State of South Carolina   )
County of Anderson   )

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY
JANUARY 8, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
CRAIG WOOTEN
GRACIE FLOYD
RAY GRAHAM
BRETT SANDERS
JIMMY DAVIS
CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOM ALLEN
RICHARD SHIRLEY: On behalf of Anderson County, I will call this meeting to order. And our first order of business is an invocation. For those of you who don’t know me, I am Richard Shirley. I’m the Clerk of Court for Anderson County. And it’s my pleasure to preside over this part of the meeting tonight.

In giving the invocation, I would like to use one of my prize possession. When I was Mayor of Anderson, I was given this by a dear friend. There was a chaplain of the United States Senate by the name of Dr. Peter Marshall, who was the chaplain for two years. He was the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. and he was quite an impressive pastor. He died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 49 after only serving two years as the chaplain, and it was such a momentous occasion of his passing that they printed a book of every prayer that he gave during his two years as the chaplain. And his wife later wrote a book named His Name is Peter. And it became an Academy Award winning film and the book, obviously, was a best seller. And there’s some speculation that had he lived he would have been just as famous in America as Billy Graham ended up being.

But this book, member of council, has every prayer
that Dr. Marshall offered at the United States Senate’s opening every day, and the first prayer that he issued was exactly 72 years ago yesterday. And I think it’s very appropriate for this occasion, and I would like to use it. I’m going to change a couple of words so that it is apropos to tonight. But this was the prayer that was used to open the 80th Congress in Washington, D.C. 72 years ago. Let us prayer.

Oh, Lord our God, if we ever needed thy wisdom and thy guidance it is now, as the County Council begins a new session standing upon the threshold of a new year fraught with so many awesome opportunities. We pray that you will bless these elected officials chosen by the people of this county for thou knowest them, their needs, their motives, their hopes and their fears. Lord, put thine arm around them to give them strength and speak to them to give them wisdom greater than their own. May they hear thy voice and seek thy guidance. May they remember that thou are concerned about what is said and done here and may they have clear conscious before thee that they need fear no man. Bless each of us according to our deepest need and use us for thy glory. We humbly ask this in Jesus name.

Amen.

It’s now my pleasure to offer you the opportunity
to repeat the oath of office. Some of you have done
this on a number of occasions. We’ve got Mr. Wooten
coming in. And we’ll take this in small pieces so
everybody can say their oath. Everyone ready? I would
ask that you place your left hand on the Bible and
raise your right hand. Please repeat after me.

RICHARD SHIRLEY: I do solemnly swear or
affirm ...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: I do solemnly swear or
affirm ...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... that I am duly qualified
...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... that I am duly qualified
...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... according to the
constitution of this state ...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... according to the
constitution of this state ...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... to exercise the duties
...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... to exercise the duties
...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... of the office to which I
have been elected.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... of the office to which I
have been elected.

RICHARD SHIRLEY: And that I will, to the best of my ability, ...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: And that I will, to the best of my ability, ...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... discharge the duties thereof ...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... discharge the duties thereof ...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... and preserve, protect and defend ...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... and preserve, protect and defend ...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... the constitution of this state ...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... the constitution of this state ...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... and of the United States, ...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... and of the United States, ...

RICHARD SHIRLEY: ... so help me God.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ... so help me God.

RICHARD SHIRLEY: Congratulations to everybody.
I’m now going to ask ——

APPLAUSE

RICHARD SHIRLEY: We’re going to have a group picture. Do I ask ——

RUSTY BURNS: Let’s do this. Let’s let the Reverend Father give the benediction and then we will have the new Council’s picture taken.

REVEREND FATHER: Before I say the prayer, I’d just like to say a word as a citizen of this County and this State and this Country, thank you to each and every one of you for serving. These are not easy days in which to be an elected official. And the very fact that you have put yourself up there for election and willing to serve is something worthy of high regard and respect. So thank you.

May we pray together?

Gracious God, we ask your blessing upon these servant leaders who have offered themselves and invested their gifts in the role of Anderson County Council members. We thank you for the skills and energies they bring to their duties and for their willingness to set aside other obligations and pleasures in order to serve. We thank you, too, for their families and their colleagues and the staff of the county who support them in their work. In this
complicated and uneasy time of our history, we pray, oh Lord, you would bless them with hope; hope to imagine a bright and progressive future for our county, along with blessing them with prudence in building and financing that future, as well as bless them with loyalty in representing their constituencies, along with blessing them with courage to sometimes challenge the views of those constituents. Holy One, as these public servants set to their work, may the civic virtues of fairness, honesty, cooperation and order be joined by the spiritual values of humility, compassion, reconciliation and joy. All these things we pray most earnestly in your name. Amen.

RUSTY BURNS: If I could have the council all gather for a group picture and the families come out and then we’ll have time for everybody to visit. So council members. Mr. Allen, don’t run off yet. We’ve got to do something. You stand back over there.

OFF RECORD FOR PHOTO

APPLAUSE

(SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:11 P.M.)
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
RAY GRAHAM
BRETT SANDERS
CRAIG WOOTEN
CINDY WILSON
GRACIE FLOYD
JIMMY DAVIS

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: At this time I’d like to call the January 8th regular Anderson County Council meeting to order. At this time let’s all rise as Ms. Floyd gives us the invocation and afterwards pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY GRACIE FLOYD

TOMMY DUNN: At this time Councilman Graham has asked for the floor.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of Council, fellow citizens, I’d like to take this time to recognize Chairman Dunn for his leadership given this past year as Chairman to Anderson County Council and would also like to take this time to present him with just a token of our appreciation for his hard work and continued support to Council.

TOMMY DUNN: I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank y’all. Appreciate it.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: I appreciate it. Thank you very much. At this time we’ll be electing our officers. We’ll start with the Chairman’s job. Open the floor up for nominations.
CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: May I have the honor of re-electing you or nominating you for our Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate it. Do I have a second?

BRETT SANDERS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders, nomination by Ms. Wilson. Anyone else? Any more nominations? Hearing none, the nominations be closed.

All in favor of myself, Mr. Dunn, show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion was in favor Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Floyd opposes.

Now, at this time nominations for vice chair.

Mr. Wooten?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At this time I’d like to nominate Mr. Ray Graham as Vice Chair. Having served with him the past two years and coming on council together, I feel like he’s demonstrated a tremendous amount of leadership and we serve together on the Public Safety Council where he has given a lot of time, knowledge, and really made the difference. And I would like to put him forth as Vice Chairman for the next session of County Council.
TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion by Mr. Wooten. Have a second?
CINDY WILSON: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any more nominations? Hearing none, all in favor of Mr. Graham as Vice Chairman, show of hands. All opposed? Show Mr. Graham carries the nomination with Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Floyd opposes.

Are there any corrections or changes to be made to the December 18th, 2018 council meeting?
CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr. Chairman?
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: On page 21, line 15, and it refers to gentlemen at the far end and there was a typo. And on the next line I misspoke. I meant successors instead of the word predecessors. So if we might make that correction I would appreciate it.
TOMMY DUNN: Any more? Ms. Wilson makes a motion with those corrections. Do we have a second?
RAY GRAHAM: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second by Mr. Graham.
Anyone else? All in favor of Ms. Wilson’s motion, show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
At this time I’d like to take the opportunity to hold my comments. I’ll have some more later on at the end of the meeting tonight, but I would like to welcome two new councilmen, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Davis on Council, and look forward to working with y’all this new coming year. Appreciate your willingness to serve and look forward to a good year.

At this time we’ll have citizens comments. Speak on matters first go-around on agenda matters only. You have three minutes. Please address the Chair. When Mr. Harmon calls your name, please state your name and district for the record. Mr. Harmon.

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

FRANK PRESSLY: Frank Pressly, District 4. I wanted to make mention of the fact that the order that this was done in with the election being held before input from citizens, this is a partnership; the administration, the council and the people. The administration set this up and the Council carried it out, but it feels like the people were left out of this decision. We should have been given the opportunity to give input or discuss or mention what we feel about this election. As I said, I just feel that we were left out of this.
13

1 TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.
2 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next speaker is Bob Martin.
3 BOB MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, my name is Bob Martin. I’m in District 1. I feel very much as the previous speaker has said. I wish to have had some input in this, also. Tommy, I really do appreciate your service here, but that’s not a life tenure up there. I think that that Chairmanship should be rotated. With seven people up there, I don’t know why it shouldn’t be rotated every second or third year, at a minimum. Thank you.
4 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, no one else is signed up.
5 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.
6 At this time, going on to Item number 7, Councilman Wooten. Mr. Wooten.
7 CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes. I wanted to make a motion to the Council. Last month, actually two councils in a row, we received a presentation and a request from a citizen who’s in attendance tonight, Mr. Andy Moore. He’s been working extensively with Todd McCormick at the Civic Center about placing a memorial in honor of his son. And I would like to make a motion that we allow staff to move forward in helping him
realize that request. Private money through donations will be coming forward to make this happen. And they’ve already outlined a reasonable plan that staff feels would aesthetically be pleasing to the area and offer a really nice memorial. And so I just wanted to put that forth in a motion.

TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion Mr. Wooten.

Do we have a second?

JIMMY DAVIS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis. Now, discussion. Any discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: I met the Moore family and my heart goes out to them. Having two sons of my own, I know how it would feel to me if I lost one of them. I think what he’s wanting to do is honorable. I think that it would be an everlasting memorial to his son and to his family.

But I want us to be really, really careful when we do this because once we do it for one, we’re going to have to open it up to anybody who wants to do it who can get the money themselves and they want to do it. This is public land. It is public land. But I don’t, I don’t say no. I don’t say no. I don’t say yes. I
say let’s think carefully about what we’re doing and
let’s be prepared if the need ever presents itself
again if somebody wants to do this, let’s be prepared
regardless of their religion, regardless of their creed
-- I guess that’s the same thing -- and regardless of
the color of their skin. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Any more discussion?
BRETT SANDERS: Yes.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.
BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman, I know the
Moore family, as well. They’re good people. I’m sorry
for your loss. But is there any way that maybe we
could do a term or a certain amount of time to where it
comes up and has to be renewed instead of just voting
against it or ---

TOMMY DUNN: My thing would be -- and
I’m asking Mr. Wooten, this is part of his motion that
the staff put this works and all but come back to us
for a final vote when we’ve got something to see
exactly what they’ve come up with.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Sure.
TOMMY DUNN: And to see. Make sure
everybody feels comfortable and at that time give a
time, because let’s keep in mind, something like this
-- say we’ve got two new council members, give them a
chance to study it, look at it and think about it, too, and whatnot. Is that agreeable with everybody?

JIMMY DAVIS: I’m in agreement. Like I said, they’re good people and I support what they want to do, but ---

TOMMY DUNN: Does that suit you?

JIMMY DAVIS: --- address ---

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Any more discussion?

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

Moving on to Item number 8(a) ordinance third reading, 2018-062, an ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 8.75 acres from C-1N, that’s neighborhood commercial district, to C2, highway commercial, at 83 Princeton Highway, and that’s in Ms. Wilson’s district. Do we have a motion?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson makes a motion to move forward. Do we have a second?

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Graham. Any further discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. Like sign? Show the motion carries unanimously.

There are no 9, 10 or 11's. Number 12, approval in
reduction of retainage from ten percent to five percent of total contract price. Mr. Carroll, can you speak to this?

ROBERT CARROLL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Council. Per ordinance we are required, if we want to reduce the retainage from the normal ten percent to five percent of a project once it’s past fifty percent completion to come to Council. And we have two requests tonight. The first is for the runway rehab project. And the only thing lacking at this time is the final markings, which because of weather can’t be done till probably early spring. So they’re requesting retainage be reduced to five percent.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Carroll, on that one is the staff fully in agreement with that?

ROBERT CARROLL: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Hopkins, everybody is good with that, and you?

ROBERT CARROLL: Yes. And so it’s approximately a five and a half million dollar project. We’ll still retain approximately two hundred and ninety thousand dollars after we reduce it to five percent.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Do we have a motion to reduce the retainage on the runway project, paving project?
CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Do we have a second?

BRETT SANDERS: Second.


CINDY WILSON: Very quickly, we’re assured that the quality of the work completed so far is up to par and we’re protected in the latter stage of the job?

ROBERT CARROLL: Yes, ma’am.

CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We have not had no issues with them meeting any of their deadlines as far as their obligations up to this point?

ROBERT CARROLL: Not that I’m aware of.

Now, Mr. Hopkins may be able to speak to something different that I’m not aware of.

TOMMY DUNN: He’s shaking his head.

Everything ...

RAY GRAHAM: Good deal. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Anybody else? All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
Mr. Carroll.

ROBERT CARROLL: The second project is for what’s referred to as the Five Mile Sewer Phase II Project. Strack, Incorporated is requesting this also. They’re probably eighty-five percent plus through the project and they could have obviously done it before now but they’re requesting five percent. And this is an approximately 1.7 million dollar project.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Carroll. Do we have a motion to put this on the floor?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Do we have a second?

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Graham. Now, any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. The same question. Are we assured that the quality of the work and everything is on track for completion? We’ve had some inferior work in the past, so I question ...

ROBERT CARROLL: Yes, ma’am.

CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you. Not from this company.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?

RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Again, on this five percent, is it enough to ensure that they’re going to complete their project? I know the weather has been unbearable on construction this year, so I understand there are some issues on that end, as well. But I just want to make sure we as a county are protecting ourselves. You representing the county, do y’all feel comfortable with this?

ROBERT CARROLL: Yes.

RAY GRAHAM: Good enough. Thank you.

BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman?

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: How much do we still owe them total? It’s not on here.

ROBERT CARROLL: I’ll try to do the math in my head real quick. I think it’s actually less than a hundred and thirty thousand dollars right now. So we’re well below that fifty percent.

TOMMY DUNN: Any more questions, comments, discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Thank you, Mr. Carroll.

Moving on to Item number 13, appointments. We’ve got none down here. Did any come up? Anybody got any?
Approval of the 2019 County Council Meeting Schedule. Everybody had a chance to look over this and see? Anybody got a problem with any of this before we move this forward? Do I have a motion to move this forward? And keep in mind we can always if something comes up, you know, change something later on. This will give something to go by about setting public hearings and all up and everything.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Make a motion to move.
CINDY WILSON: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten makes a motion to move forward. Ms. Wilson seconds the motion. Do we have any more discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on to Item number 15, requests by Council members. I’ll start down here. Ms. Wilson, do you have any? Mr. Wooten, do you have any?

CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes. From District 1 I’d like to appropriate fifteen hundred dollars to the Greater Anderson Music Arts Consortium, GAMAC as it’s called, has provided a high level of music and art talent to the community for a number of years. I think any vibrant community can embrace the quality of music that they perform and the recreational entertainment
that it provides the citizens, both elderly and for
children. So I’d like to put that in the form of a
motion.

CINDY WILSON: Second.


Discussion? Just a quick question. Mr. Wooten, do you
know how much money they’re asking for? It says all
Council districts, but how much they’re asking for from
each ---

CRAIG WOOTEN: Two thousand.

TOMMY DUNN: Two thousand total is what
they’re asking for? Okay. All in favor of Mr.
Wooten’s motion show of hands. Show the motion carries
unanimously. Mr. Wooten, anything else?

CRAIG WOOTEN: No, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham?

RAY GRAHAM: Nothing at this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I am one of the most
ardent supporters of GAMAC. I have attended their
performances and they are wonderful. I’m so proud to
have them in Anderson. But I need to make something
clear from the beginning of the year so we can go on
through. District 2's funds are entrusted in me. I
cannot find it in my heart to just get a phone call and
say we need some money. Okay. Bam, here it is. If you have a request of funds, please call me. Let’s talk about it. Let’s see if the funds you’re requesting is going to be enough. Let’s see what you’re going to do with it. And then let me consider it over. I get a lot of letters for money. And if I just take up the telephone and do that to District 2's funds, it’s not my funds. It’s money that belong to the people, to my constituents of District 2. And I don’t do them justice when I just sit here and look at a sheet of paper and give them money. So if ever you want money from District 2, call me up. I’m available. I answer that phone on the first ring. And I take all calls. Someone who knows me very well is in this room right now and you can ask her. She will tell you. But at this time, I will make a contribution if and when I can talk to the people of the GAMAC. And besides, I’m worth a phone call. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders, do you have any?

BRETT SANDERS: None.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis?

JIMMY DAVIS: None at this time.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. And District 5 has none at this time.
Moving on to Item number 16, administrator’s report.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

Now, moving on to Item number 17, citizens comments. When Mr. Harmon calls your name, you have three minutes. Address the chair and please state your name and district for the record. Mr. Harmon.

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

ELIZABETH FANT: Good evening and Happy New Year 2019. 2018 was a rough year in many respects. I hope 2019 will be better. I see that number 14, I believe, was skipped in the agenda. The meeting dates are published in the agenda, but y’all didn’t talk about it, so I’m assuming that you ---

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am, we did. We voted on it.

ELIZABETH FANT: Well, I missed that one. Didn’t hear anything published about the dates.

One of the things I want to talk about is recreation. There are a lot of things in Anderson County -- number 1, Clemson right now. Big win. Our people are proud of Clemson. We’ve got equestrians,
we’ve got fishermen, we’ve got hunters, FAA, a lot of organizations that are using our land and our resources. I hope that we’re not going to get to a point where we try to take guns away from hunters. I know several people who their actual meat on the table during the winter is deer meat. I’m excited about the bass tournaments. It looks like we’re going to have more tournaments than we’ve ever had. However, I read somewhere that they have lowered the trophy level for the highest bass, because we’re fishing Lake Hartwell so much that we no longer have the big bass. So Anderson County is blessed by its resources, but I think we need to protect our resources and look after them. And we’ve got plenty of recreation activities. We do not need a hospitality tax. We do not need that. We’ve got many people who are scraping by barely. We do not need a hospitality tax.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Frank Pressly.

FRANK PRESSLY: Can’t say that I’m disappointed. I was hoping to get a fresh face on things here starting out. But Mr. Chairman, I would really like to encourage you moving forward to take into account the citizens of this county a little more.
A lot of the ideas that have been put forward from this microphone I don’t think I’ve ever, in all these years, six years, seen anything followed through on. And there are some good ideas out here, whether it’s working on pushing a new frontage road or doing a plastic recycling plan, to the county prison farm. There are a lot of good ideas that an ad hoc committee could look into. And I ask that you not leave the citizens of this county out of your leadership. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Mary Ashley.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Burns, make sure she gets to the mic all right and everything.

MARY ASHLEY: Mary Ashley, District 6. I was here November the 20th in reference to neighbors collecting cars and boats ---

TOMMY DUNN: Excuse me. Mr. Harmon, get that mic where they can hear a little bit better and start that time ... Might have to get a little closer to it and speak into it or something.

MARY ASHLEY: Okay. I was here November the 20th in reference to my neighbors collecting cars and boats that are causing mosquitos and rats. His
days was up November the 29th. He has cleaned up a little. But as you can see from the three photos I have here that was taken after his ninety days of being warned, it’s still a mosquito and rat den.

My question to the Council is, if cars and boats have been sitting for years under sheds with tarps and junk piled on top of them and never moved, but they have tags on them, this is causing a health hazard to the neighbors for the West Nile virus and also the rats, other diseases that could be carried. My question is, is there anything that can be done, since this is a health hazard? These pictures were taken after the officers were out there and after he was given ninety days. And as you can see, it is horrendous, really.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Burns, do you want to get those pictures and pass to Council. Ma’am, this is your time to speak. We can’t answer and go back and forth, but Mr. Davis might want to address something with his comments at the end of the meeting. And I’ll be glad, any of us, I’m sure, to talk to you when the meeting is over with.

MARY ASHLEY: Mr. Davis has been very nice to talk to me about this situation. And he’s been sworn in, so I feel sure he will continue to help me
with it. But something has to be done because the
mosquitos were hibernating at this time. They will be
coming out when the temperature reaches seventy
degrees, and we had the West Nile virus within two
miles of my home. It’s really a concern of mine, and
the rat infestation.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am. Thank you.
LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, no one else
is signed up.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

Now I’ll ask for remarks from Council members. Ms.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
And thank you fellow members of Council and our
wonderful people that we serve. It’s an honor and a
privilege to work with such an incredible group of
citizens and county staff and our County Council. We
have a lot of work ahead this year and I look forward
to working with each and every one of you to make this
county the best county in the country. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

Mr. Wooten.

CRAIG WOOTEN: I share the same
sentiments. I’m looking forward to a new year. I want
to welcome the two new council members, Mr. Brett
Sanders, Mr. Jimmy Davis. Had a chance to get to know you some over this past year and really enjoyed it. Look forward to your vision and leadership and serving with you guys. Just wish everybody a Happy New Year and look forward to the work ahead.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham, I’m sorry. I thought you’d just go ahead. I wasn’t thinking. Go ahead. Yes, sir.

RAY GRAHAM: As well, I want to definitely congratulate the two new council members coming on board. Definitely looking forward to working with each and every one of you. You know, looking back last year, I think we were able to really move Anderson County forward. And it was through the hard work of our county employees, our citizens, you know, County Council working together trying to move the county forward. Just a great amount of growth coming into the county, which provides great opportunities for our citizens, which is why we do this. That’s the number one purpose of every bit of this.

But definitely looking forward to what the new year brings. We’ve kind of been slowed down toward the end of the year and got a little bit of much needed rest on my end and definitely looking forward to hitting the ground running and looking forward to working with you
guys, as well. Looking forward to the new year.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Graham.

Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Welcome, guys. To know that you were going to be my seat mate, it made me feel really good. Is Mr. Allen still here? He’s gone already. Well, I’m going to do it anyway. I want to tell you about Mr. Allen; okay? He was my seat mate for the entire time that he was here. I was crazy about the man. Crazy about the man. He never voted for me or with me. Never did. But I really liked him. I’m going to miss him. He was the only one at times when things got hard up here for me, he was the only one who offered me a smile or who would even talk with me. Okay? So, you know, I am hoping that I can have the same rapport with my two new seat mates. Brett, your mama said I could cold cock you any time I needed to. So you get ready.

BRETT SANDERS: I’m used to it.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I’m really excited about having new people.

The next thing, I want you to know something. You always -- you are already aware that I did not vote for the chairman. In the last four or five years I have not voted for this chairman. Okay? I pay a high cost
for that. You need to know that. I pay a big cost for
that. You will not see my name listed on the
committees where I could really serve, where I have
experience, where I have been there, done that, had it
done or I did it. You won’t see that. That’s the
penalty I pay, that’s the price I pay for not voting
the right way, I guess. But I will pay that penalty
because I believe in doing the right thing.

There’s a song that I just love and the name of it
is, I Won’t Back Down. It’s -- the man sings I will
stand -- you can stand me to the gates of, you know
what, and I won’t back down. I am approachable. You
can talk to me without yelling and screaming at me.
You can -- or I will help. I am a team player. They
don’t like it when I say this, but did you realize I’ve
been on Council for twenty years? Did you realize that
my husband served eight years up here? So I was a
spouse. Uh-huh (affirmative). I know what the new
wives -- call me any time. I can tell you all about
it. Okay? I was a spouse for eight years and County
Council for twenty. That’s twenty-eight years. All
right. The committees that I’m put on is the -- I
don’t want to say trash. What do you call it? Litter.
I serve on the -- well, I served on the litter
committee before I got off of that. But I can operate
without, I can operate without being on a committee. I can do that. But I want you to know, I want you to know my dilemma. You need to know.

Martin Luther King said something I have on my refrigerator. It’s not the words of my enemies that bothers me. It’s the silence of my friends. Please, new guys, I ask you as you go through this endeavor, stand up for what you believe in, even if you’ve got to stand alone.

I want you to -- I hope you had a Happy New Year. I didn’t. I was trying my best to sleep, for God knows I needed the rest. But with all the firecrackers and all of the Happy New Years, and I’m trying to put my head under the pillows because I’m saying, Lord, not another one. But it was okay.

Mr. Simmons, I know you’re out there and this is a public announcement because I need to see you desperately before you leave today.

Everybody, here we go. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. I’d just like to thank everyone for the warm welcome. I’m looking forward to representing my constituents in District 4. But I’m also looking forward to working with you guys to help make your district better. Thank you, again.
Look forward to working with you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just want to echo some of Mr. Sanders’ sentiments. It is a great honor and a privilege to be on this Council with all of you. And I give Mr. Sanders full permission to kick me if I become too preachie sometimes up here.

I also want to thank Councilman Waters for the many years of service that he provided for District 6. And I have been fortunate enough to get to know Mr. Waters and work alongside him during these last few months. You know, you don’t always know someone exactly the way you think you do. But Mr. Waters is a fine gentleman. He has served his nation, his state and his county for many, many years. And most importantly, Mr. Waters is a true man of God. And I really appreciate him and I want to make sure that that’s noted.

And just once again, thank you for all that you’ve done for me so far leading up to this night. And I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

I just want to say that it’s very humbling for my
fellow council members to show the support and
confidence in electing me chairman again. And I just
want to say this. I don’t campaign for the chairman’s
job. I’ve had people come to me and ask me to take it
and then I think about it, pray about it with my family
to decide. But this is -- the Council has to work with
the chairman. They’re the ones that makes the
decision. They’re the ones that -- it’s not mine to
take or to give. It’s these fellow council members.
And it’s very humbling to have been elected as many
times as I have. And I’ve said before, it’s not a
popularity contest to be chairman. It’s who they think
they can work with and get along with, and I do
appreciate it. And like I said, it’s very humbling.

I also want to talk about the people. The people’s
got all the say they want to, call their councilmen up
and talk about voting. Because some of you did.

There’s a hit piece I haven’t seen in quite sometime of
politics going around about me this past thing about it
and I’ll share it sometime about how crooked I am,
mobbed up I am, the kickbacks I’ve gotten from one
person here in this audience tonight talking about
wanting to have citizens’ input. He had his input.

Very much things calling. I was hoping to see these
kind of politics be gone from Anderson County and not
never verifying and just throwing stuff out there. I’m not at liberty to talk about everything I know at this time and all. He knows it’s a daggum lie because it’s not true.

Enough of that, though. And as far as committees go, I talked with other council members and asked who can they work with and who they want to be chairman and I will do that again this year. It’s a team thing. It’s not betterment for I, me. It’s what’s best for Anderson County, which I work for. I’m very much looking forward to working with our two new council members, as I am with the rest of the Council we’ve had for years. Look very much forward to working with them. We’ve got a lot coming up. A lot of work to be done, and I’m very looking forward to getting started. I know our two new council members have got some good ideas. They’ve got some good experience, good backgrounds, going to show some good things for Anderson County that will be beneficial for it. I really do appreciate it. Thank y’all. And look forward to a great year.

Meeting adjourned.

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:07 P.M.)