PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 2005
MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Forrester

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gunnells called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Gunnells led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Councilman Thomas 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 agenda was posted on County Buildings as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a) Councilman Calhoun made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2005 county council meeting. Councilman Simpson seconded the motion. Councilman Thomas made a few changes. The motion carried 5-0-1 as amended with Councilman Thomas abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Simpson made a motion to add item #6 for discussion on green boxes in Lowndesville. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Councilman Norris made a motion to add item #7 for discussion purposes in regards to Christmas bonus' for County employees. Councilman Davis 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.

b) Resolutions:

1) A resolution (78-05) authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual relationship with Snead Builders Supply Company of Greenwood for the purchase of materials to finish the interior of the Farmer's Market. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

2) A resolution (79-05) authorizing the County Director to change the Lakeland's Commerce Center contract for engineering with Wilbur Smith Associates of Columbia, south Carolina for the design, permitting and construction observation of the storm water detention pond at the Lakeland's Commerce Center. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

3) A resolution (80-05) to update the digital phone system used by County Administration and others occupying the building located at 101 Church Street. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Simpson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

4) A resolution (81-05) authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual relationship with Banc of America Leasing & Capital, LLC regarding a lease-Finance agreement for the purchase of new hardware and software to update the Clerk of Court's office. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

5) A resolution (82-05) authorizing the County Director to purchase a court indexing, fines/fee, bench warrants, family court, clerk bookkeeping, clerk inquiry and new server for the Clerk of Court's office for Abbeville County from Smith Data and to convert existing records to the new system at a cost not to exceed $75,000.00. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

6) Council instructed Mr. Buddy Agan the head of the Public Works Department to extend the termination date for Green Boxes for the Town

of Lowndesville. The new termination date is January 31, 2006. Chairman Gunnells also asked the Public Works Committee to explore and report back to council proposals to enhance waste collection points throughout the county.

7) Council discussed the possibility of Christmas bonus for Abbeville employees for 2005. Interim County Director Walker stated the he would investigate the possibility and report back to Council at the next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Interim County Director Larry Walker let Council know that the Clerk of Court's audit had begun.

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, Billy Norris and David Forrester. No report was given.

d) Intergovernmental Relations—Billy Norris, Mike Davis and John Calhoun. The committee recommends reappointing Mr. Alan Hughes, Mr. Johnny Goodwin and nominating Mr. John Elingburg to the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board. Nominating Ms. Janie Brownlee to the Library Board and reappointing Mr. James Irwin to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Council approved the recommendations 6-0-0.

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 David Forrester. No report was given.

g) Public Safety—David Forrester, John Calhoun and Billy Norris. No report was given.

h) Ad Hoc Committee—Claude Thomas, Jeff Simpson and Billy Norris. No report was given.

i) Ad Hoc Committee was formed by Chairman Gunnells to study the relocation of paid Paramedics in the North East part of the County. This committee would consist of Chairman Gunnells, Charles Goodwin, Steve McDade, Ricky Busby, Darrell Smith, Randy Ruble, Carroll Ellis and Dan

Evatt. Chairman Gunnells reported to-date; they had met and were looking for available grant money.

A motion was made by Councilman Simpson to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal advice attorney client privilege matter, a contractual matter on fire equipment and personnel issues in regards to merit pay raise, employee holidays, audit and County Director. Councilman Norris 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.

a) Councilman Norris made a motion to approve resolution (83-05) rescinding resolution 73-05 designating December 23rd and 26th as the official Christmas holidays for Abbeville County employees for 2005. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

b) Councilman Thomas made a motion to cancel the December 26, 2005, County Council meeting. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

c) Councilman Thomas motioned to give a 2% across the board increase in salary for elected officials with certain conditions as outlined by Council. Expectations are: improved on-going communication, timely reporting, quality reports and effective responses to council's requests. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Done this 12th day of December, 2005

Abbeville County Council

By: Ray Gunnells
Ray Gunnells, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: Lynn Sopolosky
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council