ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2006
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Gunnells, Vice Chairman Simpson, Councilman O'Quinn, Councilman Davis, Councilman Calhoun and Councilman Norris.

ABSENT: Councilman Thomas

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gunnells called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Gunnells led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Councilman Norris gave the invocation.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:

Chairman Gunnells stated for the record that both the Press and Banner and the Index Journal were notified of the meeting and that the meeting was posted on County Buildings as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2006, regular county council meeting. Vice Chairman Simpson seconded the motion. Councilman Norris made an addition to the Public Safety Committee to include the possibility of placing an ambulance in the Lake Secession area in the future. The motion carried 5-0-1 with Councilman O'Quinn abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Jimmy Davis of Lee Street, Abbeville spoke with Council in regards to the backlog of court. The solicitor has no right to dismiss cases. There are only three reasons why this backlog exists, either the Solicitor has no help, is lazy or incompetent. Who is going to decide cases to hear? Law and order is law and order, we live here. How would you feel if it was your family affected and the person was allowed to plead down to a lesser charge?

Mr. Steve McDade, Director of Emergency Services informed Council that the cooperative project that had won the 2006 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award placed second at the International Association of Emergency Conference. He stood with Fire Chief Dan Evatt and Sheriff Charles Goodwin to again thank Council for all their support.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

a) Third reading of an ordinance (06-14) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map for a one (1) acre tract of land located on Hwy. 72 West and identified by tax map number 134-00-00-183 from General Residential (GR) to General Commercial (GC). Councilman Davis made a motion to approve third reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval to cancel the December 25th, 2006 meeting due to the Christmas Holidays. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the cancellation. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

a) First Readings: New Policy – All first readings are read into the record by the Chairman, and a vote is not necessary.

    1) An ordinance (06-15) providing for the transfer of authority for conducting Town of Due West Municipal Elections to the Abbeville County Registration and Elections Commission.

    2) An ordinance (06-16) to amend the Abbeville County Road System, Ordinance 2000-5, index of roads maintained by Abbeville County, South Carolina by adding State Park Road to the County Road System.

    3) An ordinance (06-17) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map for a one (1) acre tract of land located at Nance Road and Sunset Cove and identified by tax map number 054-00-00-412 from Forest/Agricultural (FA) to General Residential (GR).

    4) An ordinance (06-18) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map for a 4.184 acre tract of land located at Bera Simpson Road, Vineyard Road and Songbird Lane and identified by tax map number 054-00-00-231 from Forest/Agricultural (FA) to General Residential (GR).

b) Resolutions:

1) A resolution (06-65) authorizing the County Director to enter into an agreement with the Solicitor of the Eighth Judicial Circuit to implement Abbeville County's Worthless Check Program. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman O'Quinn seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Finance Committee—Ray Gunnells, Claude Thomas and Billy Norris. No report was given.

b) Personnel and Administration—Mike Davis, Jeff Simpson and Claude Thomas. No report was given.

c) Public Works—Jeff Simpson, Larry O'Quinn and Billy Norris. No report was given.

d) Intergovernmental Relations—Billy Norris, Mike Davis and John Calhoun. No report was given.

e) Planning and Industrial Development—Claude Thomas, Ray Gunnells and John Calhoun. No report was given.

f) Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare—John Calhoun, Jeff Simpson and Larry O'Quinn. No report was given.

g) Public Safety—Larry O'Quinn, John Calhoun and Billy Norris. Councilman O'Quinn reported to Council that the Public Safety Committee has met and recommended that the QRV unit be placed permanently at the Diamond Hill Convenience Center. Councilman O'Quinn made a motion to approve this recommendation. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1-0 with Vice Chairman Simpson opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman O'Quinn to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter in regards to the morgue, a legal issue on non-agenda items and personnel issues on retirees and the County Director. Vice Chairman Simpson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Gunnells reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced that one issue needed to be addressed.

Chairman Gunnells made a motion to increase the County Director's salary by $5,000. Councilman O'Quinn seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion Councilman O'Quinn made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Done this 27th day of November, 2006

Abbeville County Council

By: _____
Ernest R. Gunnells, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: _____
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council