PUBLIC HEARING:

a) 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). Hearing no comment, Vice Chairman Simpson closed the public hearing.

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2006
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Gunnells, Vice Chairman Simpson, Councilman Thomas, Councilman Davis, Councilman Calhoun and Councilman Norris.

ABSENT: Councilman O'Quinn

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chairman Simpson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Councilman Norris gave the invocation.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:

Vice Chairman Simpson 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:

Chairman Gunnells made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2006, regular county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Charles Magaha of 2930 Highway 20, Abbeville, informed council that he was approached by a group of concerned citizens to speak on the Lake Secession QRV. He is one of the Rural Fire Service Founders for Abbeville County. He has no personnel stake in the Lake Secession QRV placement. Verbal promises were made to the Lake Secession residents by EMS representatives, but not kept. These promises were detailed in the written minutes taken at meetings.

Officer Raymond Vandiver of 189 Beltline Road, Abbeville, informed Council that the Public Defender was costing the County $272,365 so far for the cost of housing inmates. The judicial system is not running fast enough. Look at the cost of hiring another Public Defender.

Chief Marion Johnson of the Sheriffs Office informed Council that there was a problem with our Judicial System. Citizens were being incarcerated for three to five years waiting to appear in General Sessions Court, which only takes place for one (1) week every six (6) weeks. The present Public Defender is not willing to speak with inmates. The Solicitor and Public Defender are not performing an adequate job for Abbeville County.

PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Elyse Benson with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service for the 96th District informed Council that she was at their service. We are a non-profit organization which has the ability to seek and write grants for public projects and we are a member of the Grant Station grant search program, and you can request this grant service at any time. I also offer basic grant writing workshops upon request.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) Second 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 Calhoun made a motion to approve second reading. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1-0 with Councilman Thomas against.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

b) Resolutions:

   1) A resolution (06-63) to authorize the transfer of $4,813.39 from the Local Option Sales Tax Account to the General Fund. Chairman Gunnells made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

2) A resolution (06-64) to authorize the expenditure of Accommodation Tax monies as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Committee. Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Calhoun 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 Norris reported to Council that the Public Safety Advisory Committee has recommended that the QRV unit be placed temporarily at the Diamond Hill Convenience Center and that the Public Safety Committee determine its permanent position. In addition the committee will look into the possibility of placing an ambulance in the area in the future.

A motion was made by Councilman Norris to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter between counties, the GIS System, a Spec. Building and a legal client privilege. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Vice Chairman Simpson reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced that no action was needed following executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Done this 13th day of November, 2006

Abbeville County Council

By: _____
Ernest R. Gunnells, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: _____
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council