



## CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Chester County Government Complex – Council Chambers  
1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC 29706

June 15, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Chairman Shane Stuart - Presiding

### Minutes

**IN ATTENDANCE: CHAIRMAN STUART  
VICE CHAIRMAN BRANHAM  
COUNCIL MEMBER OLIPHANT  
COUNCIL MEMBER GUY  
COUNCIL MEMBER JORDAN  
COUNCIL MEMBER LUCAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLCOMBE  
COUNTY ATTORNEY WINTERS**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation**
- III. Consent Agenda for the Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Stuart stated he would like to start using the consent agenda format. This will make the meetings be more efficient, if no one has an objection all items can be voted on. Council Member Oliphant motioned to approve to adopt the consent agenda format, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Attorney Winters explained if you have four things on the agenda such as minutes, appointments to the board if no one has an objection all four items can be voted on. If a Council Member has questions concerning one of the items the rest could be voted on and the other discussed. **Vote was unanimous.**

Vice Chairman Branham motioned to amend the agenda by adding two personal items to Executive Session, seconded by Council Member Oliphant. **Vote was unanimous.**

**1. Chester County Council Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2015**

Council Member Lucas motioned to approve the June 1, 2015 County Council minutes, seconded by Council Member Oliphant. **Vote was unanimous.**

**2. Chester County Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2015**

Council Member Lucas motioned to approve the April 7, 2015 County Council minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Branham. **Vote was unanimous.**

**3. Chester County Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2015**

Council Member Lucas motioned to approve/correct minutes. Council Member Lucas stated he and Council Member Guy was present, but the minutes shown they were absent. Council Member Guy seconded the motion with the corrections. **Vote was unanimous.**

**IV. Citizens Comments-** No one signed up to speak.

**V. Public Hearing**

**1. AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF CHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2015; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR CHESTER COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2015; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX REVENUES AND OTHER COUNTY FUNDS; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER COUNTY PURPOSES; TO AUTHORIE THE COUNTY TO BORROW MONEY IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPAYMENT OF SUMS BORROWED BY THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF TORT CLAIMS AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS AGAINST CHESTER COUNTY; TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT.**

John Agee, Fire Chief for Richburg stated he had asked for \$15,000 dollars in the rural fire budget to purchase a pump for his tanker to shuttle water in and out of Giti tire. They need a plan of action in order to supply Giti with fire protection.

Mr. Agee spoke for the Fire Chief Association, he stated the County sent out W4 forms to all the fireman in the County so they could be taxed by the IRS. In 2010 Congress allowed the volunteers incentive plan to elapse. Senator Chuck Schumer and Senator Susan Collins currently are trying to reintroduce it to be exempt.

Jay Williams of 1652 Woods Rd, a member of the Lewis Fire Department and Chairman of the Lewis Fire Department stated he went to several budget meetings and realizes there is no extra money in the budget, he can't understand why there is \$650,000 dollars in the utility budget that pays all the utilities in buildings and fuel bills for all the vehicles in the county except for rural fire. Mr. Williams stated rural fire is on a monthly budget, in the first three months they were \$800 dollars over in fuel. They had to raise

that amount through donations in order to pay. Council had stated they would not let this happen they would fund the extra money needed. He was told to go through rural fire to get the money but has not received an answer, needs enough money to get back and forth to fires.

**2. AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE POSTPONEMENT UNTIL PROPERTY TAX YEAR 2016 OF REASSESSMENT AND REVISED PROPERTY VALUES RESULTING FROM THE EQUALIZATION PROGRAM AS PROVIDED PRSUANT TO SECTION 12-43-217 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED.**

No one signed up to speak.

**3. AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY OF CHESTER, BY CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL, TO SELL THE REAL ESTATE CHESTER COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 201-06-06-034-000 AND IS KNOWN AS THE FORMER EMS BUILDING LOCATED AT 193 COLUMBIA STREET, UPON SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS DESCRIBED IN AN APPROVED AGREEMENT OF SALE.**

No one signed up to speak.

## **VI. Ordinances & Resolutions**

**1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance.**

Council Member Lucas motioned to discuss, seconded by Vice Chairman Branham. Council Member Oliphant stated currently wages for five employees are at minimum wage at around \$18,000 dollars and asked if this could be raised before the third reading. We lose so many good employees by being overworked and under paid. Need to try to be more competitive with the surrounding counties, maybe in the next three or four years we will be in better shape to make this happen. He also stated these matters could be addressed at another work shop.

Councilman Lucas stated the Lewis Fire Department was not included in the budget for this year and they recently got passed for their district.

Tommy Darby, Finance Manager stated the funding Mr. Williams was referring to falls under the rural fire department and is general funding. They are allocated around \$98,000 dollars for all the fire departments in the County which is used to pay for fuel and utilities etc.

Chairman Stuart stated the utilities had been discussed at budget meetings to be covered.

Mr. Darby stated yes, Council has re-appropriated funding to cover the overages in the past.

Councilman Jordan asked how the Woods ferry money received will be used in the budget since it's designated for school security.

Mr. Darby stated typically the monies was used to offset the Counties cost for school resource officers, since the schools have hired private security the monies must go to roads or schools.

Chairman Stuart stated he would like to see the money go to ATL but left up to the Council to decide.

Council Member Jordan motioned to amend the budget to designate the Woods ferry money to the school district.

Attorney Winters asked Vice Chairman Branham to withdraw his second and Council Member Lucas to withdraw his motion.

Council Member Jordan repeated his motion to amend the budget to designate the Woods ferry money to the school district, seconded by Council Member Guy.

**Vote was unanimous.**

Council Member Jordan motioned to approve the amended 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance, seconded by Vice Chairman Branham. **Vote was 5-1 to approve. Council Member Holcombe voted against.**

2. **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE POSTPONEMENT UNTIL PROPERTY TAX YEAR 2016 OF REASSESSMENT AND REVISED PROPERTY VALUES RESULTING FROM THE EQUALIZATION PROGRAM AS PROVIDED PRSUANT TO SECTION 12-43-217 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED.** Council Member Lucas motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Jordan. **Vote was unanimous.**

3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the Third Amendment to Fee Agreement for Haile Gold Mine.**

Council Member Lucas stated hundred and sixty people have been hired and plan to hire three hundred and fifty more by the end of the year. The County gets 1% of the funds, Tommy Darby stated we get more than what we pay out.

4. **1<sup>st</sup> Reading on an ordinance to approve a renewal lease agreement for ResCare.** Attorney Winters stated the lease agreement was approved by Council. The Res Care is a contractor hired by the State of South Carolina to assist with what use to be the South Carolina Employment Security Commission but now is called the Department of Employment Workforce. They lease space in the basement at the library and the lease is up for renewal.

Chris Winters, Vice Chairman of the Library stated the group works with trouble youth that has lost their way. Through education from ResCare it gets them back inot the community with jobs. Some of the youth volunteer at the library. The office is open four days a week and the students attend three of the four days.

Chairman Stuart asked how the public would know where to go to find information concerning ResCare.

Mr. Winters stated through the Employment Office. Council Member Jordan motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Holcombe. **Vote was unanimous.**

**VII. New Business-** No new Business

**VIII. Boards and Commissions**

1. Consent Agenda for the following new appointments submitted by County Supervisor Shane Stuart (Tab #5)

- i. Appointment of Calvin E. Loving to the Assessment Board of appeals Council Member Oliphant motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Holcombe. **Vote was unanimous.**

- ii. Appointment of Jilson Sorrell to the Accommodations Tax Board Council Member Holcombe motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Oliphant. **Vote was unanimous.**

- iii. Appointment of Betty Gail Nicholls to the Chester County Rural Fire Commission Council Member Jordan motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Oliphant. **Vote was unanimous.**

2. Consent Agenda for the following re-appointments submitted by County Supervisor Shane Stuart

- i. Reappointment of Bertheia Washington-Kelly to the Hazel Pittman Board

- ii. Reappointment of JoAnn Guyton to the Chester County Library Board of Trustees

- iii. Reappointment of Jerry Williams to the Richburg Fire District

- iv. Reappointment of Jack Cabrey to the Planning Commission

Council Member Holcombe motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Lucas. **Vote was unanimous.**

**IX. Executive Session**

Chairman Stuart called for a motioned to go to Executive Session. **Council Member Guy motioned to go in to Executive Session, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Vote was unanimous.** Time was 6:55 pm.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:50 pm: Council Member Lucas motioned to go back to regular session seconded by **Vice Chairman Branham. Vote was unanimous.**

Vice Chairman Branham motioned to appoint Council Member Lucas to sign the minutes as the Clerk of Council, seconded by Council Member Oliphant. **Vote was unanimous.**

1. Personnel Matter to discuss pending employment action.  
**No action taken**
2. Legal advice in reference to legislation  
**No discussion or action was taken.**
3. Two Personal Matters.  
**No discussion or action was taken.**

**X. Council Comments**  
None

**XI. Adjourn**  
Council Member Lucas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Guy.  
**Vote was unanimous.**

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Shane Stuart, Chester County  
Council Chair & County Supervisor

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Council Member Archie Lucas  
Interim Clerk to County Council

Minutes from June 15, 2015