State of South Carolina  )
County of Anderson  )

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 23, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
GRACIE FLOYD
BRET SANDERS
JIMMY DAVIS
M. CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: I’d like to call the -- it says special, but it’s really our regular county council meeting of June 23, 2020 here at the Civic Center, I’d like to call it to order. I’d like to welcome each and every one of you here tonight. Thank you for coming. At this time Councilman Ray Graham is unable to be here tonight. He’s had a death in the family. And keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers. Councilman Wooten is out of town and also will be unable to attend. I’ve asked Councilman Davis if he’d lead us in prayer. All rise, please.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY JIMMY DAVIS

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Councilman Davis.

Before we get started I’d like to make an announcement. 9(b) on the agenda tonight, that’s 9(b), 2020-014, an ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus a 141.83 acres from R-20 single family residential to planned development located at Highway 187 Fants Grove Road and Burns Bridge Road has been pulled. There was some confusion about when it was supposed to appear, tonight or on the July 7th council meeting. The councilman from this district, Representative Sanders, got in touch with the developer and they agreed to pull it off. Want to make sure everything is on the up and up. Trying to give everybody a chance to talk about it. Appreciate them doing that. And that will be on the agenda for July the 7th, our next council meeting, at 6:30 here at the Civic Center.

Councilman Sanders, do you have any comments or anything?

BRETT SANDERS: No, sir. I appreciate your courtesy. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Moving on, approval of the March 26, 2020 meeting. Are there any changes, corrections, to be made to those?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Mr. Chairman, when I left at the last meeting, I didn’t ---

TOMMY DUNN: This ain’t -- this is the March 26th meeting.

GRACIE FLOYD: What was the last meeting?

TOMMY DUNN: It would have been June 19th?

BRETT SANDERS: It’s the 18th.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Good. I’ll hold.

Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Anybody? Do we have a motion to move this forward then?

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders; Second Ms. Wilson. All in favor of the motion show of hands. Show
the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on now, are there any changes or corrections to the May 13th, 2020 meeting? Seeing and hearing none, do we have a motion to move this forward?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Do we have a second.
JIMMY DAVIS: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis. All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on now to item number 4, citizens comments. This will be on agenda items only. As the attorney, Mr. Harmon, calls your name, please step forward, state your name and district for the record. You have three minutes. And please address the chair.

Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first speaker is Donna Mathews.

DONNA MATHEWS: Hi. My name is Donna Mathews. I’m in District 2. And I come before you tonight to see if we can amend an ordinance or how we would go about doing that for the tiny house subdivision. In our area, as you all know, we were unzoned properties. So we did not get the mailers that people in zoned properties receive.

I would like to change that ordinance and see that it is equally fair to zoned and unzoned residences so we would not be in the situation we are now had we received those mailers. Because we would have fought this in the appropriate time and we would have stopped it before it got to this point.

So if you would change that ordinance, it would be fair to all communities for new development of any kind to be brought before the people so their voices are heard and not silenced, as ours were.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.
DONNA MATHEWS: That’s all I’ve got.
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am. Next, Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Chandler Reed.

CHANDLER REED: Good evening. My name is Chandler Reed. I live in District 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, board members.

I’m here just like Mrs. Mathews asking to have that ordinance fixed. No one was notified of the tiny homes. And basically here’s where I stand on the board. You guys do a great job. You follow policy, as Mr. Graham pointed out. No one here faults -- no citizen can fault you for following policy at all. Period.

Now, we want policy change. Speaking of change, when I
left here in ’99 to go serve in the Navy, you were
revitalizing downtown, county council, the folks before you.
Beautiful job. Twenty years later I come back, and downtown,
fantastic. What happened in Homeland Park in twenty years?
Not a whole lot. Matter of fact, show of hands, who has
really been to Homeland Park and drove through in the last
three years? Anybody here? If you’re here from Homeland
Park, please stand up. Shame for not seeing what’s going on
over there. Burned down houses, the trap houses, the
prostitution, the drugs. You might see all that driving
through, but you can see the burned-down houses. Two pages of
properties. We need something done about this. We need it
done. We need to know where is the plan -- I believe it’s the
Appalachian County Council has given us a grant for five
hundred thousand dollars, if I’m not mistaken. What is the
plan for that money? Where is it going to be spent? What’s
the priority list? We want results. We were part of the
problem for not speaking up in the last twenty years that I’ve
been gone. We were part of the problem.

Today we’re part of the solution. We want change in
Homeland Park. Just like the Second Amendment -- what’s the
word I’m looking for? Sanctuary, yes. You had a special
committee for some folks in the community. We want that for
Homeland Park. Because I was told there’s a plan for Homeland
Park, but I don’t know what that plan is. No one would tell
me that plan. I was just told that my help and my support was
not needed. Plain and simple. All right. So we want some
change.

We need better from our elected officials. We need
community meetings that are open to the public, not closed
doors. We need public meetings. If you don’t have
the time or you’re not physically able to do it, maybe it’s
time to step down. But we want change.

Homeland Park will not be quiet any more. You met me last
week. This is not going to be my last visit. I’m here to
work with you and I’ll do anything -- we’re not asking for
money. We just want your support on changing some policies.

Thank you for your time.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next speaker
DAVID STANDARD: Good evening. My name is
David Standard. I also live off of Abbeville Highway on Acker
Road. I’m a part of District 2.

In thirty years I’ve actually see the changes come and go
in Homeland Park, and I do think we need to amend a lot of
things down there. I think as far as when it comes to these
Planning Commissions, when it reaches a certain level to what
projects are going on, they need to go through the county
council to be voted on before they get the authority just to
Sign the dotted line. And that’s one of the reasons we’re in this situation that we are in today.

The representation, I believe in our area, as others, is not represented right. We was told, Ms. Floyd, that you didn’t know about the issue. So be it. May the 12th, 10:30 here, you stated that someone approached you about it and you didn’t care because that wasn’t your district. Tommy’s — if it was Tommy’s, you should have cared enough to say, hey, this is going to affect our area. Because these tiny homes is not only going to affect District 2; it’s going to affect District 5. Let me go back. This RV park. Everybody keeps putting them down at tiny homes and it’s an RV park. It’s going to affect District 2. It’s going to affect District 5. And it’s also going to affect District 3.

Also, as a council, each one of you have a person that you appoint on this Planning Commission. Those Planning Commission people that you appoint actually get packages from the Planning Commission. They have a right to vote on what goes on in that area. So whether they gave it to you or not, I can’t tell you, but if they didn’t give it to you, you may need to change that person because they’re not communicating with you in the way that they need to. That’s all I’ve got to say.

TRACIE FLOYD: (Inaudible).

TOMMY DUNN: Yeah, he’s addressing me.

He’s supposed to, that’s right.

Next, Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next speaker is John Tinsley.

JOHN TINSLEY: Good evening, Council.

I’m John Tinsley. I’m a surveyor. I own Tinsley Surveying here in Anderson County. I’ve been in business in the county since 1995 serving the citizens of Anderson County. We have an issue with flag lots. I say we, surveyors and engineers. And there are several here, if you guys would stand up.

We came collectively to ask the council to look at the policy on flag lots. The policy is 38-359 in the Planning and Development Codes. That policy gives pretty clear interpretation of how a flag lot is to be used. From our standpoint the interpretation in the current administration has differed from that in previous administrations, all the way back to the ordinance in 2003, which from the standpoint of us serving the citizens of Anderson County, we are not able to deliver a product to them professionally when it gets to the plat approval process and is turned down, when in the past it would have been approved. And that is a problem for us. It’s a bigger problem for the citizens because there are so many applications of a flag lot to developing a property equitably for the citizens because most people don’t have two hundred thousand dollars laying around to build a road to
county standards in order to access their property. So a flag lot serves that purpose. And we need the council to look at the interpretation of flag lots as the administration is presently interpreting it and then look at how it’s been used. And there’s a history on the recorded plats, in the record room, there is a history that will show how it’s been used and approved by other administrations and look at the difference and give us, as professional surveyors who work with the citizens, an interpretation that is steady that we can go forward with that doesn’t deviate from what’s in black and white. And that’s what we’re here asking for tonight.

And I appreciate your time.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Barry Dunn.

BARRY DUNN: Good evening. My name is Barry Dunn. I’ve been surveying in Anderson County for quite a few years, since 1985. And the issue of the flag lots seems, since 2003, we’ve been able to make it work. I don’t see any problem with it. My feeling is, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. So if we are going to change it, we need to work together to find a viable solution and just not leave us hanging out there, you know, and can’t make a good solution. Thank you for your time.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Jamie McCutchen. I apologize in advance. I’m probably going to mispronounce this next last name. Alex Imperco.

ALEX IMPERCO: Mr. Chairman, council people, I am the petitioner for the Welpine Road rezoning. I am here to let you know that we come to you with planning staff support, Plan Commission approval. We’re looking to rezone from C-2 to the multi-family zoning, which is a less intensive and better for traffic in the area.

And respectfully request that you look favorably upon our petition. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Sean Sweirker.

SEAN SWEIRKER: I’m Shawn Sweirker. I’m also working on the Welpine Road rezone. I think it’s going to be a very good project for the county, providing some much needed housing for the new employees coming to TTI and Arthrex and Electrolux. We’ve been talking to some of our neighbors about some of the traffic impacts and the concerns they have that come with growth. So we’re trying to work through those concerns with them. We agreed to do a traffic study prior -- further on in our entitlement process. But we engaged a traffic engineer regarding the impact this will have. And
according to his data, our project will have much less of a
traffic impact than uses under the current commercial zoning. And furthermore there’s a number of county officials I’ve spoken with have expressed concern over the existing bottleneck on Interstate Boulevard. I believe a gentleman had a heart attack at the Cracker Barrel and because of the low egress point, emergency personnel couldn’t get him out of there a number of years ago.

So our plan is to bring a road and provide a number of other access points out of the back of Interstate Boulevard and help alleviate what we see as a pretty substantial public safety hazard. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Elizabeth Fant.

ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant. Planning items are becoming more and more important as our county continues to grow. And this is one area I think we all need to pay close attention to. Sometimes things get slid under the covers that we’re not expecting.

On today’s minutes, number 5, capital improvements of 2020, I want somebody to explain the County Facilities Department request for a generator for the Townsend Building. This item is a request in the upcoming budget year. The generator will be used to hold bond court. That doesn’t make a lick of sense to me. They hold bond court all the time. Why do you need a generator for that?

The other thing is with the COVID, we’re all having to make adjustments. We’re sitting here instead of in the courthouse. This is hard to do because the people who are speaking here really can’t do this if this is how you have to do for everybody to hear. And despite the technology of the microphones, we have two of you who are still not speaking to us. You know who you are. Or you throw the microphone out of the way. Last time the meeting the court reporter had a very difficult time. Even she said we can’t hear you. So if we’re going to hear and participate in this, those two of you know who you are, which I have to say it every time, but I’m not alone anymore. I used to be lone duck coming to these meetings. We’ve got other people coming and they’re saying the same thing.

Communication is very important. In this day I’m finding out that probably a lot of things that are happening that are mishaps, why people don’t communicate well is because people are hearing but they’re not really listening.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, no one else is signed up.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

We’re going to move on to item number 5, resolution R2020-
017. Mr. Graham, like I said, is unable to be here tonight. Council lady Ms. Wilson is going to do his. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This is a resolution to honor and recognize the Honorable William E. Gilmer’s lifetime of public service.

WHEREAS, Judge William E. Billy Gilmer is retiring from Honea Path Summary Court after twenty-three years of service as Magistrate Judge; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gilmer served the town of Honea Path as Mayor from 1984 to 1998. And before his terms as mayor, as town councilman from 1976 to 1984, the Honea Path Fire Department as a volunteer fireman, the National Guard as First Sergeant, and the Boy Scouts of America Troop 5 Honea Path, having received his Eagle Scout in 1961. Subsequently instilling scout values in his son Kevin Gilmer and grandsons Christopher Gilmer and Kenny Webster, all of whom have received Eagle Scout from Troop 5; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gilmer is married to Fredda Gilmer. They have one son Kevin and two grandchildren, Chris Gilmer and Kenny Webster, and the Gilmers reside in Honea Path.

THEREFORE be it resolved to take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment in meeting duly assembled this 23rd day of June, 2020, that we in Anderson County are grateful to the Honorable William E. Billy Gilmer for his lifetime of service and hereby recognize and honor his many contributions to the community which will sustain his legacy for decades to come.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, you may. Do we have a second?

JIMMY DAVIS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis.


CINDY WILSON: I’d like to add -- oh, good. May we have Chris to come up to make this award to him and then it will be formally presented to Judge Gilmer and Fredda at a meeting on Thursday.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

CINDY WILSON: We have also requested that Judge Gilmer continue managing the Honea Path Christmas Parade.

TOMMY DUNN: Let’s make it official.

Show the motion carries unanimously.

Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Thank the Gilmer family for all they’ve done for Anderson County.

Going to move on now to item number 6, discussion of flag lots, Councilman Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to say a special word of thanks for Mr. Tinsley and
Mr. Dunn and the others that came out to bring this to our
attention with your concerns of how we’re handling flag lots.
Please relay our concerns and our prayers are with Mr. Earl
O’Brien as he’s not here tonight. He’s fallen ill. But we
hear you and we have already starting taking measures to look
at the issue. The issue will be sent to our Planning and
Public Works Committee. We will let you know when that
committee is going to meet so you can be in attendance and
have input.

We want to do this thing the right way and we want to be
fair to our citizens and fair to their neighbors and fair to
our great surveyors of this county. You provide an awesome,
awesome service for our citizens and to the county and we want
to make sure we get this done the right way going forward.

And I just want to thank you for showing up and I want to
ensure you that the three members of the Planning and Public
Works Department, myself, Chairwoman Cindy Wilson, and
Councilman Brett Sanders, we take this very seriously. And
we’ve already started gathering information and we value your
future input. Thank you very much for being here tonight.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis. I
just want to add, what we might do is put this in an ad hoc
committee. And I’d like to ask maybe a couple of surveyors to
serve on that. And you’ll have input from the ground up on
this. I’ll be in touch, me or Mr. Davis will, to get this.

Flag lots can be a problem, though. I was on the Planning
Commission years ago when this thing come up and some of it
got changes or what not. But we want to work with you and
make everything work out the best for everybody.

So we’ll be in touch; okay? And thank y’all for coming
tonight.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Councilman, Mr. Chair,
before they leave, the guy in the blue, can you come back up,
please? I was introduced to flag lots a couple of years ago.
I didn’t know what they were. I didn’t know how they played
into anything. Okay. And I am sure we do a lot of talking up
here, but we don’t always explain what we’re talking about.

Would you please tell the people out here now, what is --
what a flag lot is and what is the problem with them so they
will know.

JOHN TINSLEY: Certainly. A flag lot is
shaped similar to a flag in that you have a whole portion and
then the bulk of the property, say in the back of it. So if
your road is along the front of it, the old portion leaves the
road and goes back and then opens up into the bulk of the
property.

The purpose of the flag lot is that if you have property
with limited road frontage or property that has -- say a
family has a certain amount of acreage and then they want to
let a grandchild or a son or daughter have some acreage in the rear, the flag lot is a way of creating a parcel of land such that it can have a tax map number, it can have its own tax bill sent to it. That parcel of land, though, would have access called fee simple, meaning they actually own it all the way to the road.

The reason you need to own it versus an easement is that a mortgage company a lot of times will not loan money unless it has fee simple frontage. So the flag lot itself is essential because we have no provision in Anderson County for an affordable private road. An affordable private road is not possible because the development standards say that you have to have a road built to county standards. Well, if you’re going to spend the money to build a road to county standards, you’re going to turn it over and make it a public road. A lot of people don’t want a public road back in the back of their property.

So without a provision for an affordable private road that could be built by an individual -- not necessarily a developer -- we need the flag lot.

Now, in the ordinance it says that you can have two flagpole portions of a lot that touches the road at a given point. Given means specific. Point is one. It’s not a line, it’s a point. The way that’s always been used, and this helps people if you want to do two lots, you run two flag pole portions to the road side by side. That’s the two pole portions touching the road at a specific point, a given point. So the two pole portions. Then if they want to share a common driveway so that they can consolidate funds and have one drive that goes back and then goes to two homes, that’s a feasible opportunity for people. And it makes it affordable. It makes it where the kids can end up with a home behind the house. It also makes it, if you do need to do a subdivision, you can access land that’s unaccessible in an equitable fashion from a road where it costs too much money to put a cul-de-sac in.

So it has its advantages. If it’s something that the county does not want, we have to have some kind of option to change and go back to a private road where we can go in and cut lots off a private road where people can still get a mortgage.

Is that a good enough explanation?

GRACIE FLOYD: That’s perfect. But what I was asking about it, they were also saying that a lot of the mobile home divisions have flag lots in them.

JOHN TINSLEY: In the past they did. And a lot of times they’d stack a bunch of flag lots side by side and you may have four or five flags that go back and open up into a mess. And people would go in and build too many driveways and nobody knew what they owned.

In 2003 the ordinance was passed that you could only have
two flagpole portions touching the road at one spot, then you have to have a distance, depending on what type of road it was, between those flags. So like if you have a -- and I don’t have the ordinance in front of me, but if you’ve got a state secondary road, you’re going to have to have a specific distance on that road which is wider than if you had just a little county road. So your driveways were spaced out to where it was not a problem. So that was addressed in 2003 and that should not be a problem now.

And there’s another provision in there that gives a percentage of the lots in a subdivision so that you can’t go in there and make fifty percent of your lots flag lots. It’s a small percentage of those lots that can be flag lots. Which that was addressed in ’03 and that has not been a problem since.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well good. Good. I thank you for doing that because sometimes when people come up to talk about things, we may know what you’re talking about but you come into a public entity to talk about a public problem and I just feel that everybody should know what you’re talking about.

JOHN TINSLEY: I thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain that. I really do.

GRACIE FLOYD: And thank you.

JOHN TINSLEY: Okay. Thank you very much. Anything else?

TOMMY DUNN: No, sir. Appreciate it.

JOHN TINSLEY: Okay. Thank y’all.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to item number 7, third readings. There are none.

Item number 8, second readings. There are none.

Moving on to item 9, first readings, 9(a), 2020-013, ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 19 acres from C-2 highway commercial to R-M multifamily residential on Welpine Road, Anderson, District 4. Ms. Hunter.

ALESIA HUNTER: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As mentioned ---

TOMMY DUNN: Wait a minute.

ALESIA HUNTER: Can you hear me?

TOMMY DUNN: We can hear you, people back there can hear you. This thing has been tested. I’ve been up here testing it. They can hear you all the way back yonder. You ain’t got to look up at that thing. It’ll pick you up. I promise you.

ALESIA HUNTER: You can hear me; okay. Thank you, Mr. Dunn.

As mentioned, this is a rezoning for Welpine. The applicant is here and gave some details concerning that. It’s located in the Denver/Sandy Springs precinct. It’s currently
zoned C-2. Again, it’s requested for R-M, which will include
two hundred and fifty-two units, eleven buildings, and a
mixture of one, two and three bedroom units. They do intend
to have some amenities and some green space and swimming pool
and a club house.

And as mentioned, the Planning Commission was in support
of their application, as mentioned, for the traffic study.
The applicant/developer has went back to address the concerns
from the citizens concerning traffic, and as far as I know
they’ve worked through those issues. And as mentioned, the
Planning Commission did support the request.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Hunter.

Do we have a motion to put on the floor?

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders. Have a
second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

JIMMY DAVIS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second by Ms. Wilson. Now
discussion. Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I
don’t want to steal on what you’re going to discuss earlier
about having a county council member present on
preconstruction meetings to allow them to get feedback in the
community before a developer comes in and invests a lot of
money.

I would like to say that Mr. Sweirker, prior to anything
going on over there, reached out to me. And I think the model
that I want to use once you talk about what you’re going to
talk about here in a little while, but it’s more of
development, community and council working hand-in-hand to
create a community partnership.

One of my concerns was traffic. I met with them. The
traffic issue, there’s multiple ingress, egress. They also,
again, which he stated earlier, on Interstate Boulevard, we
have one way in, one way out. And they actually agreed to
help and work and open that up to have multiple in and outs.
And also the South Carolina DOT concern for the citizens on
traffic is getting ready to make some major changes up there.
And I think it is a project that I’m excited to have in
District 4. I look forward to it.

We’re talking, just in the initial stage, of a forty
million dollar investment. And I would just like other
council members to know that I’m in support of this. And from
what I’ve seen, my community is in support of it. And I
appreciate Charter Capital coming to me beforehand and
clearing up any issues so when I had calls I was able to talk
to my constituents and know exactly what’s happening. There
was no rumors, misinformation floating around. And I’d love
to see that happen on future projects, as well. Thank you.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Sanders. Any more discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: I have a question.

TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Sanders, would you mind going over what you said at the beginning about the preconstruction meeting?

BRETT SANDERS: They actually -- the owner of the property, the developer, had reached out, called and said I understand what we’re looking at is in your district. We want to sit down with you so that we can explain what we’re actually planning on doing so that we can clear up any rumor so that I can get out in my community, meet with them, talk to them, and not spread rumors or misinformation. And that’s the way I think things should be. And you can tell the caliber and class of the developer you’re dealing with when they come to you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Question. Did they come to you before they went to the Planning Commission?

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, ma’am. To get everything lined up to address any concerns. I don’t want to put words in their mouth. I had them reach out to Holt Hopkins, Holt Hopkins, as well. This lady right back here. Ms. Wilson. And I don’t know if you may want to echo that they reached out to the community. It wasn’t something that just popped up and you didn’t know what was going on.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah, in the newspaper -- it didn’t come in the newspaper before you ---

BRETT SANDERS: Before I knew about it.

GRACIE FLOYD: Before you knew about it.

Exactly.

BRETT SANDERS: And I think that says something about the caliber of investors that we’re dealing with. And I think Mr. Dunn is going to make a statement earlier about a plan of action that we want to test out. And I plan on using the model set forth by these gentlemen to move forward in my district on future plans.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I had a chance to talk with Mr. -- the guy, what’s his name?

BRETT SANDERS: Sweirker.

GRACIE FLOYD: Sweirker, yeah. And then when I got to my -- when I looked at my mail when I got here -- I didn’t get it until I got here, I saw there was a letter in there addressed to me. And I was so impressed. I was so impressed. He even reached out to me.

BRETT SANDERS: It’s a community thing. It’s not just District 4. It affects ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, I thought it was just a planning thing where you could just -- and you had your traffic checked, as well, how that would impact you?
BRETT SANDERS: Yes, ma’am. And they’re actually doing an engineered traffic study, a further one, for Mr. Hopkins, as well.

GRACIE FLOYD: I applaud you. Welcome to Anderson County. We would love to have you do more work in this county if that’s the way you do it. It’s not a gotcha kind of thing because it’s a -- because of the section you live -- are you zoned? Is this thing zoned?

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Maybe that’s what it is. Zoned people don’t -- I mean unzoned people don’t get a chance. But anyway, nice meeting you, all of you.

And thank you, Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, ma’am. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Any more discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Thank you, Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Thank you, Chairman Dunn.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Hunter, thank you.

As I said, 9(b) has been pulled.

We’re going to 9(c), 2020-016, an ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 43.91 acres from R-20 single family residential to R-A residential agriculture. It’s located at 2705 Centerville Road. Put this in the form of a motion.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? You got anything, Ms. Hunter, you’d like to add or say?

ALESIA HUNTER: Nothing extra.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. All in favor of the motion show of hands. Show Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Wilson in favor. Ms. Floyd abstains. She’s left the podium.

Moving on to item number 9(d), 2020-017, an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Anderson County, South Carolina and Project Westwind with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source revenue credits. Mr. Burriss Nelson.

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of council.

Again, we have a private developer willing to invest his own money into a project for a speculative industrial building, actually at the Anderson Airport Park, 2.8 million dollar building that will be fifty-five thousand square feet with a thirty-five foot clear. Be Class A industrial
building. We do not have anything like that in the county. And really that is the sweet spot we have for recruiting industry, is a fifty thousand square foot building. So it’s a great opportunity for us. And much like the projects at exit 32 and 35 with Rooker and VanTrust, we’ve offer a -- suggesting that we offer a fee in lieu of taxes special source revenue credit at ninety percent for the first five years that will allow an offset of property tax to offset some of the substantial expense in the construction of the project. And then with a sixty percent SSRC for five years and a fifty percent SSRC for the following ten years.

Taxes that were paid in 2019 sixty dollars. First year of property tax for this project, five thousand three hundred and fifty-five dollars and over twenty years will pay four hundred and two thousand. As Ms. Wilson said one time, we’re happy that someone else is spending money. We’re spending somebody else’s money.

Anderson County Airport will include construction of a much needed fifty-five thousand square foot building, five percent fee agreement with lot millage. This comes to council as a recommendation from staff, as well as the economic advisory board.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. Do we have a motion to move this forward?

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Sanders; second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?

BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Nelson.

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir.

BRETT SANDERS: I know where this is going and I’m excited for the project. Do you think there is any way we could persuade them to maybe tie in some of the colors to our new airport terminal as they come in, and it look like one big huge project up there.

BURRISS NELSON: I didn’t understand. Tie in what?

BRETT SANDERS: Tie in the color scheme to our new airport terminal that is getting finished up now.

BURRISS NELSON: We will certainly discussed that with them. They had planned to build a traditional tilt-up concrete building much like Arthrex. But certainly they can have color schemes that ---

BRETT SANDERS: That would be nice. But I’m excited for the project and I appreciate your work and efforts.

BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, sir. I’ll bring that to their attention.
BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries.
Again, Ms. Floyd...
BURRISS NELSON: Thank you for your support.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.
Item number 10, there are none.
Item number 11, approval of 2021 road improvements. Do we have a motion to move this forward?
CINDY WILSON: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion by Ms. Wilson. Have a second?
BRETT SANDERS: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders. Any discussion? Mr. Hogan, you got anything you want to add?
MATT HOGAN: No, not unless y’all have questions.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank y’all. All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Thank you. Appreciate you.
Moving on to item number 12, report from Planning and Public Works Committee meeting held on, believe it or not, today. Chairman Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We met this morning at 10:00 in this very room. We did approve the minutes. But I’m going to ask my fellow committee members to go back. We skimmed over the minutes and it made sense when I read them earlier. But when we had other eyes looking upon it, I can see the point.
May I make the motion to my fellow council members that on the minutes under Capital Improvements for 2020, that the sentence beginning the generator will be used to add ... if power is out so that the bond court can be held.
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am. Ms. Wilson puts that in the form of a motion. Do we have a second.
BRETT SANDERS: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders. All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries.
CINDY WILSON: Thank you.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: The next item we had -- and if anyone present desires a copy of what we were presented this morning, we’ll certainly make it available. And it primarily dealt with the definitions and rules for tiny homes, park model RVs, also recreational park trailers. It also gave us a definition of what a park model RV is not. Also, RV travel trailers. And manufactured mobile homes. Gave us some rules for setting -- for developing with those. Modular homes. And proposed camps, RV parks, land use regulations, including tiny
homes on wheels. And proposed camps, RV parks, land use
regulations. We voted unanimously, all three of us, to move
this on to the Planning Commission, and they are also planning
to do some type of a workshop so there can be more input into
the development of what’s proposed. So if we may make the
motion for our full council to vote to send these measures on
to the planning commission.

TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion. Coming from
the Public Works Committee, doesn’t need a second. Any
discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.

GRACIE FLOYD: Now am I to understand that the
Planning Commission approved a group of people to come into
Anderson County to build a tiny home -- a tiny home park or
community without having these things first? Am I to
understand that we waited until we got it and then we went
back and made rules that will, that will show them how this
thing -- what it is, what it’s supposed to be and how to build
it? Am I to understand that all they did was to submit a
sheet of paper and without us going out there to look at it to
see if it’s, if it’s a good plan and did it cover everything,
we didn’t even do that. Without us doing that we went ahead
and approved it on the first reading? Even on county council,
you get three readings. Three ordinances. But once they did
this, you can’t go back and change it? And we’re just now
getting the rules done after the fact? Is that what I’m to
understand ---

TOMMY DUNN: No, ma’am. Not at all.

GRACIE FLOYD: --- from Ms. Wilson?

TOMMY DUNN: No, ma’am. That’s not.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, are you going to tell me?

TOMMY DUNN: If you ask me I can.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I asked her.

TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I’m sorry. I didn’t know the
question was directed at me. But we’re each responsible for
projects that come about in our own districts and we each have
a person that’s on the Planning Commission. And we are each
responsible to discuss measures and issues with our Planning
Commission members.

In District 7, we probably have a conversation together
once or twice a week, because there are a lot of things that
are coming up. I would highly recommend that everyone else
consider that.

JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: One of the things that we
learned this morning was some simply nomenclature about what
is a tiny home. And the definition of a tiny home. And what
is a park model RV and what is a recreational vehicle by our county standards. That’s one of the things we talked about today, was what defines a tiny home and how can it be built?

And we learned, just for example, a tiny home is a miniature house that’s built on a lot. It is not brought in on a trailer or on wheels. It’s built there. And we learned that a park model RV comes in on wheels, for lack of better words. And then we were brought up-to-date on what the current ordinances are for those types of -- what are current ordinances? A tiny home has to be gone through by our building inspectors. It has to go through the same inspections as if you built a two thousand square foot house. A park model RV does not because it’s defined differently and it is for, quote, temporary housing.

So the discussion this morning was first to define what these things are. And then we learned about what our current ordinances are right now. And we made some suggestions about going forward on how do we oversee and govern how these things go about, whether it be a tiny home or an RV park. And we made some suggestions to staff on how we thought it would improve on, you know, an RV park, in particular.

So then we decided to send those suggestions to the Planning Commission. And we’re talking about unzoned areas here. We’re not talking about zoned areas because they have different protections. But unzoned areas, when this goes to the Planning Commission, they will take it all into consideration. And then if I’m not mistaken, Mr. Harmon, they will send it back to council for us to look at one more time.

LEON HARMON: That’s correct, Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: So it was a long discussion on just identifying and defining things so that we can gather the right information, let the Planning Commission take a look at it and send this ordinance, new and improved ordinance, back to council. And this will affect unzoned areas.

And that’s really what we talked about concerning the tiny homes. We talked about mobile homes. We talked about modular homes. We talked about all kind of homes today. And we really got a lot of stuff done and accomplished and I feel like we made some good suggestions going forward. The Planning Commission has an opportunity to look over what our suggestions are. Maybe they add to it; maybe they don’t. But we thought it would be proper for them to take a look at it. And it’ll come back to council for a final decision on these new ordinances. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Let me add, a state law is set up how the Planning Commission has to work. And I’m going to say this later, but like the gentleman said a while ago about going before the Planning Commission before county council. That’s state law. We can’t. I looked at this and researched it, I had the attorney, trying to give county council the
final say. We can’t. That’s not state law. They won’t let us. But this has to go back and be reviewed -- this Planning Commission and Public Works Committee went through has to go back through the Planning Commission, then they’ll come before us and we can do whatever we want to then with it, but that’s this thing -- that’s the way it works.

BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Yeah. I would like to -- I actually sat in on that meeting today, as well. And to speak on behalf of Planning and Development, we didn’t define what tiny houses were. We didn’t define RV park. That’s already defined. We already have that defined. All we did ---

TOMMY DUNN: In the actual building code.

BRETT SANDERS: Exactly.

TOMMY DUNN: That’s what it falls in.

BRETT SANDERS: All we did was make some suggestions on things that we would like to see added or changed possibly in the future. And we keep hearing this tiny home development. It’s not a tiny home development. That’s two different animals. We’re talking an RV park here. But I do want to make it aware that Ms. Hunter and her department, it’s already defined. They came in. Everything met all the requirements. And in doing so it got passed. They did have thirty days to appeal, which I don’t know how the time lapse or miscommunication or not informed, but that would come from my or any other council member up here committee appointment.

But I just want to stand up on behalf of our Planning and Development Department. They did everything exactly the way it was supposed to be done, exactly the way it was written. We didn’t define anything. It’s already defined in Building and Codes. Everything is already there. We merely added some suggestions or some things that we would like to see changed or added or defined a little better in the future. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Sanders, I thank you for that. That was really, really good. But there’s things that y’all didn’t know, we didn’t -- the things that y’all didn’t know, we didn’t know either. And we still don’t know. The things that ---

TOMMY DUNN: Ma’am, please, we’re going to keep this thing ... Go ahead.

GRACIE FLOYD: The thing that -- and don’t tell me again about I have a person on the committee. Yes, I do. But he didn’t say anything to me. Nobody called me. I told y’all the story. I told you. But it seems if they had come to first, as they did you in your area, it wouldn’t be a problem now. Yeah, it’s good to say, yes, well we’ve gotten it fixed. Yeah, but you can’t fix what’s already happened to these people living out there. You can’t fix that. You can say, yeah, the state did this and the state did that. We
1 didn’t know that. I don’t have a reason to know that.
2 Like I told y’all, I’ve never been to a planning meeting
3 in my life because you never put anything in Homeland Park.
4 You never came down to Homeland Park to say we’re going to
5 improve it. So the first thing I get, I’d missed the meeting
6 because nobody told me about a meeting. Nobody said -- and
7 you had the meeting way back in November. It seems like when
8 you didn’t hear from you in November you would have called to
9 see what happened. You would have called.
10 The lady right there called me. But she didn’t tell me it
11 was my district. She asked me what I thought of tiny houses.
12 And yes, sir, I told her, it’s fine as long as it’s not in
13 District 2 because we’ve had enough down there. We’ve had
14 enough. And I said it.
15 But I thank the committee, whatever it is, I thank the
16 committee for doing whatever. But how do they say it, too
17 little too late. I’m glad that nobody else will have to go
18 through this or nobody else’s mother will have to live down
19 there. Or nobody else’s community will be messed up like down
20 there. And what did you call it? A VR (verbatim) park? We
21 only called it what we were told to call it. Some said VR
22 (verbatim). Some said tiny houses. But one thing about it,
23 we’ve got too many people mixed in it. Way down to Abbeville
24 people are coming to tell us about this stuff, that they knew
25 nothing about it. Don’t know anymore than what we know here
26 in Anderson County. And that was a factor. Because there was
27 so much miscommunication.
28 But Planning Committee, I thank you.
29 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion show
30 of hands. All opposed. Abstentions. Show the motion
31 carries.
32 I’d ask council, if we would, we’re out of time on this
33 committee report. I’d ask if we could get five more minutes
34 to this. Make that in the form of a motion.
35 JIMMY DAVIS: Second.
36 CINDY WILSON: So moved.
37 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis. All in favor
38 of the motion to extend it five minutes, show of hands. So
39 the motion carries. Ms. Wilson.
40 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
41 have a very interactive -- we had a very interactive meeting
42 this morning. And it can’t be said strongly enough, our
43 Planning staff is very meticulous and very well considered and
44 punctual on all of our ordinances and we’re very blessed to
45 have them. And we’re blessed to have some council members who
46 really roll their sleeves up and get to work, too.
47 The other discussion we had was possible appropriate
48 measures to protect local farm properties. We know, for
49 example, we have farmland disappearing very rapidly around the
50 state, and Anderson County is no exception. The current rules
are that high density type development going in next to a farm
requires a ten foot setback without sewer and only eight feet
with sewer. And there are concerns about livestock and other
interactions that may not be safe or healthy for people or
animals. So we’ll be working on that some more in the future.
The other most pressing item that we took up was
consideration of update and upgrades for our county storm
water retention and runoff measures. Currently our
Development Standards require two to ten years rain episode
considerations and infrastructure requirements on development.
Our roads and bridges requires about twenty-five years.
Well, the drought cycle of about thirty years is obviously
broken now and we’ve had back-to-back horrendous floods and
our roads are getting washed out. We’ve had houses to flood
where the developer didn’t size his runoff collection
adequately and then he put it into the county culvert that had
been there for about fifty years and we had a flood from that.
We’ve had retention pond dams giving way and flooding
adjoining properties. So we felt that it was appropriate to
consider these in the days going forward. Mr. Batson was
unable to join us this morning, but Mr. Holt Hopkins filled
in. And he and Mr. Matt Hogan are front line on the Roads and
Bridges. And he was pointing out that federal and South
Carolina agencies permit, but we need to be notified when they
are permitting development in our county.
Because, for example, when DHEC permits they don’t always
inspect what they have permitted. And we’ve found examples of
storm water and retention measures that were put in the wrong
place. Obviously they failed and we had builders and
homeowners coming to the county very upset.
We were talking about let’s have some considerations as to
the amount of impervious surface area and to take into account
the topography and watershed and water -- the soil types and
so forth. And that should probably be done on a more
individual basis.
But anyway, we did have a very -- considerable discussion
on this. We’re also going to have to look at development
infrastructure proposals and how they relate to encroachment
permits and so forth.
There will be workshops for our county council, staff and
the Planning Commission. These will be scheduled soon to
address these and other concerns as we work to provide
guidance on development standards.
And it has to be pointed out in our meeting tonight, our
county has done such an amazing job with economic development,
coming from a very difficult time and through the greatest
recession of our lifetimes. Between that, team work and the
logistics of our county that we’re blessed with, we’re also
blessed with some of the best people in the world. Therefore,
is it any surprise that we have all of these out-of-state
developers wanting to come in here and take advantage of what everyone worked so hard to create.

Therefore we’re going to have to work very carefully going forward to put measures into place to continue good quality development without killing the goose that laid the golden egg. That might be the best way to sum it up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’ll be getting together again soon.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Moving on to item number 13, appointments. There are none.

Just let me back up one minute. Ms. Wilson, you and your committee on the storm water thing, and you might talk with Mr. Harmon about this. The biggest problem with the storm water problem we’re going to run into, if a subdivision has got a -- or anybody, a business or what not -- has got a storm water retention pond and it’s on a separate piece of property, what are you going to do when that owner walks away from it? That’s happening all over the state. It’s happened in Anderson County in a couple of places. So we need to find some kind of answer and solution to that. Because it’s going to be dumped right back over into Anderson County to fix the problem.

CINDY WILSON: So you’re saying that some of them -- some of the developments put their retention ponds on a separate piece of property?

TOMMY DUNN: It’s deeded that way; has to be.

CINDY WILSON: Okay.

TOMMY DUNN: And if they walk away with it and say I ain’t paying taxes on it no more, I ain’t going to do this, who’s going to buy the retention pond?

CINDY WILSON: Well, we’ve made all kinds of shocking discoveries the last few years with sewer and storm water.

TOMMY DUNN: But that’s the biggest concern I have with storm water, if you’re going to do that right there, be looked it.

CINDY WILSON: We’ll look at that.

TOMMY DUNN: And I appreciate the work of your committee.

Moving on, are there any appointments I don’t know about? Any request from council members I’m not aware of.

BRETT SANDERS: No, sir.

CINDY WILSON: None, thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Number 15, the Administrator’s report.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

Moving on now to item number 16, citizens comments. When
Mr. Harmon calls your name, again, please even if you’ve done it before, please state your name and district for the record. Address the chair. And you have three minutes. Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, the first speaker is Chandler Reed.

CHANDLER REED: My name is Chandler Reed, District 5. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, council members.

So I’m back here, what we want is we want policy changes for tiny homes. We don’t want any more in Anderson County. This isn’t just District 2, this isn’t just District 5, just because they’re close to each other. This is a county problem. We need everybody that’s elected, everybody in the community and the county to realize this. We need to stand together as a county and not individually.

All right. And we need better notifications on this stuff. The policy says you have to run it in the paper. Anderson Independent. I haven’t seen a printed Anderson Independent in fifteen years. All right. Nobody gets the paper any more. We’ve got to come up with something new. We need to come up with an email distribution system. You could put it -- I’m pretty sure it could be on the website. We need to get that information out more regularly through community meetings.

I believe Ms. Wilson said she has two meetings a week for certain things. It’s not too much to ask. Each district should have at least a quarterly meeting of what’s going on in their district. If you can make it, great. If you can’t, you can get the highlights through an email.

All right. To my next point. We need communication lines to all elected officials. According to the website, there’s only a few people I can email. Everybody else is a phone call. I’ve run the phone call route. That’s just to serve a big circle. Nothing ever gets done. All I got was just -- it took me twenty minutes to get my point across, again, and then I’ll call you back. Never got a call. I should be able to email everybody that’s an elected official. Within seventy-two hours I should get a reply. If I’m not mistaken everybody here has a staff member. That’s how this works. Twenty years in the military. I know how this works. Everybody has somebody that works for them that can help them. Lean on your subordinates or -- yeah, whoever works for you. We need better communication.

If I sent an email, if it’s urgent, I should be getting something back in twenty-four hours. But seventy-two to ninety-six hours is not unreasonable to get an email back from an elected official. If you can’t do emails, we’ve got to figure out something else. But this is the 21st Century. It’s not that hard to get this done. I’ve heard that from several folks. That’s just not a thing. No problem. We can work with that. But we need better lines of communication.
And like I said, we want to see more community meetings. We want to see our elected officials coming around to our districts talking to us.

Thank you for your time. Have a great evening.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next, Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Michelle Burgess.

MICHELLE BURGESS: Hi there. My name is Michelle Burgess and I live actually in District 5, but District 2 is less than a mile from my house.

When I heard about the supposedly tiny homes I was a little bit concerned. Then I got to talking to others that’s within our community and they told me, oh, it’s not tiny homes. I know what a tiny home is. I have friends who have actually built them. I think they’re great. But I was told they’re not tiny homes. We’re talking about RVs. Really? Right now we already have several trailer parks in District 2, and Mr. Dunn, in District 5. And a lot of them are in disarray. A lot of them really -- I wouldn’t want my dog living in them. I mean, just being honest.

So I was very concerned so I started getting involved in our community. And I’m thankful that I did. But I heard a couple of things at the Planning Commission meeting that troubled me. What I was told or what I heard, what I observed, and I’m sure others that were here they heard it as well. I didn’t know that this was in my district. How do you not know what your district is? How? How? How do you not know? I know that you can get maps of Anderson County and I know you can get a highlighter. You can highlight that, what your district is. How did you not know? I’ve got an issue with that. I have a big issue with that. And then I heard, well, it wasn’t my district so it didn’t concern me. I didn’t care.

I think every single one of our council members should be caring, whether it’s in District 7, it’s in District 4. Learn how to work together and communicate. If we could all work together we know that it would be a better Anderson County. That’s all I’ve got to say. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next, Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Tonya Winbush.

TONYA WINBUSH: Hello again. My name is Tonya Winbush. I am District 1. Craig Wooten is my county council person. He’s not here tonight.

But I just want to address a couple of things that has been going on through the county council. One of the things that’s not on the agenda tonight is the Second Amendment Protection Ordinance that was proposed by the county council that was such a project immunity and a project of togetherness. I was so amazing of how when citizens came in crowd and came and addressed their concerns how the county
council was so eager and so open to help with the problem of
the red flag laws that the state propose. And they propose to
get the county attorney involved. They got the chief
involved. They got the sheriff involved and some other county
members came together. And they said, you know, the
resolution is not going to be strong enough. Let’s get this
ordinance together so that we can make a difference for those
concerned citizens.

So I come in the same spirit of unity and with all
citizens’ concerns being equal. I want to ask for that same
togetherness and that same action with the cause of taking
down the statute, the Confederate statute that sits in front
of the court in downtown Anderson. It is a disgrace. It does
not represent Anderson County. It has been there long enough
and it is time to be moved to a place that represents history
like a museum. And that is what I’m coming to propose that I
can address my county council to make sure that everyone gets
on board. We have a petition that has over twenty-two
thousand signatures that people in Anderson County feel the
same way that I do. And we will show up the next county
council meeting with all those people in unity to let you all
know that we want to be able to get the same type of response
and reaction. The crowd came in. They even threatened to
vote you out.

And so I’m not here with a threat. I’m here requesting
that we can all get a proposal or an ordinance written,
drafted, to say that we do -- Anderson County do not want this
statue to be in the middle of downtown because it no longer
represents Anderson County and we want it moved. I know about
the Heritage Act, but I also know that there’s a supremacy
clause that that ordinance for the Second Amendment protection
really is not going to stand up in court.

So I want the same response. I want the same privilege.
I want the same action.
LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
TOMMY DUNN: That’s time.
TONYA WINBUSH: Thank you.
LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next speaker is
Elizabeth Fant.
ELIZABETH FANT: Okay. Communication. I get
the packet. This is the packet for tonight’s meeting. It has
everything in it. You can request one. They don’t mail it.
I just pick it up. However, anybody that wants to know what
the agenda is, when the meetings are going to be, all they
have to do is get on the email list with that lady right
there, Lacey. She will identify not only the county council
meetings, but she will put you on the email for any of the
other meetings, whether it be the Planning Commission,
whatever, all the other committees.

So there is a way to communicate. But you’ve got to take
the steps to get with that lady to give her your email and let that happen.

Now, these people up here, these seven people, and minus the ones that are not here, they don’t have people that work for them, under them, secretaries, all that. They do it all. The only person that does help them to get stuff together is that lady, Lacey.

I want to read you a poem tonight. It’s symptomatic of what’s going on in the county and in the nation and I consider it to be our own individual responsibilities. It says:

The world needs men. The world needs men who cannot be bought, whose word is their bond, who put character above wealth, who possesses opinions and a will who are larger than their vocations, who do not hesitate to take chances, who will not lose their individuality in a crowd, who will be as honest in small things as in great things, who will make no compromise with wrong, whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires, who will not say they do it because everybody else does it, who are true to their friends through good report and ill report, in adversity as well as in prosperity, who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning and hardheadedness are the best qualities for winning success, who are not ashamed or afraid to stand for the truth when it is unpopular, but who can say no with emphasis, although all the rest of the world says yes.

If you want to communicate you have to be winning to take those overtures. You can’t assume that people are going to notify you. You have to take that step. I am heartened by hearing and seeing all these people out here. I want to know where you’ve been the last twelve years.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, no one else is signed up.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

Comments from council members. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is wonderful and uplifting and even when we have citizens who scold us because you are participating in the process. We’re only elected representatives and if we don’t get a chance to talk with you or hear from you, how can we represent you?

I wanted to ask tonight if we could consider going forward on the unzoned areas when we have a project that’s different from what’s already there. That as we do in zoned areas we could send out postcards to notify ---

TOMMY DUNN: I’m going to address that at my comments.

CINDY WILSON: Okay. I think that would help a lot here.

Now, as for the Confederate statue. I kind of like what Paul Harvey, the former newscaster, came up with years ago. The rest of the story. And I would be personally for putting
another monument, working with the community, for the rest of
the story, the other side of the story. Because if you don’t
have the whole story for people to consider, how will they
know what happened in the past? Some of it good, some of it
really horrible. How will they know? I mean, how do you just
obliterate history? If we don’t know where we’ve been, how
will we know where we’re going. I would contribute private
funds and time to work with our community to come up with
another monument with the rest of the story. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. First of all, I
want to talk to you about communication. All right. When I
got to my desk here tonight I found this. What’s in this?
It’s a copy of the revised minutes from tonight -- for
tonight. Didn’t get it till I got here. I have been studying
this one. I got this one last Friday, I believe. But I got
the new one, the revised one tonight. Tonight.

I want to show you the minutes from the last public works
committee, March 9th. Got it tonight. Here’s a letter
received -- the letter was received June the 23rd from Ms.
Wilson about stuff I have not had a chance to read. I got it
tonight when I got here. Okay. The county council’s project
presentation, I got that tonight. Tonight. Here’s something
else. This came June the 22nd. This is the Emergency
Management. These people called me every single day that we
have had the pandemic. They called me every single day.
Because I don’t get these till some time later in the week.

All right. I have twelve meetings -- I have twelve people
that represent District 2. Twelve different people from
different communities that represent District 2. They meet
with me once monthly before the pandemic. There’s the
secretary right over there. She gets them there. She sits
with us. She does the minutes. Have y’all ever been to a
meeting? No. No. Are you in District 2? That’s why.

Okay. There are twenty-two thousand people in District 2.
Twenty-two thousand people. Oh, yes, that’s a lot. That’s a
lot.

TOMMY DUNN: Please. Keep the audience
down.

GRACIE FLOYD: I know that I do not turn down
a phone call. You can call my house, you get an answer on the
first ring. I know it’s easy to come and look at people and
say, you should do this, you don’t do that, you do this,
because that’s all you’ve got to do. I don’t have a lot of
people around me when I’m trying to get something done because
everybody has got an opinion. You know that. Everybody has
got an opinion. And if you’re dealing with a lot of people
you won’t get nothing done listening to their opinion.

I have been on council seven thousand three hundred and
ninety-two days. I didn’t just get here. Seven thousand
three hundred and ninety-two days minus the days I’ve been
sick. And I was sick. Okay. It took us three months to get
a bus going down there in Homeland Park that we never had
before. People had no way in; they had no way out. But we
finally got a bus. That took three months.

No, we don’t have one person or piece. I wish we did. We
have seven of us use one person and that’s Lacey. Seven of
us. Each one of us have at least twenty-two thousand people
in our district. Twenty-two thousand people. District 2 is
doing fine. We were doing fine. I called my folks once a
week during the pandemic. I talk to my people. Did you get a
phone call? No. You don’t live in my district.

TOMMY DUNN: (Inaudible.)

GRACIE FLOYD: There are a lot of mean people
in this world. I don’t have time to deal with it. I don’t
have time -- if you’ve got issues or if you don’t like the way
something is going on or if you’ve got something to say, say
it. But I don’t have time, I don’t have time to do this.
I’ve got people to work with. You live in District 5, go to
District 5, work in District 5. He may want your help. I’m
interested in District 2.

Where were you when we tore the houses down in District 2?
Where were you when we got the buses? Where were you when we
had ten years of meetings down to Homeland Park? Did you ever
come to a meeting? You didn’t have to be invited. Did you
ever come down to a meeting in Homeland Park to help us clean
up the place? Did you? No.

Twenty-one years, people. And I’m proud of it. I am
proud of my twenty-one years on council. There’s nothing you
can say, there’s nothing you can do, and I don’t care how you
feel about it. But I’ve had twenty-one good years. Some of
you are here to get your pictures in the paper. I’ve had
enough of that. I’ve done that, had it done or I did it. And
you can’t mess with my smile. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.
BRET SANDERS: Nothing at this time, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.
JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Sanders, thank you for correcting me. I should have
worded my words a little bit better. You’re right, we did not
define what a tiny home was. We were informed by staff on the
definitions by ordinances on that.

You know, when we’re talking about unzoned areas, I mean I
can feel your pain. District 6 has one little area that’s
zoned. Zoning is done by voting precinct. And it’s a pretty
complicated matter. Ms. Hunter has got all kind of
information on it. But it’s kind of a complicated matter.
There’s pros and cons to zoning. Learn all you can about it. I know some people have asked me about zoning and how you do it and how you go about it. It’s pretty complicated, but it’s not hard to learn because I learned it and I’m not that smart. But we have challenges, as well. We’ve got people building houses on top of houses up in District 6, and that’s a real struggle for us because the infrastructure is not there to take care of it.

But I thank you all for being here. I appreciate every single one of you for your input. And just know that it doesn’t fall on deaf ears. And I thank you for that.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Tonight I want to -- I’m going to appoint this ad hoc committee. It’s an Ad Hoc Planning Committee. We’re going to try this and see how this works out. I’m sure we might have some bugs and kinks to get in it, but if it works out, I’m going to propose an ordinance to go into our county ordinances.

But this committee is to consist of the following: Anderson County Council, the council member of the district of the proposed project and the second council member to be selected by that council member. Anderson county staff representative from the Planning and Development and Building Department, representative from the Road and Bridges Department, representative from Wastewater Department, representative from Storm Water Department, representative from the Sheriff’s office, representative of the school district that the project is proposed in, and a representative of the fire department that that project is proposed in.

Procedures for the committee meeting, residential or commercial project proposed by developer in an unincorporated area of the county, Ms. Hunter, Director of the Planning and Development and Building will coordinate a time for the committee to meet with the developer to discuss various issues regarding the proposed development. For example, zoning, rezoning issues in zoned area, sewer availability, impact to roads in the area and other issues. The developer can decide then if they want to pursue to and wish to continue the formal application following the meeting process. This will take place at the very beginning and let somebody know.

And as I said earlier, state law will not let Anderson County or any county have the final say. That goes to the Planning Commission on zoning -- not zoning, but certain issues on development. County council does have final say on zoning issues. It goes before the Planning Commission first. We do have the final say on it. And all this is dictated by state law.

Also, I’m going to put a committee together and work with staff about notifications. I’m going to see what we can do
and be realistic about it. If there’s thirty thousand people
in District 5, we can’t email -- I don’t have -- we’re going
to do a better way than the way we’re doing business. We’re
going to find a better way to notify somebody and get the word
out the best way we can. And let y’all know. And I want to
have community input -- this affects y’all -- about this. I
want to have -- I offered it last council meeting at the end,
my phone number is 844-3765. Y’all call me any time. I’d
love to answer -- get a meeting with y’all. Get a meeting set
up, go down there, whoever, whatever, for the simple reason to
answer some questions and get some confusions out.

We still, to this day, someone is calling stuff a tiny
home versus this. The developer, whatever you’re going to
call the guy down there doing this, never ever, my
understanding, never mentioned tiny homes. It’s a RV park.
We need to, we need to communicate and let people know. And I
want you to come. I appreciate seeing y’all at meetings.
Hope you come to some more. But if y’all will call me or set
up something, I’ll be glad to go in the area down there and
meet and answer any questions we can and try to find a better
way to do things. I’m all about that. Ain’t none of us
perfect and we’ve found that in the last few weeks.

Mr. Davis’s area is getting hit -- slammed very hard up
there about development. And we just don’t need every piece
of dirt to be developed if we can’t handle the growth. And
that’s all over the county. And we’re concerned -- I’m just
concerned about what’s going on in District 6 as I am in my
own district. Because what’s good for one district is good
for all the county. And what’s harmful for part of the county
is harmful for all of us. We need to -- I think for the most
part, most council members feel that way.

But I do want to, again, put this in the thing and get
back. On another note earlier, the flag lots, I’ll be putting
a committee together on the flag lots because I want the staff
to be part of this, council to be part of this, and plus the
people that’s going to be affected, the surveyors, about this,
and make sure we can get all -- if nothing else, because what
I’m hearing tonight, for whatever reason, there’s been a
misunderstanding, if nothing else, you might not like it, but
I want everybody to understand this is the way it’s
interpreted and this is the way it’s going to be in Anderson
County.

So we can get this worked out. Ain’t no right this or
that. We need to be uniform across it and it needs to be
standard and it needs to be consistent how we do things. So
we want to make sure that is that.

But I appreciate it. Appreciate you coming out tonight
and appreciate -- I know we’re going through some tough times
and we’re going to get through this, though, with prayers and
God’s help.
Thank y'all very much. Meeting will be adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:02 P.M.