we’re going to
-- if we have already had one, and we get that paid
off next year, why are we doing another one now?

RITA DAVIS: To expand the Starr C&D
Landfill. Its life is limited. And also to get a new baler for the MRF. It’s on its last leg, it’s about a hundred and sixty thousand, I believe, to repair. It’s like fifteen years old, so he needs to replace that. So we’re borrowing money so he can accomplish those two goals.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now how long will this one last us? This bond?

RITA DAVIS: Fifteen.

GRACIE FLOYD: Fifteen years?

RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am. Oh, I beg your pardon. I’m thinking about the SSRC. This is ten years. And I put an amortization schedule in the folder for you regarding this new debt. It’s on top there, yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. We haven’t had time to -- I haven’t had time to look at that. That just got here.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah.

RITA DAVIS: It’s about three hundred thirty-seven thousand annual debt service.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

RITA DAVIS: And that’s a project that is needed.

GRACIE FLOYD: And it’s going to be for ten years, right?

RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Call for the vote. All in favor of the motion show of hands.

Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on to Item number 6(c) 2018-033 an ordinance authorizing the execution of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement among Anderson County, South Carolina, the City of Anderson, South Carolina, J.B. Ferguson Properties, LLC and Estate Planning Consultants, Inc. This is the same project we just voted on a few minutes ago, if I’m not mistaken.

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: And this will be going into a public hearing. Put the thing in motion. Anyone want to speak to this, please step forward and state your name and district and address the Chair, please.

ELIZABETH FANT: Okay. I just spoke with Burriss Nelson and I understand that 6(a) and 6(c) are connected. From what I understand, 6(c), the
Ferguson property is what this is encompassing, is the area which is already the Palmetto Building --
you know that was an old mill at one time and it was an office building. Most of the windows got broken out. They didn’t have much of a residency when they had renovated it. And also the properties down the road there, the beer place, I guess that’s the building where they used to -- can’t think of the name of it, it’s still one there -- and also the glass place. If that’s true, then I really don’t understand how you can have a business park. I thought a business park was somewhere else. I’m just really confused about that. That’s the first thing.

And the second thing is, something is going on in Anderson downtown and I really haven’t gotten my finger on what it is. But we got all this stuff that’s going on, development down there. You got people wanting to put up office buildings. I understand we want to do something with the old Bailes place. They say it could be mixed use, commercial, office space, maybe condos, whatever. Then we’ve got this hotel.

There’s not enough downtown to support all this. The one place that I know of that kind of has office space available is almost across from the hamburger place -- Uptown Lounge. Almost catty-corner from that is a building that has two stories, up top and then a basement where people can rent a room, basically, for office space. And it’s not on a high demand. You have multiple empty spaces downtown. You have where the Avenue of Oaks Antique place was and then the building right next door to it that was renovated probably five or six years ago, like three or four stories and it’s a nice building and we’ve had no grabbers.

Basically downtown Anderson is the County functions, the old courthouse, the new courthouse, the jail, the city management place, the police department, probably twelve lawyers, four or five eating places -- three that are pretty good -- ???, Meeting Place, J Peters. And we’ve got umpteen other ones that have tried to go in that have failed. There’s not enough parking places already for just the eating places. And when people have to go to court and they’ve got to have a place to park. And most people do not want to park in the high rise parking thing. So I don’t know what it is that’s -- somebody knows something -- if they know something that I don’t know, I wish that they would convey it to me, because I don’t see the need for all this new
1 stuff. I know what it does. If you change a
2 building that’s not paying any taxes and they
3 renovate it, even if you give them a fee in lieu of
4 or you give them time enough, you know, to do that,
5 and then eventually it does produce tax money. But
6 you look around town and you see all these strip
7 shopping malls that once people thought, yeah, we
8 needed them, we needed them; and half of those are
9 empty. So I just don’t know what the need is here
10 and I just can’t fathom -- again that’s on another
11 item -- but a hotel downtown. Unless you’re getting
12 married and you’re going to go to the Bleckley event
13 place across the street to have your rehearsal dinner
14 or your thing and then your family members in town
15 want a place to stay without driving somewhere else.
16 You go up Clemson Boulevard and you’ve got all these
17 hotels that are nice there near the Cookout place.
18 You’ve got two or three that are really nice hotels
19 there. Then you go up to the interchange, 40 and 41
20 -- what is that interchange there? Can’t think of
21 that number, anyway the one going up to Clemson and
22 you’ve got five or six really nice hotels there. If
23 anybody’s coming to Anderson County, they’re
24 basically going to the game. They’re not coming
downtown. I don’t see the need and I think you’re
25 going to double up on the transportation problem and
26 on the parking problem and that’s what killed
27 Anderson from the get-go. When we had Burners and we
28 had Looking Glass and we had Vogue and we had Mc Calls
29 and we had the ?? House. The only thing left
downtown that is at all commercial is Phil’s Jewelers
30 and it’s going to do business no matter what when
31 people want to buy a diamond ring. And the Kitchen
32 Emporium which is down on the other end and
33 Ionosphere. There’s no place to park. I don’t
34 understand.
35          TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Hearing
36 none, public hearing will be closed. We have a
37 motion to move this forward?
38          CINDY WILSON: So moved.
39          RAY GRAHAM: So moved.
40          TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson, second
41 Mr. Graham. Any discussion?
42          GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
43          CINDY WILSON: May I?
44          TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.
45          GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Ms. Davis,
46 would you come back up, please.
47          TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Davis.
48          RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am.
GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Davis, now, this one goes along with 6(a) and 6(c), right?
RITA DAVIS: 6(a) is Mr. Burriss’s ---
GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, maybe I should have called Mr. Burriss. Mr. Burriss, please excuse me.
Ms. Davis, I apologize. Mr. Burriss, this is 6(a) and 6(c), right?
BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma’am.
GRACIE FLOYD: Now, what’s the difference between the two, in laymen’s language.
BURRISS NELSON: Well, 6(c) is the incentive ordinance that we have to pass for them to be able to receive the discounted county property over a period of time. It’s a type of fee in lieu of taxes. An incentive. And we reduce the property tax until they get it up and running and operational. Taxes generate business there that will generate income and subsequently generate property tax.
The first one, (a) puts it in (BREAK IN TAPE) referred to and it’s basically a legal fiction but it puts it into a county industrial park. It’s a multi-county industrial park and it’s a state statute. This state statute allows for a number of state centers, but the county has to give permission for that to be included in this particular statute and that’s an ordinance also. So we include that so we can receive any additional state benefits that might be available to it. This really is a courtesy.
GRACIE FLOYD: Okay now. The hotel has nothing to do with (a) nor (c). Am I correct?
BURRISS NELSON: That’s correct.
GRACIE FLOYD: Nothing to do with it.
BURRISS NELSON: That’s correct.
GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Good. I thank you.
BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma’am.
TOMMY DUNN: Anymore discussion?
CINDY WILSON: May I?
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: Just quickly pointing out that in the last few weeks there have been a number of announcements downtown. One was 201 North Main Street, the big bank building, West Point Pepperell Corporate office is moving there with fifteen employees from Clemson, so that’s really a nice addition to downtown. And there’s a lot of other activities going on. So when people come downtown and take risks and put their money up, I think it’s very important to track it close, but it looks like things are starting to turn around downtown.
Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN:  Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

All in favor of the motion show of hands.  All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on to Item 6(d) 2018-034 an ordinance authorizing the extension of the term under that certain lease agreement by and between Anderson County, South Carolina and BMW Manufacturing Co. LLC dated as of September 1, 1998; the amendment of such lease agreement to reflect such extension. Mr. Nelson, you mind speaking to this before we go into public hearing?

BURRISS NELSON:  Yes, sir. Be happy to. These are properties, particular piece of equipment, really tools, that BMW has placed in companies like Mergon, Plastic Omnium, and several others across the county. There are millions of dollars worth of tools and we collect property tax on those. They are covered by a statewide BMW multi-county BMW fee in lieu of taxes agreement. And so each county charges its own millage, and there’s an agreement that is statewide with BMW. And we’re merely extending that agreement for the equipment that they have in Anderson County and we’re collecting the property tax on it.

TOMMY DUNN:  Thank you, Mr. Nelson. Appreciate it. At this time we’ll go into a public hearing on that. Anyone wishing to speak to this, please step forward and state your name and district and address the Chair, please. Anyone at all? Seeing and hearing none, public hearing will be closed. We have a motion to move this forward?

KEN WATERS:  So moved.

TOMMY DUNN:  Motion Mr. Graham. Second Mr. Allen. Any discussion? Hearing none, motion -- vote on the motion. All in favor, opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on now to item 6(e) 2018-037 an ordinance authorizing the execution of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement among Anderson County, Project Accommodation, and the City of Anderson, South Carolina. Mr. Nelson, again, would you like to speak on this?

BURRISS NELSON:  Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of Council. This is another project where we are in collaboration with the city. This is a hotel project. And this particular project will be generating an investment of approximately twelve million dollars. That investment will supply
a property tax in the first year to the county, as it proceeds through the certificate of occupancy, of approximately fifty-two thousand in tax dollars. That would include schools. And then the city would receive approximately seventeen thousand. Over a thirty year period the county would receive -- now this is property that is not taxable today. It’s in the TIF. It’s also parking lot that belongs to the city. We have no taxing authority over that. But after thirty years the county will receive three point four six eight million in taxes and the city would receive one point one five six million in taxes.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

We’re going into a public hearing now. Anyone wishing to speak to this, please step forward and state your name and district and address the Chair, please. Anyone at all?

ELIZABETH FANT: I guess basically everything I have to say tonight is really an extension of the same problem. I laminated something out of the Anderson magazine that had Anderson County Economic Development announcements from January 2009 to 2017. You may have read that at some point. That’s great. Because all of those things brought in jobs and each one of them lists how many jobs supposedly and how much money development, supposedly. You know we never know about that fee in lieu of whether we really are getting what we say we’re getting. But on the map so many of them are like Orion Rug and on 81, up that stretch, a few others are clustered together. But basically we don’t ever see anything going on down in the Starr-Iva area except for the toilet paper people. And also on the Belton Anderson Highway and in Belton going out towards Honea Path. It’s all kind of conglomerated in the same area. We need to be looking out for infrastructure on 85. We’re not using it. I think years ago when Ms. Cindy was on she tried to get them to put in sewer and support on 85 and that fell on deaf ears. But we got that whole area there that’s virgin territory that if we had sewer and water and power close enough to get it, we could really be adding. And that’s all Anderson County.

But I guess my concern is that when we keep adding so much downtown, I don’t know how the infrastructure can handle it. I mean, we’ve got Wren Park because the Belk building was downtown. There was a store next to it. The walls of that store fell
in. Do you remember that? Nobody remembers that?
Okay. And Belk, likewise closed because the area was
not strong enough structural-wise to put up a new
building there. And that’s how we got Wren Park. So
if you’re talking about adding a whole bunch of
buildings, including a hotel downtown, that’s got to
have some pretty strong steel roots into the ground
to hold it up. I hope it’s not going to be one of
these -- and I don’t mean this to sound bad, but it
is what it is -- a podunk Motel 6 type of
construction. You’re going to put that hotel right
down there next to already some old buildings on that
street. The rest of it is going in the back on our
nice historical cobblestones that will be torn up.
And that hotel, the swimming pool and parking thing
is going to be right smack dab almost on top of the
Church Street park that we just got finished.
I’m worried about the infrastructure. I’m
worried about having enough sewer and water
facilities. I’m worried about what that’s already
going to do to downtown. When we had a development
downtown a few years back, maybe ten years, maybe
before that even, where they put in the yellow ramp
stuff, where you come up a corner, you know, so
handicap people like myself can get up. And they did
an awful lot to downtown Anderson because Anderson
was so torn up for so long, there were good
businesses there that closed. One that I used to go
to a lot was the Town House Restaurant that had been
there for years and had some of the best food in
Anderson and the best service and best decor and the
best everything. They couldn’t handle it. All that
construction was killing their business. And I also
understand that businesses downtown are struggling
because the city taxes are so high. That’s one
reason the Town House went out.
So I’m for open air spaces and I know that once
you take up a piece of land and you put something on
it, you just about never get it back to a piece of
land. And you’re stuck with whatever you get,
whether it be a strip -- parking strip malls or a
venture that folds and then it’s an eyesore. I just
have real concerns about all this together. And I
know it’s economic development. And I know economic
development brings in money. And if you have more
money, you spend more money.
But I had Ms. Davis hunt up some time back, and I
don’t have it with me so I can’t quote it exactly,
but I had her hunt up how many employees we had in
2008 and what the county budget was in 2008. And
then what it was last year, the county employees
number and what the budget is now. And I mean to
tell you that we’ve added a whole lot of people. And
the budget, the amount that we’re spending has
skyrocketed. So what that’s telling me is the stuff
that we’re doing -- what we’re doing is we turn
around and we’re hiring other employees, adding to
our budget, so the taxpayers never get a break
because we keep just adding stuff. But we’re not
looking out for the infrastructure. I don’t see
anything in our budget really that’s planning for
replacement of pipes, replacement of sewer, and the
additional infrastructure that’s needed when you
start having these developments where you add a
hundred and forty houses within two miles. That’s
not good.
And Anderson, to me, is just such a quaint,
wonderful town that has an ambiance, has friendly
people, has old buildings, has charm. I hope y’all
are not trying to recreate us to something like a
Greenville, which we’re not. But Council needs to
make a trip to Greer and they need to go and see what
Greer is doing and how they are funding and how the
little shops and stuff that they’re doing downtown.
That’s what we need more of in Anderson. We don’t
need all this other stuff.
TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?
STAN WELCH: Yes, please. My name is
Stan Welch. I’m from District 6 or 7. We’re never
sure. I vote at White Plains if that tells you
anything. And I do vote ---
TOMMY DUNN: Once or twice?
STAN WELCH: I like to go early and I
like to go vote. It’s hot in that building. When I
was a much younger man, my father had a job in
Greenville. And during my Christmas leave from the
Citadel I came up and worked with him. He was
training in motel management and it was in
Greenville. At 7:30 at night you could lay down in
the streets in Greenville and not worry about getting
run over. That town went down with the sun. It was
dead. It was a ghost town. Now, because people with
vision took chances and attracted investment,
Greenville is one of the premier destinations in the
Southeast. I’m not saying Anderson is never going to
be that. I don’t want it to be. But it could be a
lot more than it is now. If you’re traveling through
downtown Anderson, you’re seeing abandoned buildings
and boarded up windows, you’re really not thinking,
you know, I’d like to bring my family here. I’d like
to put my -- I’d like to invest my money here. If you are, you’re a fool. If boarded up windows make you think I need to invest in this town, you’re crazy. If we’ve got some people who are willing to invest in this town and who require a little incentive help from the city and the county government, I’m all in favor of it. As to the infrastructure issue, I live in the White Plains area. We do not consider ourselves downtown Anderson. But to get to downtown Anderson, I have to drive past between two and three billion dollars in capital investment and industrial development. And the infrastructure is there for that. TTI employs about eight hundred people. I’m pretty sure they’re not running on septic tanks. So infrastructure is being built where it’s needed. Yes, there’s more that needs to be done. And I hope that this Council and future Councils will find ways to do those things. The money that was squandered on infrastructure ten years ago is not being squandered now and you can see the difference in Anderson County. Thank you for your time.

Anyone else? Hearing none, public hearing will be closed. At this time we have a motion to move this forward?

Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?

Yes.

Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to speak to this because I was the Chairman of the Sewer Ad Hoc Committee last year and we came with a unanimous recommendation to full Council. Full Council then actually adopted that recommendation. And I talked to Derrick Singleton this morning. We have implemented a comprehensive sewer expansion to every exit on I-85. And it’s being implemented right now and so it will be a total overhaul. There will not be an exit that will not have any sewer service. So we’ve taken the lead on that. I think they’ll pay dividends in the long run.

As for some of the Economic Development comments, there’s a couple things that confuse me. People say well you don’t need to approve anything like that because it’s going to fail. Or people say well we
already have too many things like that; you shouldn’t have approved another. That troubles me from a political philosophy standpoint because I don’t look at what the business is and decide whether or not I think it’s going to succeed or fail. That’s not our job. Our job is to say is it legal? Is this person entitled to do it? Does it put any kind of strain -- an infrastructure strain which I think is legit. But I mean, I don’t say we’re not going to approve a McDonalds because there’s already two more McDonalds in town. Well, that’s that business person’s risk that they’re going to take and they may succeed or they may fail. If we get to the topics of trying to decide who succeeds and who fails, we’ll go down a very slippery sloop. I don’t do a world economic outlook on power tools when I look at whether or not TTI wants to invest. I would assume that they’re experts in that.

And I’ll be quite honest in my personal life, I see things being built all the time I don’t think will work out. And a lot of times I’m corrected and they work out wonderfully. And things that I think would succeed end up failing. I think from our standpoint, you know, this is -- the city project brought a lot of animosity; some of it I think is confusion. It’s the city’s property. It’s not ours. The only thing that they have proposed to us is a way to take a non-taxable property and allow us to gain tax revenue. And I feel like it’s incumbent upon us as County Council to make the best deal that we can for county citizens as the county. I see things going on at the State House all the time I would do differently, but I wasn’t elected to the State House. I would like to go tell the city to do things differently sometimes. But I’m not elected to the city. We can only negotiate what is in our purview and I feel like what’s in our purview is reasonable. Would I do these projects personally? I don’t know, I don’t have the money nor the expertise to do them. But I feel like we’re stepping over into other areas that we don’t have control over. And we shouldn’t be in the job of selecting who we think would succeed or fail, as much as just trying to provide an economic environment where people are willing to take risks.

Those are my comments.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.

Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: The -- I have been wary about this property for the longest. No, I’m not -- I have never said anything about who’s going to fail
and who’s going to be successful. I don’t think that’s the problem. Who’s failing and who’s successful. Okay? The problem is, what are we doing to our citizens? Let’s not forget, we are a small town. We are not one of the largest towns where we have space. Downtown Anderson is really landlocked and we keep building there. Yes, I am worried about the infrastructure. Especially with that old hotel going to be revised. You know, how is the sewer system in that site? We don’t know. It has been empty for so long I don’t think anybody has turned on any water or flushed anything. But when we do, will that infrastructure lend itself to being something that we can continue to use without digging holes and putting down more.

I’m worried about the parking. When you go downtown, if you eat at J Peters, and I do, because I love their salads, do you know you don’t have any place to park as it is? And that’s going to take up some of the parking space that you can park in the back of the place. But that’s another story. I worried about the other businesses there. We’ve got a hotel there already. Did we give the other hotel fee in lieu of? Did we -- not we, but the people who are responsible -- did they give him the same kind of money, the same kind of exceptions like they’re going to give this hotel people? I’m worried about Mellow Mushroom. They use that property behind them a lot for overflow customers. Where are they going to go? I worry about the people on Benson Street. We just had a new business go in there. Now what’s going to happen to them? They have a back door that can be used. But if we’re going to put a parking space back there, then what?

This hotel is supposed to have a parking deck, a swimming pool and a car deck. Oh, I said that twice. A parking deck, a swimming pool, plus the hotel. How are they going to squeeze all of that into that little thing. And how much has the city wasted putting that little park in the back of that, if that’s going to be demolished or moved over, too. I was told by people who know that it’s going to take at least fifty guests a night to keep that place going. That hotel going. What’s happening downtown where we have fifty people needing to spend the night down there or anywhere else in Anderson. The -- I worry about the crowdedness. I worry about the packing and everything else.

Now I have heard many times since this thing came up that, oh, no, it’s not us; it’s the city. No,
it's us. It's us. The city asked us to come in because they needed us. So we will have to accept some of the responsibility. You can't just say, oh, I don't work for the city, I don't do -- you -- when we sit up here and vote to let this thing happen, each one of us is going to have to be responsible for accepting some of the mess that's going to happen downtown.

Remember when they were fixing the room upstairs, across the street it used to be a hamburger place right there one time. And the Cigar Bar came in and they were fixing the Cigar Bar and Chiguola Club above the Cigar Bar. Y'all remember that? We had people complaining like crazy. The place was called Maggie’s. I think it was Maggie’s Hamburger Place. They were complaining. Town House was complaining. Everybody was complaining that the businesses were going down because they had no parking space and all that stuff from the other side of the street. Well, that's the cost of progress. But if you think they complained about that little space, what do you think they're going to do when the hotel -- it is going to disrupt everything. We will be just as responsible. The County will be just as responsible. I advise you -- I hope that you will kind of think thirty years from now we will be getting three point four million dollars. Is that why we're doing this? For thirty years from now? Thirty years from now some of us might not even be here. They're going to get the bulk of the money, but we'll have to wait for thirty years. Thirty years it won't even be there because we will have more people in Anderson. Do you know that we're already at two hundred thousand people in Anderson County? Do you know that? It's going to be more. It's going to be more.

I disagree with the whole thing. I don't think it was well thought out. I think that we are looking at money rather than looking out for our people.

Now, it was said that it could have gone on Belton Highway. Lord, God, we need a hotel there. You know we need a hotel on Belton Highway. These people go all the way to Greenville for the tennis tournaments when they come. We need one there. But no, we're going to stick it downtown. Why?

Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: I make a motion to extend the time five more minutes. Second Ms. Wilson. All in favor of extending the time five minutes show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries. Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: Thank you. It’s instructive to realize what is the county’s jurisdiction and what is the city’s jurisdiction and where we go with our questions. Tonight, I’m not particularly impressed with the location of the hotel, but our job is the incentive package. And the infrastructure bonds that are on our agenda tonight are I guess around twenty-eight -- well more than thirty million dollars for infrastructure. Two point eight for solid waste for the C&D landfill down in Starr and a piece of equipment for the MRF. And then we have twenty-eight point three or four million that we’re voting on in bond form tonight for our sewer infrastructure. And as Mr. Wooten pointed out it should put the county in good order, particularly along the interstate and some of the really bad messes that were put in before. So that’s my two cents worth tonight.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Anyone else? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms. Floyd opposes.

Moving on to Item number 6(f) 2018-038 an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as enlarge the park. Mr. Nelson, would you mind speaking to this just before we go into public hearing?

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of Council. This is adding that particular property that we just discussed for the hotel project, Project Accommodation, to the multi-county industrial park agreement that we have in ??? (someone coughing). We bring recommendation from staff and from the Economic Development Advisory Board for your consideration.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. We’ll be going into a public hearing. Anyone wishing to speak to this please step forward, state your name and district and address the Chair, please. Anyone at all? Seeing and hearing none, public hearing will be closed. We have a motion to move this forward?

KEN WATERS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Waters, second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burriss, can you come back up? Now, you mentioned something about -- if I'm on the right one, 2018-038?

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now you mentioned something about this part of the hotel downtown as well.

BURRISS NELSON: This is the hotel project that we're collaborating with the city and the parking lot that is adjacent to or near the Mellow Mushroom that you just discussed.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Well, you know something is wrong because when I talked to somebody -- was it you yesterday -- and I asked about this. And you told me it was -- I asked what type businesses would be going in this park and you told me metal testing, MTS services, ?? company.

BURRISS NELSON: That's later in the project. That's a different -- that's a different project. This is -- Accommodations is the hotel.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay, all right. So when you told me yesterday that when I asked the question what type of business would be going in the joint county industrial and business park, you told me metal testings. That's not right; right?

BURRISS NELSON: It's later in -- it's down in ---

LEON HARMON: It's section 7, Mr. Nelson.

BURRISS NELSON: 7(a)? 7(c) is that particular project.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burriss? I'm sure you told me (BREAK IN TAPE) metal testing, MPF, and I wrote it right at the top of each one of the things we talked about. I wrote it right there.

BURRISS NELSON: Well, I apologize at this point if I made an error, and I do apologize.

GRACIE FLOYD: So this is for the business park. I mean this is for the hotel thing as well.

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma'am. Every project that we have that has any incentive will go in, as well as having an ordinance will also have an additional ordinance to place it in the park so it can receive the state incentives that are available to them. So usually we'll have at least two ordinances with every economic development project. One is for the company's incentive. The other one is for the multi-county park agreement. And it's just
adding an amendment to the current agreement. It has many amendments to it with many projects going into that one ordinance that we did in 2010.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right.

BURRELL NELSON: With your permission and the Chairman’s permission, when we were talking about tax dollars that will be generated by the hotel project, the three point four million to the county, that’s over a thirty year period.

GRACIE FLOYD: Over a thirty year period.

BURRELL NELSON: So that tax is every year, seventy-five to us, fifty or sixty thousand dollars a year. In later years it gets to be an even higher amount because of the ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, it was presented as in thirty years we would be at three point four million dollars. There was no explanation that it was going to be in increments.

BURRELL NELSON: That’s right. Over a thirty year period.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But still this project here. All right. I don’t have the -- I have the correct information now, but all right. I thank you.

BURRELL NELSON: Yes, ma’am. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, and Ms. Wilson in favor. Ms. Floyd opposes.

Moving on to Second Reading Item number 7(a) 2018-036 an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement by and between Anderson, South Carolina and a Company or Companies known to the County at this time as Project 20180430 with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of Certain Special Source Credits. Mr. Nelson, you mind speaking to this again? I know you done it last week.

BURRELL NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of Council, this is a metal testing company that will be investing six point two million dollars and creating thirty-one jobs with an average pay of twenty-three eighty-one. Total annual payroll of one point four million dollars. They will pay -- currently the property where this -- and they’re building a new building -- they pay, property tax was thirty-four hundred dollars last year. And the
projected taxes first year when the project is up and
running is sixty-nine thousand five hundred eighty-
one, almost seventy thousand. Over twenty years, the
projected taxes will -- which will be paid
incrementally -- but over the twenty years, one point
two million. First year community total impact, a
little over fifteen million dollars and twenty year
community impact two hundred and sixty-one million
dollars. This project is brought to you with
recommendation from the Economic Development Advisory
Board and the Economic Development staff.

Thank you, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. We
have a motion to move this forward?
KEN WATERS: So moved.
TOM ALLEN: Second.
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.

Moving on to Item 7(b) 2018-039 an ordinance to
amend the zoning map to rezone +/- 72.28 acres from
PD (Planned Development) to IZOD (Innovative Zoning
District) at Crestview Road, Harriett Circle and
Midway Road. Dr. Parkey, you want to speak to this
at all? This will be second reading.

JEFF PARKEY: Mr. Chair, just quickly,
two things to point out. The applicant has included
in their statement of intent that additional right-
of-way that they had previously proposed. And
secondly the applicant indicated to us that a name
change is underway for the project and revised
statement of intent will be -- will include that
before third reading. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Dr. Parkey. We
have a motion to move this forward?
KEN WATERS: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Waters. We
have a second?
CRAIG WOOTEN: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Wooten. Any
discussion?
GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.
CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, I do want to clarify
because I know it was a citizen’s question before.
The developer is changing the name to this
development. I don’t know that they publicly
released that yet but it will not the original name
that was proposed.
Also, they came through with their guarantee on the right-of-way that they’ve offered to the county to allow for better traffic. One of the things I said to Dr. Parkey personally and his staff, Mr. Burns and Mr. Hopkins, is I would like to go to the county to the ANATS committee. I would hopefully like try to get a letter of recommendation from this Council to Chairman Brian White that any means possible that we can prioritize spending at that intersection on that road, we know a quality development is coming. We know there are a lot of people there. We know that intersection is troublesome. We know that the owners and the developer have given us land to expand. Anything that we can do to try to prioritize that I’d be in total support of and I’d appreciate any help on that. But that would be our challenge moving forward. And there are concerns that myself and Ms. Wilson have expressed in trying to make that happen.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Wooten, I -- Mr. Wooten?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Wait a minute, please.

Mr. Wooten, did you receive some phone calls from folks about this same thing ---

?????: Can’t hear you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I can’t get to the mike because I can’t see it.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Well, she’s asking whether or not I received phone calls. I haven’t.

GRACIE FLOYD: You received not a one?

CRAIG WOOTEN: No, ma’am. Not since last meeting.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Okay. All right. Because I received three. One of them I gave them your phone number. One of them I gave them your phone number.

CRAIG WOOTEN: One gentleman referenced the project in conjunction with two other projects. But I guess I was thinking that you were saying about the name change.

GRACIE FLOYD: No.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Not the name change.

GRACIE FLOYD: The name change is a new thing. That just came up tonight. But the other one, you know, at the last meeting we talked about it and I told you that some of the things that the people said they’re going to do that we had the same kinds of things and that community out there turned
it down; they didn’t want it. And I asked you did you talk to the people out there and you told me you had. And I told you I would yield to you. But that doesn’t seem to be the case in a lot of them; the ones that have called. And I just think that maybe you being the County Council person up there, maybe you need to go back and talk and see what the issues are because that was your district. And I would not accept the question and the why and the what for about the whole thing. Okay?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. So you might want to go back and revisit that because I don’t think they like it so much. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Then all in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, and Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms. Floyd opposes.

Moving on to Item number 8(b) 2018-040 -- I’m sorry 7(b). I’m on 7(c). I’m sorry. I’ll get it right. Work with me. 7(c) 2018-040 an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties as to enlarge the park. Mr. Nelson, would you like to speak to this? The previous ---

BURRISS NELSON: It’s just that. We’re just adding them to the multi-county park agreement for the state incentives that they might be able to receive.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. We have a motion to move this?

CRAIG WOOTEN: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Wooten, second Mr. Graham. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed. Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten and Ms. Wilson in favor. Ms. Floyd opposes.

Now moving on to 8(a).

KEN WATERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recuse myself from this next one because I have a conflict of interest.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Waters.

Moving on to 8(a) Ordinance First Reading, 8(a) 2018-035 an ordinance authorizing the lease of a portion of the Anderson Sports and Entertainment
Center consisting of approximately .75 acres of Tax Parcel No. 122-00-01-001 to Duke Energy Carolina, LLC for location of an energy storage system. Mr. Burns, you like to speak to this matter?

RUSTY BURNS: Mr. Dunn, we’ve been working with Duke Energy and as you know this is a shelter, designator emergency shelter. They will be placing an emergency battery supply in the rear of this building which can be used in case of an electrical failure in our area. Ms. Emily DeRoberts with Duke Energy is here tonight if you would like to ask her any questions. This will not cost us anything. I think it is a win for our Civic Center and for our county.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Burns. We have a motion to move this forward?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOM ALLEN: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson, second Mr. Graham. Any discussion?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Real quick, I remember ---

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.

CRAIG WOOTEN: --- sitting on this committee. I had a lot of questions about this coming into it, but the thing I was impressed by was we’re giving up county land for a project of Duke Energy. What are we getting in return? We’re trying to advocate for the taxpayers. And this solar and energy pack they want to put here, I mean it’s a value of like eight million dollars, which far exceeds anything that we’re putting into it. But I just wanted to clarify that because when you see us go into partnerships you want to make sure that we’re advocating for who we’re supposed to. And it’s an overwhelming benefit. If we were to try to go do this ourselves, we wouldn’t be able to do it. And because they are doing this with us, we’ll be able to give an emergency response center at a higher level.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.

Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: I just want to comment on that as well. Definitely want to commend Duke Energy with their investment and partnership with us on this. This will be a tremendous benefit when it comes to public safety. We were very fortunate and blessed this past week with the storm coming through. We had a lot of planning in place. Duke Energy was definitely at every meeting with us as a partner to ensure our citizens was going to be taken care in a safe environment. And in the event we would have
needed a shelter, naturally the Civic Center would have been the place for that. And then this exact project here is going to be a tremendous benefit further down the road. So we definitely want to thank Duke Energy for their investment in Anderson County. And again, I think it will definitely be an excellent opportunity for Anderson moving forward. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Carroll brings a -- let the record show Mr. Waters recused himself. Ms. DeRoberts, appreciate you coming out. I know you’ve had a busy week. We appreciate all y’all do for us. Thank you.

EMILY DEROBERTS: Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on now to Item number 8(b) 2018-041 an ordinance approving the sale of approximately 4.04 acres of property owned by Anderson County, South Carolina and located near the Southwest corner of Orange Way and Martin Road to One World Technologies, Inc. You want Mr. Burriss to take this?

RUSTY BURNS: I’ve got it, Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Dunn, this is property the county acquired while we were doing the TTI project primarily for road construction. We purchased that property. Now TTI is requesting to purchase that property. We’ve had that property appraised. Off the top of my head I believe it’s a hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars. That money would go back to Anderson County. What they intend to do there is to put another facility which I think will be a great benefit to Anderson County. It will be on the tax books and it will not receive any incentive.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Burns. We have a motion to move this forward?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

KEN WATERS: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson, second Mr. Waters. Any discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Dunn.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: I’m sorry, not Mr. Dunn, Mr. ---

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: You said a hundred and fifty-five thousand?

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yesterday you told me it
1 was a hundred a sixty-five thousand.
2 RUSTY BURNS: I misspoke. It’s a
3 hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars off the top
4 of my head. And that’s the appraisal price that we
5 had done by an outside appraiser.
6 GRACIE FLOYD: So it’s not a hundred and
7 sixty?
8 RUSTY BURNS: A hundred and fifty-five.
9 GRACIE FLOYD: Hundred and fifty-five.
10 Okay.
11 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? All in favor
12 of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.
13 Show the motion carries unanimously.
14 Moving on to Item number 8(c) 2018-042 a Master
15 Bond Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale
16 of Special Resource Revenue Bonds of Anderson County,
17 South Carolina. Ms. Rita, would you mind speaking to
18 this?
19 RITA DAVIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I’d be
20 happy to. As you see, the one that you just
21 discussed, 042 and 043 kind of go in tandem. They
22 work together. The one that’s under discussion now
23 042 is the master bond ordinance. It controls the
24 documents and the sale of the bonds that 043 is
25 talking about specifically. In addition it covers
26 future bond documents, any other financing, any
27 refunding. It talks about the covenants of the bond.
28 So it basically is the umbrella, the master bond
29 ordinance that covers any SSR ?? that we do in the
30 future, including the refunding of the four that are
31 currently outstanding.
32 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Davis. We
33 have a motion to move this forward?
34 CINDY WILSON: So moved.
35 KEN WATERS: So moved.
36 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson, second
37 Mr. Waters. Any discussion?
38 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
39 CINDY WILSON: May I quickly?
40 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson. I mean, Ms.
41 Floyd and then Ms. Wilson.
42 GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Davis.
43 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am.
44 GRACIE FLOYD: Could you please tell the
45 taxpayers what this bond ordinance will do? Why are
46 we floating this bond? And what will the money go
47 toward. I think they would like to know that.
48 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am. As we stated
49 this master is covering the securing of the bonds and
50 so forth. Now, when we talk about 2018-043, which is
the actual ordinance itself, we’re talking about the
projects that Mr. Wooten’s Sewer Ad Hoc Committee --
he was Chairman of that Ad Hoc committee -- that’s
the three projects that was approved. It’s Well
Pine, that was two million four hundred twenty-eight
thousand five hundred, we’re estimating. You have
the Six and Twenty. Moth balling that plant and
diverting the flow to Rocky River is about six point
one million. And of course, the development of Exit
14, which is about fourteen million. And basically
it’s an economic development adventure. It will
provide for future growth. Mr. Singleton’s getting
constant requests for residential housing. Mr.
Nelson, as you know, is getting a residential -- I
mean commercial and industrial requests. So this
will provide for the future growth of Anderson County
as directed by Council.

Recall, last Council meeting you approved a
petition to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority
for these bonds. So this is just a further legal
paperwork, if you will, Ordinances to pass, so that
we can issue those bonds from those three projects
that we talked about.

GRACIE FLOYD: What’s out at Exit 14? I
intended to ask that yesterday and forgot. Exit 14?
What’s going to happen out there? Tell us first
where is exit 14?

RITA DAVIS: We hope that hotels will
be developed. That -- Clemson Research Park, that
will help further develop that. Mr. Nelson can tell
you what.

TOMMY DUNN: Tell her where Exit 14 is.

BURRISS NELSON: Well, you know where the
Huddle House is on the Interstate going South?
That’s Exit 14.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

BURRISS NELSON: For a while run right
across to 187.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

BURRISS NELSON: And right now J. Davis
Construction is building their corporate offices out
there at that intersection. There has been a request
to our office about a hotel facilities on a track of
land there. Put us out at Exit 14 on the Interstate.
It makes some sense to go -- it’s only -- from that
point it’s only three miles to Clemson Research Park
and they have a lot of business, a lot of
international business and that business comes to
Clemson Research Park because the Research Park has
two of this country’s largest and most powerful
scanning electron microscopes. And a lot of
industries come there to have their electrical
property materials reviewed and tested.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: Thank you. This funding
measure corrects oversights from thirty-four years
ago. Exit 14 was supposed to have had sewer back in
the ‘80’s in anticipation of 1996 Olympics. It was
one of the top priorities. We had some serious
mismanagement in our county going on for a while.

But I’ve got some questions that I tried to get to
earlier today. It’s a different document than I’ve
ever looked at before, so I’m trying to educate
myself. The first question is who is going to be our
authorized officer as provided for in this document?

RITA DAVIS: That would be Mr. Burns.
CINDY WILSON: Mr. Burns?
RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am.
CINDY WILSON: And who is going to be our
trustee or what entity? That person has to -- or
entity has to in the Federal Reserve bank system.

RITA DAVIS: That has yet to be
determined, ma’am. That will be bid out and before
third reading that will be filled in. We’re not
certain at this point in time.

CINDY WILSON: And just refresh my
memory, please. What are the estimated fee in lieu
of taxes in multi-county park revenues annually that
we anticipate in this budget year that we have before
us?

RITA DAVIS: To be available at
services debt? About two point five million.
CINDY WILSON: Okay. And from what I was
reading the funding is strictly as it is a Special
Source Revenue bond, strictly from those funds.

RITA DAVIS: That’s correct, ma’am.
This is not pledged in full faith and credit of the
county at all.

CINDY WILSON: It’s an enterprise fund.
And unlike our predecessors who spent money out of
the general fund to pay to run a lot of our sewer
enterprise fund, we had had bonds before that we were
violating the requirements of. So we’re kosher now.

Do we know approximately what our principal and
interest annually will be and what the going interest
rate is for a ?? of this size?

RITA DAVIS: About one point six
million will be the annual debt service payment. We
won’t know the interest -- we’re looking to do this
in two different bonds. It was eight point eight
million first and that will be a private sale. That will help with Well Pine and Six and Twenty. And then in the spring we’ll be looking at the remainder fourteen million for the Exit 14. That will be a public sale. That will probably have a lower interest rate.

CINDY WILSON: The last question. Are we anticipating to do a borrowing in anticipation of bonds measure bands?

RITA DAVIS: No, ma’am.

CINDY WILSON: Okay.

RITA DAVIS: That’s why we’re going to go ahead and issue a bond to lock in the rate. If we issue a band, a nine month band and interest of point two five bases point, we could pay over the life of that about seven hundred fifty thousand dollars. So we’re going to go ahead and lock the rate in now, because as you know they are increasing.

CINDY WILSON: And will we have a prepayment penalty that we would have to -- if we paid the bonds off earlier?

RITA DAVIS: The ones that we’ll pay off? No, ma’am. We’re not going to pay that one off earlier. The first one would have a fifteen year life, the second one will have a twenty-five year life. We are paying those four that are currently on the books. One of them will have a small prepayment penalty and the other three do not.

CINDY WILSON: And going forward with this twenty-eight million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars bond, will we have prepayment penalties if we choose to pay off some of that earlier?

RITA DAVIS: No, ma’am.

CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate it.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma’am.

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

Moving on to Item number 8(e) -- I’m sorry (d). It’s the same one we just done, we talked about the ordinance. 2018-043 a Series Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Special Source Revenue Bonds of Anderson County, South Carolina in the principal amount of not exceeding twenty-eight million seven-hundred fifty thousand dollars ($28,750,000). We have a motion to move this forward?

KEN WATERS: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Waters. Second
Mr. Allen. This is the one we just discussed. Any more discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: You know I had something that I was told, something about this. Mr. Burns, may I direct my question to you?

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. This is for the sewer project, right?

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now, I was told that a couple of years ago, it was a long time ago, when the sewer project was passed, that we had another bond back then and they passed it so that we could money for the sewer. Right? But since then, money has been taken out of that bond for storm water.

RUSTY BURNS: Correct.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. There was some problems with that. Why was storm water taken out of the sewer?

RUSTY BURNS: The alternative to fund storm water is to add it to the taxes, general ordinary taxes or you can impose a storm water fee on every resident in the unincorporated areas of Anderson County. The practice in the county has been to take that from the sewer fund.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. And it was the -- well, maybe I -- so we’re going to do a bond here of twenty-eight million dollars.

RUSTY BURNS: Correct. Yes, ma’am

GRACIE FLOYD: And it’s going to go to the sewer fund again. Right?

RUSTY BURNS: It’s going to be used exclusively for sewer. Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. And that’s what the last one said. Exclusively for sewer.

RUSTY BURNS: This is one and the same. This is one and the same. The one we previously discussed just a second ago, this is the very same thing.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I know that.

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: I know that. But what I’m trying to find out now is that here we are again, after this has been done one time before to have a sewer fund thing. We did it once before so we wouldn’t have to float any more bonds for sewer. Here we are doing it again because some of the money was taken out for something else.

RUSTY BURNS: I’m not aware of sewer
bonds that have been floated. I’m sure there have
been some in the past. I would be guarantee that
there have been some sewer funds ---
   GRACIE FLOYD:     Oh, yeah, there were some
   in the past, uh-huh (affirmative).
   RUSTY BURNS:      The practice since I’ve
   been with the county is to fund the storm water out
   of the sewer fund. And the alternative of that is to
   add it to the general tax bill, or you can impose a
   storm water fee on all the residents in the
   unincorporated areas of Anderson County just like the
   city of Anderson. If you look at your bill if you
   live in the city of Anderson, you see storm water fee
   on that bill. This money will not be used for storm
   water in any fashion.
   GRACIE FLOYD:     Thank you.
   TOMMY DUNN:       All in favor of the motion
   show of hands. All opposed. Abstentions. Show the
   motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn,
   Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms.
   Floyd abstains.
   Moving on to Item number (e) 2018-044 an
   ordinance to amend an agreement for the development
   of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park (2010
   Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to
   enlarge the park. Mr. Nelson, would you speak to
   this?
   BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
   members of Council. If you’ll remember, about two
   months ago we finished an ordinance and passed an
   ordinance for a company called Southern Current. It
   was a solar project that incorporated five or six
   properties in a park in the northeastern part of the
   county and they will become solar -- solar project
   producing electricity and going on to Duke Energy’s
   grid. This is to add that to the multi-county park
   agreement and ordinance so that they may be able to
   collect any state incentives that might be available
   to them. This comes as a recommendation from
   Economic Development Advisory staff and from our
   Economic Development Advisory board.
   TOMMY DUNN:     Thank you, Mr. Nelson. We
   have a motion to move this forward?
   KEN WATERS:     Mr. Chairman, I’d like to
   ask Mr. Harmon, do I need to recuse myself from this
   one, or is it -- this is a different one, right?
   LEON HARMON:     It’s going on the Duke
   grid. To be safe you probably should.
   TOMMY DUNN:     Let the record show Mr.
   Waters is going to recuse himself. Have a motion to
move this forward?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson, second

Mr. Graham. Any discussion? All in favor of the
motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Let
the record show the motion carries unanimously.

BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, I need to
make a correction. I had mentioned Duke. There’s
not an agreement yet for that company and the
electric utility between them as of this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Thank you.

Number 9(a) Resolution 2018-051 a resolution
approving the development agreement with Peach
Properties, Inc. for the County Square Project. Mr.
Burns.

RUSTY BURNS: Mr. Chairman, as you know,
the county embarked on a project I guess probably
over a year ago where we put together around twenty-
five people with recommendations from the community.
We interviewed I believed five developers who
responded to a request from a proposal. After that
process they were all brought in by that group and
there were interviewed (BREAK IN TAPE) and they were
ranked numerically one, two, three, four, five. The
first group that came out on top, we talked with
them. We had discussions with them. It didn’t
appear to be moving in a satisfactory way, so we
parted amicably between that group and this group.
The group that scored second on this was Peach
Properties. Peach Properties has a proposal for us
to examine to develop the Court Square property, what
we call the property behind the old Courthouse. And
what you have before you tonight will allow us to
begin that process. This does not guarantee you a
building, this does not guarantee you anything. It
just gives that developer the right to begin to move
forward with a market study to look at parking and
examine those ideas on what they have. This does not
involve the sale of the property. The property would
be leased. After the market study is completed and
the developers have done their due diligence to see
if there is a market and if there is enough demand
for that area, then we come back to Council and
examine that situation. If Council is not happy, the
Council walks away. If they’ve spent any money on
things that we find valuable; i.e. a market study,
then we would reimburse them for that. We’re looking
at the cost of twenty to twenty-five thousand
dollars. That’s what this is.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Burns. We have a motion to move this forward?

KEN WATERS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Waters, second Mr. Graham. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: May I?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Just a few questions. First of all I was real glad to see the developer’s responsible for rollback taxes. So that’s really good. There’s several things to commend this proposal. But the one question I have that I couldn’t find in the body of the agreement, is what is our county share of financial cost of the project? Is that ---

RUSTY BURNS: We would not participate in the construction of the building. If the project came to fruition we might want to obtain space in that building, but we would do so with the fact that we have contributed land to that and would not expect to pay a fair market rate. But again, we are not there yet. We are in the process of the market study. And, again, to be clear, Mr. Harmon, correct me if I’m wrong, we will come back before this Council with all those details ironed out before we proceed in that fashion.

TOMMY DUNN: Council has to vote on that.

CINDY WILSON: Well, this gentleman has a very good reputation so we can be much encouraged. Thank you.

RUSTY BURNS: Just as a -- just as an aside, he developed that main arcade square on Main Street in Columbia, which is won national awards. And he’s also the gentleman who’s doing the Groucho’s. He followed that building right across from our parking lot right there in Wren Park. So he already has an investment and an interest in Anderson.

CINDY WILSON: It’s also good to note that the old theater is now -- it’s being converted to a very large church.

RUSTY BURNS: It’s going to be a large church and the top floor of the Groucho’s building, they’re going to -- the church is going to access that property. And behind that Groucho’s operation they already have another tenant behind there and you still have a small space for somebody to come there.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
CRAIG WOOTEN: I guess just to clarify, so -- sorry, Mr. Chairman -- just to clarify that, you know, if people have parking concerns, if people have green space concerns, if people have, you know, concerns about what might or might not work there, all this is is letting the developer move forward and do a market study and come back and tell us, hey, these are the best things that can happen. And even at that point, we’re not obligated to anything, other than just to see what he comes back with. And then make a decision at that point.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.

Anyone else?

GRACIE FLOYD: Ah.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burns.

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thanks to Mr. Wooten, what he just said, I understand now, because I was wondering if we don’t have an idea for it at this time, if we have to go to somebody else so they can tell us what they think it ought to be, why don’t we just leave it alone until we know what we want there? Until we know without somebody having to tell us what should be there. Why don’t we just leave it alone?

RUSTY BURNS: The idea, especially from that counsel of those people and other people involved was that a building, a significant building should be located on that site. It should not be a pure government building. It should be a building that would be of benefit to all of Anderson County. And so what they want to go in there, we would like to have economic development in there. We know that. We would like to have a CVB in there. But we would also hope that there would be space for commercial activity. We already know that some educational institutions have expressed an interest in that. But until we put this together, that’s where we are. We are not embarking on a path without any directions or any guidance or the destination will be unknown to Council. That’s not what this is. This is a process and for this person to begin the process we would need to authorize this.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. And we haven’t thought at all about the building we had down the street from that, the old McCants building. The building’s just sitting there rotting away.

RUSTY BURNS: That building right now School District 5 is doing the demolition on that part.
GRACIE FLOYD: I can’t hear. I’m sorry.

RUSTY BURNS: School District 5 is in the process of doing the demolition on that part of the building. In the capital improvement plan we put provisions in there to take that down. In this year’s budget we put money in there for demolition. Due to budget constraints Council said let’s look at doing something to the McCants building next year.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Did you just say --

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: But that was just one little part of it. Are you saying now that -- the acoustics in here is not good.

RUSTY BURNS: Correct.

GRACIE FLOYD: But are you saying now that they’re going to demolish the entire ---

RUSTY BURNS: No, ma’am. I’m not saying that at all.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

RUSTY BURNS: What I’m talking about is what School District 5 is the only thing that’s going to be involved in that. What we have is a gym out there when it’s raining in that gymnasium. We made proposals during the budget process and we did the year before of what we could do with that gym. We’re either going to have to put a roof and we’re going to have to fix it up or we’re going to have to demolish it because it is unsafe and it’s unsightly. But due to budget constraints this year, we agreed to look at that in the upcoming budget. I think that was the feeling that Council expressed to staff.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.

Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms. Floyd opposes.

Now moving on to Item number 9(b) 2018-052 a resolution regarding the potential implementation of a Hospitality Tax in the unincorporated areas of Anderson County. Mr. Wooten.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just going back a couple of months, what had happened, I was hearing from two different groups of constituents. One of them said that they wanted the hospitality tax, they saw the benefit in it and wanted us to consider it. I had another group that said they definitely do not want the hospitality tax and did not want us to consider it under any means. Both groups were very adamant that their group was in
the majority. And it’s hard to tell sometimes as a
council person, you can only talk to so many people
during the week, but you know, we’re mandated to
represent all the people, which can be thousands.
And so the agreement we came to was to put a non-
binding referendum on the ballot. By non-binding
means it’s going to be for informational purposes.
So it will allow people at the polls to vote whether
or not they want a hospitality tax. And then we can
take that as advice. It doesn’t bind the council to
pursue it. It doesn’t bind the council not to
pursue it. But it would be a non-binding referendum
that will provide us information.

Well, subsequent to that, these different groups
came back and said, well, we’re interested in what
would happen if it did pass. But we’re concerned
that if it did pass, that you all may spend it on
things that we don’t think are worthy. And so, we
can’t make a decision whether or not we want it
passed or not because we don’t know what you’re going
to spend it on and we can’t deem whether or not it’s
worthy.

Now, the opinion as to what a worthy project is
differs across the county greatly. And so in
fairness we said well one of the things we could look
at is passing a resolution before the election that
simply says if the hospitality tax were to pass, that
we would pursue an independent feasibility study from
an outside contractor who would tell us the best uses
of the hospitality tax money based on the mandate
from the state that it provide tourism. So basically
we’d have an independent body say, if you did project
A, B, C, D, or E, this would provide the greatest
impact. They may come back and say it’s kids
recreation. They may come back and say it’s seniors
recreation. They may come back and say it’s
concerts. I don’t know what they would come back
with. But folks in the community said we would like
to see you commit to that resolution so that we know
if it were to pass that you would go get an
independent study as to what would be of maximum
benefit.

Now, even in doing that study, that doesn’t
mandate that the county council has to adopt it.
That, too, would be informational to us so that we
could make a decision. But it would hold us
accountable because if we made a decision opposite of
the recommendation of the independent council,
obviously we would be subject to justify that
decision and that would involve greater scrutiny from
the public. And I think the whole intent is to hold accountable.

So what this resolution is, is we already have hospitality tax informational referendum on the ballot. This resolution would say that Council would agree that if it were to pass that we would seek an independent study as to the best uses of this hospitality tax as mandated by state law.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Put that in the form of a motion?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Wooten, second Mr. Graham. Any discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I’m very, very much into this hospitality tax because I think I was the first person on Council to ask that we look into it. They have hospitality taxes all over South Carolina. We would be the only county who could not make the decision. The other counties made the decision to have it and they voted on it. You don’t have to have a referendum to do this. County Council can make the decision. We had a couple of votes on it, but none of them passed because nobody -- some of the Council members didn’t want it and da-da-da-da-da. Then, all of a sudden a Council member wanted it.

But Mr. Burns and somebody else came up with how it was going to be divided. And that’s when I didn’t even want it because the way it was divided was unreal. It was unfair. Okay. So we let it alone for a little while.

Going into -- if we have this referendum and everybody goes to the polls and you have some folks that say no they don’t want it, then we can still do it. If we have some folks that say yes they do want it, then we can still do it. All right. But the thing is, it was so easy. All you had to do was to have the hospitality tax and you needed to pick a date that we were all going to sit down and divide up the money. The money could have been divided whatever else by seven. And each district could have the same amount of money for their hospitality -- I mean for their recreational activity within their county. But I think what happened -- I think greed stepped in. I think greed stepped in. And when folks started pulling for the money, when they figured out how much they could get to build whatever, I didn’t even want a part of it.
Now, we’re going to do this thing because we have a habit up here, I’m the only person ever votes no on anything, but anyway we need to think about this again because if the folks voted no, they don’t want a hospitality tax, does that mean that we won’t ever have one? Or does that mean that we’re going to have one anyway? Thank you.

RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Just one comment briefly on this. First of all, it’s good to hear that Ms. Floyd does support the hospitality tax. I know Councilman Wooten has put a tremendous amount of work in getting this as far as it has. And one thing that truly impresses me the most, kind of like the town square back behind the courthouse. The whole purpose of this resolution here is to truly do a study. If you take and look at the seven Council members that the citizens has elected to represent them, you know, basically we’re nothing more than a voice and when it comes to determining what kind of building needs to be built back there, if any building needs to be built back there, we don’t know; it’s pure speculation. Same thing with the hospitality. We all know there’s a need in Anderson County for rec programs. And when I say rec programs, it’s not just for youth ball and that is purely just a misconception on a regular basis. Because not only does it help the youth, it helps the disadvantaged, it helps the elderly, I mean it’s just across the board. Truly speaking the rec program, if people utilizes it, it benefits every citizen in Anderson County in some way, some how. So it’s a true benefit there. And the purpose that I -- I mean the main reason that I’m supporting this is what it’s doing is it’s taking it out of our hands and determine what the true need is. This hospitality is not to divide the monies up between the seven districts equally. The hospitality is designed to move Anderson County forward in the -- whether it’s the recreational programs or the programs that can be supported by hospitality. This study is going to determine what those needs are. And that’s what we as Council members need. That’s what citizens need to see, that we’re being fiscally responsible on our decisions. And when this, providing the hospitality does pass, which I hope it does, providing it does pass and we do this, and it’s going to come back with some information that can guide us on what direction we need to go. And that’s the purpose of this. And
again I just want to commend Councilman Wooten on his hard work on this. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: May I?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Maybe it would suffice to read the sentence that is most pertinent here. If the voters in the unincorporated areas of Anderson County vote in favor of the hospitality tax, and the County Council subsequently passes an ordinance imposing a hospitality tax, in the unincorporated area of Anderson County, the County Administrator is directed to identify and obtain the services of a consultant to ascertain the highest and best use of the funds consistent with South Carolina law generated by the hospitality tax. And it does need to be noted that this current Council is not of the mind, as demonstrated over numerous years and votes, to railroad or shove things down our citizens’ throats without citizens wanting that. So I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed. Abstentions. Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten and Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms. Floyd abstains.

Moving on to Item number 10 (a) bid approvals. Green Pond Landing Restroom Construction. Mr. Carroll, you mind stepping forward.

ROBERT CARROLL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We received four bids for the Green Pond Landing restroom construction and staff has evaluated these and recommended award to Glenn Constructors of Anderson for three hundred ninety-nine thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine dollars.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion to move this forward.

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Have a second?

KEN WATERS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Waters.

Now Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Well, we have a problem in our backup paper and I left my backup on the kitchen table. Is that the missing one? Okay. Because I was going to say we’ve got a missing page that details the bids for the restroom construction. And there were four bids according to this, with Glenn being the lowest one. And that was dated -- the
restroom project was dated on the 6th and the water
line and septic system bid dated on the 5th. Is that
correct?

ROBERT CARROLL: No, ma’am. They were
opened the same day; the 6th. They were opened the
same day, September the 6th.

CINDY WILSON: One says the 6th and one
says the 5th. I think the most confusing part of
this is it normally goes through the Finance
Committee and somehow it got overlooked. It wouldn’t
have taken five or ten minutes to put it through and
there wouldn’t be so much confusion. But just -- I’m
glad we got the missing page now. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: For the record, we didn’t
have a Finance Committee meeting when this come on we
had some conflicted in time and this just needed to
get moved on the reason it didn’t get to the Finance
Committee. Problem getting people together. Any
more 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 10(b) bid number 19-
013 Green Pond Landing Waterline and Septic System.
Mr. Carroll.

ROBERT CARROLL: Yes, sir. We received
three bids from this and staff has evaluated those
bids and recommends award to Glenn Constructors also
of Anderson. One hundred fourteen thousand one
hundred and fifty dollars.

TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion to put
this on the table?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOM ALLEN: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson, 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 Item number 11, Report from
Administration Policy/Rules Committee meeting.
Chairman Allen. Mr. Allen.

TOM ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
was wondering if on Item 11 and I think there was
another one in here, didn’t have it marked. Yeah, on
item 13, are approximately the same thing so I’m
probably going to be saying very similar things here.
But what we’ve been doing ---

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen, you want to
handle them both now? That’ll be fine.

TOM ALLEN: Okay. Yeah, what we’ve
been doing here is working on health insurance
programs, benefits programs for the county employees. Over the past many, many years the county has fallen under the PEBA program, which is a public employees health program. And that’s who everybody working for the county has their insurance through. And that thing has become extremely costly. It’s been jumping up by leaps and bounds over the past few years and next year it’s projected it will cost us around nine point two million dollars I think it was for that program. So we’ve been looking at this for about the past six months, this committee. And we’ve also visited some other municipalities around such as Rock Hill and over at Lexington. Because what they’ve done is gone to a self-insurance program. They pulled out of PEBA, they’ve gone with a self insurance program. The employees over there love the program and it’s saving them a lot of money, bottom line. So that’s what we’re looking at doing here. And we passed a resolution at a special called meeting the other day to allow the Administrator -- the County Administrator -- to go ahead and pursue this and see what we can come up with. And we’ve already got some projections showing some pretty nice savings through a new health program, a self insured program. And a lot of this comes from the fact that when you deal with PEBA and you’re working with Blue Cross Blue Shield, they have a lot of fixed costs in there that we can’t do anything about. We have to pay them. If we go to a self insured program, we have a lot more flexibility, a lot more ways that we can save money and work with different entities to provide the health care for the employees and also save us money at the same time.

So that’s what we want to look at doing because the way these costs have been going up, before long we’re just not going to be able to afford it. We hate to turn around to the employees. We gave them a small raise the past couple of years. We hate to turn around to the employees, and say hey, you know, we’re not going to help you with health insurance any more so basically you lost any raise we might have given you. So we’re trying to find a way to do this. We’re very, very concerned about it. We do not want to degrade the current health program. Whatever we come up with will be just as good and probably better than what we’re under right now. But this is what we are giving the County Administrator permission to go ahead and pursue this and see what we can work out and come up with the very best program possible for employees so we can put it into place by the first of
January.

There’s going to be a big education component to this. We have to talk to all the department heads and get -- I’m sure we’re going to get a lot of questions. Any time you want to change something, even if it’s for the better, a lot of folks are going to have questions and be leery of what you’re trying to do. But bottom line of this is, we hope to save money for the county and also provide a better health care package for all employees.

And I think maybe that sums it up, Mr. Chair. Is there anything else?

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Appreciate what y’all -- the work the committee’s done. Appreciate it very much.

TOM ALLEN: Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on Item number 12, Report from the Planning and Public Works committee meeting held September 10th. Chairman Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our committee members and Dr. Parkey and our Planning Department have been reviewing our county’s current ordinances with respect to the traffic study requirements for development. The ordinance section 38-118 as it now exists states that the district traffic engineer shall be the county engineer and the developer shall be responsible for all costs of the required traffic impact study, roadway improvements and right-of-way acquisition. The traffic impact study shall be included in the application of compliance or preliminary plat approval. Preliminary plat presented to our Planning Commission for their approval. Is presented for their approval. The traffic impact study is contracted out and paid for by the developer. As there have been questions regarding the accuracy of traffic counts, the timing and duration of the study as it has now been recommended that the developer pay a fee to the county for the purpose of the traffic impact study and the county will contract out to a third party engineering firm with the county’s specific criteria. It was noted that most governmental jurisdictions mandate the level of road improvements that the developer must provide at the developer’s expense, as the developer’s cost of doing business in order to keep our roads safe and ensure better traffic efficiency. Our language in section 38-118 is very specific and therefore we should be on sound footing in making these requirements. Please refer to your backup in your package for further detailed
information.

Next, Dr. Parkey and our Administrator recommended compensation for Planning Commissioners and Zoning Appeals Board members at an annual cost of approximately seventeen thousand dollars a year. It is expected that the Commission and board members maintain an acceptable meeting attendance record and meet the continuing education requirement as mandated by the state law.

In reference to our Zoning Advisory groups, we’ve had questions about the quorum issues there. The citizens advisory zoning boards were first established when zoning first became implemented by precinct in the county. And those were the people in the neighborhoods and in the communities that had the closest connection to the area and had connections to the actual people living there. So it was always very important to have their input. They have no decision-making authority and they’re not a state mandated body and there’s no continuing education requirements for the members.

When the zoning advisory groups do not meet items continue on to either the Planning Commission or on up the chain. The committee suggested that our Planning Director send letters to our current members to enlist their input on the quorum problem. And also their concerns as to relevance and so forth.

The fourth matter undertaken was the subdivision decision criteria. The function of the Planning Commission is to undertake a continuing planning program for the physical, social and economic growth, development and redevelopment of the jurisdiction. Plans and programs must be designed to promote public health, safety, morals, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare as well as the efficiency and economy of its area of jurisdiction. The Planning Commission has the power as may be necessary to enable it to perform its function and promote the planning of its jurisdiction by way of the South Carolina Planning Enabling Act of 1994. As a basis for Planning Commission decisions regarding preliminary subdivision proposals, the language, as I’m going to read here and it’s in your backup, is suggested for inclusion in Chapter 38 of County Code, 38-311 (c)(3). In addition to the standards set forth in this section and the recommendations of staff, Planning Commission may also consider the follow criteria when making its decision to reject or approve a preliminary subdivision class. (A) Public health, safety, morals, convenience and prosperity,
the general welfare and the efficiency and economy of
the area. (B) The interest of sub-dividers,
homeowners, and the general public. (C) Effects on
the local tax base. (D) Proposed development
compatibility with surrounding uses. (E) The (BREAK
IN THE TAPE) ability of existing or planned
infrastructure and transportation systems to serve
the proposed development. (F) Environmental
conditions on the site. (G) Character of the
community. (H) The adopted Comprehensive Use Plan.

Our committee voted three and zero to send these
recommendations on to our Planning Commission. With
their approval this proposed addition to our code
will come back to County Council for our adoption.

We had two guests from Mr. Waters district who
have been attending our committee meetings to
encourage that the county adopt measures dealing with
traffic from proposed developments that would take
into consideration conditions, locations and context.
They inquired as to the potential application of
traffic tax special districts, limited service
municipalities, school impact fees, possibly imposing
a moratorium and other means to deal with the
explosive growth around Powdersville.

So that concludes what we discussed and we only
had the one measure to bring back for Council to vote
to send on to the Planning Commission.

TOMMY DUNN: Is there something to vote
on?

CINDY WILSON: I guess we’d vote to sent
this measure on to the Planning Commission and then
it comes back to us to vote for the actual measure.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Ms. Floyd’s got a
question.

GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Wilson, would you
please go back over the seventeen thousand dollars?
I didn’t quite understand that. I know you were
talking about paying or providing them with a stipend
or whatever, but didn’t you say something about
seventeen thousand? That’s when I lost you. Could
you please explain that again?

CINDY WILSON: The previous meeting to
this one, our Administrator and Dr. Parkey brought
forward the idea of providing some minimum funding
for our Planning Commissioners and for the Zoning
Board members. And it was suggested fifty dollars
per Planning Commissioner per meeting that they would
attend. They have, as you well know, taken a lot of
grief lately. And they are required to take
continuing education, so it was thought that maybe
that small amount of compensation might be helpful to
getting a quorum to those meetings.
The first projected estimate was around thirty-
two thousand a year. But on further review Ms. Rita
Davis determined it was closer to seventeen thousand
a year for that.

GRACIE FLOYD: One minute.

TOMMY DUNN: This is just bringing the
dollar -- sorry -- this is just bringing the dollar
figure back because Council has already voted on this
the last Council meeting, is that not correct? Okay,
Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Seventeen thousand dollars
to repay -- to be split among the two groups? Is
that what you’re saying?

TOMMY DUNN: That’s what the budget
would be projected to be. Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Are
we going to go -- now the ordinance says in there
that we should have been paying them all along. Oh,
yes, you might want to go ahead and do that. Are we
going to go back and do back pay?

TOMMY DUNN: No, ma’am. That’s in
this -- wasn’t in the motion.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I know it wasn’t in
the motion, that’s why I’m bringing it up.

TOMMY DUNN: Make a motion to go back
and give them back pay.

GRACIE FLOYD: That’s why I was bringing
it up. Because it’s not in the motion. So what
you’re saying that they’re going put aside seventeen
dozen dollars and split it among the two groups.

TOMMY DUNN: That’s right.

GRACIE FLOYD: And, Ms. Davis, that
should come up to what a person?

RITA DAVIS: Sixteen thousand eight
hundred.

TOMMY DUNN: No, not a person. Not a
person.

RITA DAVIS: Oh, no, sir. Fifty
dollars per meeting.

TOMMY DUNN: Fifty dollars per meeting.

RITA DAVIS: If they show up they’ll
get fifty dollars.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

TOMMY DUNN: Now, coming from the
committee it doesn’t need a second. Going to vote to
send this recommendation to the Planning Commission.

More than likely the Planning Commission either as a
subcommittee or whatnot will need to get back with
this committee to send something. I’m sure they’re
going to have recommendations and changes what, come
back before Council votes on anything. So all in
favor of the motion to send this to the Planning
Commission show of hands. All opposed.

GRACIE FLOYD: Are the Planning
Commission and these other people the same folks?
TOMMY DUNN: No, ma’am. Two different
groups.

GRACIE FLOYD: Two different groups of
people; right?
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, two boards, two
different boards.

GRACIE FLOYD: Two different boards, but
not the same people?
TOMMY DUNN: No, ma’am. Fourteen
people. Can’t serve on but one board at a time in
Anderson County.

GRACIE FLOYD: No, no. I’m not talking
about that.
TOMMY DUNN: What are you talking
about?

GRACIE FLOYD: Planning Committee.
TOMMY DUNN: That’s right.

GRACIE FLOYD: That consists of three
people.
TOMMY DUNN: No, seven people. Each
Council member’s got an appointment.

GRACIE FLOYD: No, no, no.
TOMMY DUNN: That’s the Planning
Commission. The committee’s three people.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Now, they have
voted to send this to -- they going to send what back
to ---

TOMMY DUNN: Just what Ms. Floyd -- I
mean just wait Ms. Wilson made the study. The
Upstate recommended a traffic study, compensation for
the Planning Commission Board of Appeals -- not
compensation. The Zoning Advisory groups, to send
them back. What this is, is the traffic thing we was
talking about. The recommendations for the
subdivision approval consideration and the updated
recommendation on the traffic study, send them to the
Planning Commission for them to put their input in
it, get back together and give Council something to
look at to vote on. This is to let them study on it.

GRACIE FLOYD: The only thing I’m asking,
I just want to make sure that these committees are
all intertwined with the same people on almost every
committee. What I am trying to make sure of is that the same people are not -- that we’re not sending these -- the Planning Committee whatever it is to the same people on another committee for approval.

TOMMY DUNN: Ma’am, this is being sent to the Planning Commission. There are seven members on that Planning Commission for individual citizens. Each Council member appoints one. So no, it’s not -- there will be nobody on the Planning Committee; this is the Planning Commission as set forth by ordinance.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burns, may I ask you the question after this meeting, please?

RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Because that’s got to be straightened out. And I thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion show hands. All opposed. All abstentions.

GRACIE FLOYD: I abstain.

TOMMY DUNN: Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, and Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms. Floyd abstains.

Moving on to ---

GRACIE FLOYD: I’d like the record to show that Ms. Floyd abstains because of lack of proper information. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Item number -- going now to Item number 14, Report from the Parks and Recreation Adhoc Committee meeting. Mr. Wooten.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’d like to discuss (a) and (b) in conjunction with each other. It’s always very exciting to talk about these potential projects we have moving forward, but what a lot of citizens are coming back and saying, well, we like these things you’re talking about doing, but you need to give us reassurance that you’re taking care of what you have, that you’re being efficient with what you have. We don’t feel comfortable giving you leeway with more until we know that’s being managed properly. And in many cases we are, but sometimes when we don’t revisit it, you don’t know where you can make improvements.

So for Parks and Recreation, what we’ve been discussing in the Adhoc committee is potential park consolidation in conjunction with park maintenance. And we have over thirty parks in the county. A lot of parks I didn’t even know that we had until we started this process. We’ve attained them over time through a bunch of different measures, whether it was a county initiative, or a county partnership with the
local municipality or community. So in that, we’ve
gone to staff and we said, break down each park, tell
us what you’re spending to keep up the park, you
know, cutting grass, trash, maintenance. Tell us
where -- what the good things are about that park.
Tell us what that park is lacking so that we can put
together individual budget numbers for each park and
decide is this park something we want to put more
money into, is this park something that we need to
take more money out of, is this park even being used
by certain people, but looking at it from a top level
approach to decide what works best. And in no way
would we ever make a decision on a park in somebody’s
district without that County Council person’s input
because at the end of the day the park that’s most
important to people is usually the one that they
visit down the road from them. So this is an effort
to manage it as well as we can. And the timing of it
is, I asked staff, when is the next budget cycle?
Take a look at this, because if there does need to be
more resources, you’ll be able to make a case and we
can try to debate that in the budget process.

Item C is a project update. Ms. Myers with the
county basically put out a questionnaire to the
people in the community and asked them their feelings
on Parks and Rec. We got four hundred and thirty-one
responses, which doesn’t seem like a large number,
but when you’re talking about engaging the community
from the county level, that is an overwhelming
response. So with those 431 responses, people said,
we want them to be safe, we want them to be clean, we
want the bathrooms to be functional and working
right, we want the track to be something that we can
access. So there was a lot of interest in it which
drives home the importance of us taking a look at it.

Also we got an update on KidVenture 2.0, which is
the large playground here at the Civic Center that’s
been a wonderful playground throughout the years, but
this would totally overhaul this whole playground.
We have the potential to receive funding from a
partner and actually take it into a multi-year
agreement, where it would be a large ADA, American
with Disabilities Act, compliant playground that
would provide better line of sight for parents, that
would provide different age group breakdowns for kids
to play. And totally transform that, probably for
the next fifteen or twenty years. So we got an
update on that. They’ve had public meetings on this.
We’ve looked for an RFQ or Request for Proposal to
come out in the upcoming months. And should be a
positive thing for the county. But in light of new
issues coming on board, I probably don’t see that
this committee meeting -- committee meeting until
first quarter of 2019 to look over staff
recommendations going into the budget year.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
TOMMY DUNN: Would you give a -- I’m
sorry, I got distracted. Did you give an update on
KidVenture?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.
GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I have a
question.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.
GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Wooten.
CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, ma’am.
GRACIE FLOYD: Tried as I could, I could
not make your 8:30 meeting in the morning, but did --
was any discussion, discussions done on Broadway
Lake? The last meeting I attended we did discuss
Broadway Lake.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, ma’am.
GRACIE FLOYD: But what’s happening now?
CRAIG WOOTEN: We did not have any
discussion on Broadway Lake at this past meeting.
And that was purposeful because when I found out you
were not able to attend, I didn’t want any of that to
take place until you were able to attend. As for the
update on the progress they’ve made on the two
projects that you had determined in the previous
meeting, I’d have to defer to Mr. Brill on where they
are in the process. I know that they were looking
at, I guess the seawall and then the dock area and
then the water quality. But I haven’t received an
update from the county at this point.

GRACIE FLOYD: So, out of all these
parks, everything else you all discussed, we couldn’t
-- you couldn’t come up with anything about the parks
at Broadway Lake. We have so many of them, you
couldn’t come up with anything?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Well, no, it’s not that we
didn’t come up with anything, but I guess we talked
in general about some of the common maintenance items
for parks. How the maintenance agreements for grass
cutting and trash were structured. And the goal was
for staff to get with each individual Council members
going into 2019 and determine which one of their
parks they felt were underfunded that needed more
funding, which is probably all of them. But then
it's a matter of degree of funding. I guess we can't
do all the funding requests. And then figure out the
best ways to move forward on the parks. And also, to
figure out ways that we can meet the communities'
expectations. You know, some communities are
concerned about falling trees or trash or whose
responsibility was that and figure out the best way
to communicate that.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Wooten, why was
that meeting held at 8:30 in the morning?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Typically when I hold
committee meetings, I either try to do it in morning,
at lunch time or in the evening, just because usually
that allows for the most people tp attend. When I
float it around to the other folks, the morning
worked. That was the feedback we got from the Clerk
of Council. That was the reason we chose it.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay, but you see, maybe
our Clerk of Council don't understand that we hold
the meetings in the evening so the public can come if
they chose to do so. But early in the morning, they
can't come because they're working. But even if they
still come, they should have the ability and choice
of coming. And it can't be done at 8:30. That early
meeting in the morning has gotten ??? and the 9:30
Planning meeting -- the meetings are being held too
early and the public can't come if they want to.
That's why I missed that one because that kind of got
hold to me that early in the morning.

TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate it, Mr. Wooten.
Moving on now to the Report from Public Safety
meeting.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Mr. Chairman, fellow Council members, I bring this in
the form of a recommendation from Public Safety
Committee to approve the acceptance of several grants
from the JAG system. One of them is in reference to
twenty-five body cameras. The next one is in
reference to ten visual cameras. For forensics,
comprehensive finger print imaging system. And also
service storage. These grants again was recommended
for approval from Public Safety to be presented to
full Council for approval.

TOMMY DUNN: Coming from Public Safety
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.

Moving on.

RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, this next
one is in reference to a victim advocate. It’s
b...
of EMS. And also Craig Lollies??, which is basically -- in a sense, he’s director up in Pelzer with that district up there. But the primary purpose of these positions is basically someone that is affiliated throughout the county that brings some value as far as representing Anderson County on the Upstate EMS Council with knowledge of EMS, knowledge of training that’s needed and basically with some education behind themselves and in leadership position behind themselves that basically has the desire and also the knowledge to move Anderson County forward. At the end of the day the representation we have would be Greg Shore, Steve Gelliott?? and Craig Lollies?? and basically they represent our entire EMS system to ensure that we’re getting the training we need. That correct policy system are in place, anything that comes down from legislation, we’re represented on that. So it brings a lot to the table. And again, this is nothing more than information only based on particular appointments for that. And Upstate EMS will be advised of that.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Graham.

Moving on to Item number 16, Waterside Drive. We have a motion to move this forward with meeting all the county specifications?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

KEN WATERS: So moved.

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

Now we have some appointments for Anderson County. Mr. Waters, you have any?

KEN WATERS: I do. I’d like to appoint Carol Green to the Museum Advisory Committee. And I bring that in the form of a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion Mr. Waters.

Have a second?

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. Anything else, Mr. Waters?

KEN WATERS: That’s all.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen?

TOM ALLEN: None at this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: I don’t have any at this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham?
RAY GRAHAM: I don’t have any at this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I’d like to appoint Ms. Kathryn Smith to the District 1 Anderson County Museum Advisory Committee. This is a lady who is very active in the community. Has her own historical house with books in regard to Eleanor Roosevelt. And I feel like she would be a true value added to the Museum Advisory Council. And I put that in a motion.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

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

Ms. Wilson?

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two for the Citizen Advisory Group for District 7. First is Mrs. Patricia Sea Wright and second is Mr. Phillip Clary. And I put that in the form of a motion.

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

District 5 would like to appoint Ms. Reva Martin to the Museum Advisory Board. 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.

Now moving on to request by Council members. Mr. Waters.

KEN WATERS: I have one that was turned in but it didn’t make it here tonight. It’s someone we have appropriated money for before, Powdersville ???. Would it be possible if I appropriated money for them?

TOMMY DUNN: Yes.

KEN WATERS: They have put in two requests. One is for five thousand for operating and another five thousand for a lawnmower. So I’d like to appropriate that from District 6 rec fund and I bring that in the form of a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a second?

TOM ALLEN: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Waters. I
mean, Mr. Allen. I’m sorry. Mr. Waters made the
motion. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion
show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the
motion carries.

Moving on now to Mr. Allen.

TOM ALLEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I’d like
to take from my recreation account five hundred
dollars for the Free Clinic and I’ll put that in the
form of a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Five hundred dollars?
CINDY WILSON: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen’s motion five
hundred dollars and Mr. Waters seconds it. Any
discussion? All in favor of the motion show of
hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion
carries unanimously. Mr. Allen, anything else?

TOM ALLEN: That’s all.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd, you have
anything?

GRACIE FLOYD: No, District 2 doesn’t
have any at this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.
RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I’ve got two if that’s okay. I’d like to appropriate
five hundred dollars to Belton Center for the Arts.
This is an ongoing event we have each year and would
like to do that this year again. And also I’d like
to do five hundred dollars to the Free Clinic in
support of them as well. I bring that forth as a
motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion Mr. Graham.
Second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? All in favor of
the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.
Show the motion carries unanimously. Anything else,
Mr. Graham?

RAY GRAHAM: No.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten?
CRAIG WOOTEN: Not at this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, thank you. District
7 would like to appropriate twenty-five hundred
dollars for the Honea Path Free Clinic and that’s in
the form of a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion Ms. Wilson.

Have a second?

KEN WATERS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Waters. Any
discussion? All in favor of the motion show of
hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion
carries unanimously.
District 5 would like to appropriate -- I have two. First of all would like to appropriate for the transfer out of the special appropriations account six thousand five hundred fifty seven dollars seventy-four cents to Roads and Bridges Department to do a project for Homeland Park Fire Department. And also two thousand dollars for the Anderson Free Clinic. 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.

Moving on, Administrator’s Report.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Now moving on to Item number 20, Citizens Comments. Mr. Harmon call your name, again, please state your name and district for the record. You have three minutes. Address the Chair, please.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first speaker is Frank Pressly.

FRANK PRESSLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week you recall I tried to make a point at the end of the meeting and I think in trying to say too much too fast I didn’t make my point.

GRACIE FLOYD: Wait a minute, sir. Could you just start over because we can’t hear. The acoustics are not good in here.

FRANK PRESSLY: Okay. How’s that?

GRACIE FLOYD: That’s better. Thank you.

FRANK PRESSLY: Thank you. Last week at the called meeting I tried to make a point concerning the predatory vending by pawn shops and I think in trying to say things too fast, I really didn’t make my point. What I would like to reiterate today is that the pawn industry in this county is taking advantage of people right now by charging interest rates based on a practice that is not of the law. I sent a letter to Mr. Harmon regarding this. He sent a response back telling me that the county is not able to enact ordinances that are more restrictive than what state law is. Now state law is that the pawn shops are limited to three hundred percent interest rate, which is about twenty-five percent per month. Now by them doing something to do an end run of the law what they have done is they have put language in their pawn tickets that enable them to charge a full thirty days’ interest on a one day
1 pawn. This annualizes to about nine thousand percent
2 interest.
3 Now enacting an ordinance that rein them in, I
4 was just trying to draw a parallel that, for example,
5 the speed limit is 65 miles an hour. If someone were
6 able to use little black box or a fuzz buster or
7 something that enabled them to go 120 miles per hour,
8 they would be breaking the law, because they’re not
9 going 65. Now, if we were to pass an ordinance that
10 outlawed those little black boxes so they couldn’t go
11 120 miles an hour, they could still go 65 but just
12 couldn’t go that 120 miles per hour. And that’s the
13 same with the pawn industry. Right now they’re
14 limited to three hundred percent interest. But
15 because of this language they have put in their pawn
16 ticket, they are charging people as much as nine
17 thousand percent interest on a one day pawn. That
18 shouldn’t be because a lot of our senior citizens use
19 pawn shops and a lot of our citizens who are working
20 people go in there, they’ll pawn their work tools in
21 order to pay a power bill and then they’ll go back a
22 couple of days later and they’ll pick it up and it’s
23 just not fair that the pawn industry should be able
24 to make an end run around the law. Mr. Burns has
25 assured me that we will have further discussion on
26 this, but I really would support -- appreciate the
27 support of the Council in trying to rein in this
28 practice, which is very much a predatory lending
29 practice. We have addressed this at state level, but
30 unfortunately because of some politics down in
31 Columbia, we weren’t able to see any progress on it
32 this year. Hopefully Jonathan Hill will reintroduce
33 legislation ---
34 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
35 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.
36 Next.
37 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Elizabeth
38 Fant.
39 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District
40 3. Yeah, the acoustics in here are bad because I’m
41 not sure what I heard. Mr. Waters, I wasn’t sure
42 what you were giving five thousand dollars for but it
43 sounded like you were giving five thousand dollars
44 for a lawnmower.
45 KEN WATERS: That is correct.
46 ELIZABETH FANT: Well, to whatever entity I
47 don’t know. Do we give money to an entity for a lawn
48 mower? That’s what you all approved tonight.
49 The other thing is, I was going through the
50 District 6 -- well, I went through all of them. But
the District 6 paving report, which is Mr. Waters,

and I see on here that on August 7th you gave the

Powdersville School District 1 twenty thousand

dollars for paving. Now since when do we give school
districts money for paving out of our paving account.

Somebody needs to explain that to me.

Okay. Going back to the other issue that we’re
talking about tonight. There have been some things
in Anderson County that have been well improved. One
was when we got our library. It’s a masterpiece.

Our library, downtown library, it’s a masterpiece.

There’s a lot of work going into getting that entity
and it’s wonderful. However, when the building plans
for the library were done, foresight was not done in
the construction of it and the library is sinking.

We also had the Chiquola which was a hotel,
condominium, (BREAK IN TAPE) some of these other
things that we’re talking about, hotels, whatever.

The Chiquola,?? sinking. It ended up the people who
bought condos in there basically had to get out and
leave it because the windows -- it was sinking so
much that the windows are being forced down so much
that you can’t open the windows because of the
construction. So I’m not sure what downtown -- the
infrastructure what is able to hold with these
concerns. These hotels and all these other
structures you’re planning on doing. We’ve done
other structures downtown that have been basically
fiascos. The parking garage, the thing that’s
underneath it they were trying to do some sort of a
jump start business thing. That failed. We just
need to make sure that the money that we’re investing
or you all as fiduciary -- I see you as fiduciary
when you approve a fee in lieu of or whatever --
yeah, you’re not the city, this is not your property.
I understand that. But you are somewhat in control.
Ms. Floyd is right about that. You do have a
responsibility.

I’d like to see -- Anderson is really getting to
be a recreation mecca. We’ve got Green Pond, we’ve
got the Civic Center, a lot of things driving out
there, we’ve got different other recreational
entities. Powdersville has a new Y. I’m glad. It’s
wonderful that they have that. But we also need to
look at recreation, not only in physical stuff ---

LEON HARMON:      Time, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN:       Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

Moving on now to comments from Council members.

Mr. Waters.

KEN WATERS:       I have none at this time.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Allen.

TOM ALLEN: None except to say I’m glad we dodged the bullet this past week from Florence.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank the good Lord. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Only thing I want to say is Council members, please hold your meetings at a time when people can attend. If you don’t they think that you’re hiding things from them. 8:30 in the morning is too early for an important meeting on parks. 9:30 is too early for a meeting on planning. Let’s not give them reasons to question what we do when they are not around.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just want to comment one more time as far as on the Public Safety, the EOC, everything over this past week. Hopefully, may be next meeting we could kind of get some of those guys in there and thank them in person. There was definitely a lot of effort put on Director Baker, Deputy Director Pickens and also Casey and James McAdams. And I mean just to list those go on and on with the resources they pulled in through the Sheriff’s department, fire department, local municipalities, county service. I mean it was truly a team effort that was put in there. We currently have several teams that’s located here in Anderson County that’s been activated and is in different locations throughout the state as we speak, even though we didn’t get no more weather than we did. We do have teams that’s down there and basically handling emergency situation currently. So definitely want to commend those guys. It’s taking time away from their families and just hope and pray for their safe return. We’ve definitely got a gem here in Anderson County. We have a good group of resources that I definitely would put well above most others. And we’re very fortunate for that and it proves the leadership of again, David Baker and his staff, plus the Sheriff department and fire service and everyone else. So again, many thanks to all those efforts that was put in last week.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Graham.

Mr. Wooten.

CRAIG WOOTEN: One thing in regards to the personnel and employee benefits. I know for me I had two children that were hospitalized at birth and what happened with us would have bankrupt me for three lifetimes so I know insurance is very personal.
A lot of people work in government when they can make higher salaries in the private sector for the reason of having quality benefits. And so I viewed personally some of these things that we’re proposing and I’ve had a wonderful experience with our family. But I’ll do everything and anything, encourage staff to do everything and anything to communicate these benefits to the employees because in the light of what’s going on with health care nationally, I know there’s a lot of distrust, a lot of it is understanding in healthcare plans. And quite honestly just insurance in general could just be confusing. So anything we can do to help push this information forward to make people feel comfortable, I’m all for that. I believe it’s heading in the right direction and is a positive thing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.

Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Just a comment that the committees do so much heavy lifting and individual Council members are up here doing a lot of research, along with our staff, to try and better the county and it’s just very heartening. Monday we had an 8:30 meeting and a 9:30 meeting. And then last night our Sheriff and Mr. Miller and some other deputies came before the local Republican party and brought an incredible presentation of the addiction and crime crises that we have in our county. The numbers that were presented were just compelling. Ms. Casey Collins has been working on that, too. So there’s a lot going on in the courthouse and the Sheriff’s Department and elsewhere in the county. We’re very blessed in this county to have such wonderful people. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Just like, first of all I’d like to thank the staff, Mr. Burns, and Ms. Davis for what y’all doing for this insurance thing for the employees. I think it’s going to pay off dividends. We really appreciate all the hard work and continue the hard work to get this forward. Committees, I appreciate what all the committees do. Everybody keep in mind, I’ve said this more than once, Anderson County’s not an eight to five job. Thought that a long time ago, swing shift and all. Ones that can’t make the meeting at 8:30, just because you can’t, it’s a whole different demographic of people out there that can make it that way. Twelve hour, off some days and stuff like that.
Just a quick, I think one of those quick things about nothing going on downtown. We got two banks opened recently. We’ve got a corporate headquarters that’s going to pull 60 people downtown. We’ve got a construction company a block from town that’s been down there about six months, a year, that’s opened up. We got a new gym downtown, right where that parking lot is full where people using it. Anderson University is using the Chiquola Club. Last I checked, it could have been since then, the Chiquola -- the old Chiquola Club across from the courthouse, the townhouses is full over there. We’ve got a big demand for townhouses in town in talking to folks that know. We got a new restaurant coming. We got a church -- a big church coming downtown and taking up space. We’ve got a new beauty supply shop right down below the Chiquola. So there’s a lot going on in downtown Anderson. You just ride down and look at construction signs going on. People outside two or three people who to invest and do good in Anderson County. That’s good. This project that’s going on in the hotel down there, I’m very proud to be part of that. I think Anderson County’s going to be proud of what it’s going to do. It’s bringing tax money. Nothing ashamed about that. City of Anderson -- if anybody’s got a complaint, anybody ever go talk to the city of Anderson? They worked on this project probably close to a year, Mr. Burns, they put this thing together. Had several meetings on it. We -- but I think it’s going to be good for Anderson. They’re doing a -- they’re going to have their own parking. They’re putting a parking garage in there. They’ve gotten -- the city of Anderson right now is doing a comprehensive study on parking. And you know, it’s a good thing -- sometimes a problem to have, parking. That means the town’s growing and doing things going on. I’d rather see that than an empty street. There’s a lot going in town, too. Took a while for it to turn. Hope it keeps going, keeps growing. Seems like the city of Anderson is starting to do some things in conjunction with us. I’m very proud to be part of this Council. I think in years to come to be a part of this hotel project. Nothing whatsoever, and like I said, I think everything -- like Mr. Wooten said a while ago, echo his statements more about picking winners and losers. That’s not our job. Not where I come from. Other thing I would like to say and thank is all the staff, all the people in our law enforcement, EMS and fire department for being prepared and
representing EOC. I think we’ve got one of the best trained people. Come to team work, working together and everybody coming together. We got a great EOC. Stay in contact with and appreciate it. Mr. Burns does a great job leading them. Very proud to be part of Mr. Burns bringing in Lieutenant Baker. I mean he’s just done an outstanding job, him and his staff and also having a small part in Mr. Pigeons?? coming in and assisting. I think he’s an outstanding young man. He’s going to be great representative of Anderson County.

And I’d also like to thank Cam’s Café which the owner sat beside me for feeding the EOC Sunday free of charge. Appreciate that. I know the people did down there. Very much.

Meeting adjourned. Thank you for coming.

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:09 P.M.)