ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 23, 2002

PRESENT: Chairman Walker, Vice Chairman Gunnells, Councilmen Thomas, Calhoun, Brown, Norris, Forrester, Director Doug Burns, Attorney Pruitt, Clerk to Council Carol Chrisley.

Chairman Walker opened the public hearing on the following issue:
Consideration of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes agreement between Alladin/Mohawk and Abbeville County. No public input was received, and the Chairman closed the public hearing.

I. Chairman Walker called the meeting to order. Councilman Scott Brown delivered the Invocation.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the December 9, 2002 minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Claude Thomas to approve the minutes as written. The motion received second from Councilman Billy Norris. There being no further discussion, the Chairman called for the vote. The motion passed 7-0-0.

II. Presentation

No presentation was made.

III. Committee Reports

No reports were provided by the following committees: Personnel and Administration; Finance; Public Works; Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare; Public Safety; Ad-Hoc Committee on Office Space; and, Ad-Hoc Committee on Computerization. Several items were discussed in the report provided by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. First, Chairman Forrester of the Committee requested that the issue of the appointment to the Piedmont Technical Board be moved to New Business on the Agenda. All agreed to this. Mr. Forrester then made a motion to appoint Tammy Ashley and Arlene Smith as squad appointments to the EMS Commission. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for the vote. The motion carried 7-0-0. Chairman Forrester then made a motion to appoint Mr. William Bagwell to the Library Board. Councilman Ray Gunnells seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The motion carried 7-0-0. Councilman Forrester then informed the Council that an advertisement is currently running requesting applicants for the Building Codes of Appeals. As soon as the applications are submitted, it will be forwarded to his Committee for action.

Councilman Gunnells mentioned that he had received a synopsis and cost estimate on the improvements planned by the Fire Commission on the old agriculture building. He stated

he would have copies of this made and provided to each council member prior to the next meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

The first item for consideration was third reading of an ordinance to extend the Donalds-Due West water/sewer service area further into western Abbeville County. Councilman Thomas mentioned that issues still needed to be addressed. He made a motion to table this issue. Councilman Billy Norris seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Chairman called for the vote. The motion carried 7-0-0. These motions were withdrawn.

The second item for consideration was the expenditure of Title III funds. The Natural Resources Conservation Education Advisory Committee recommended how these funds should be expended. At the last meeting, several County departments requested that this recommendation be amended to allow $9000.00 for expenditure by public service departments. The County Director recommended that the recommendation be amended to allow the expenditure of $6,000.00 by these public service departments. A motion was made by Councilman Billy Norris to allow the expenditure of $9,000.00 by the public service departments with the remaining expenditures to be reduced as determined by the Abbeville County Soil and Water Conservation District. Councilman Scott Brown seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The motion passed 6-1-0 with Chairman Walker voting against the motion.

The third item for consideration was third reading on an ordinance authorizing a FILOT agreement between Alladdin/Mohawk Industries and Abbeville County. A motion was made by Councilman Forrester to approve the ordinance. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Chairman called for the vote. The motion passed 7-0-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The first item under consideration was a resolution authorizing the Abbeville County Treasurer to transfer $37,553.33 from the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) account to the General Fund. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Brown to approve the resolution. Councilman Claude Thomas seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Chairman called for the vote. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The second item under consideration was a resolution authorizing the Abbeville County Treasurer to transfer $68,223.38 from the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) account to the General Fund. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Brown to approve the resolution. Councilman Billy Norris seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The third item under consideration was a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for the lease of a digital mailing system at a cost not to exceed $609.00 per month for 63 months. The total cost not to exceed $38,367. A motion was made by Councilman Billy Norris to approve the resolution. John Calhoun seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the Chairman called for the vote. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The fourth item under consideration was the appointment to the Piedmont Technical College Board. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee—Councilman Forrester—asked for nominations for this vacancy. Councilman Norris made a motion to appoint Mr. Farmer to the Board. Councilman Gunnells seconded it. Councilman Claude Thomas made a motion to appoint Ms. Goodwin to the Board. Councilman Calhoun seconded it. Councilman Thomas expressed to council his desire for fairness and equity in the composition of this Board, and therefore supported Ms. Goodwin. Councilman Norris mentioned that he had spoken with Mr. Farmer, and that Mr. Farmer pledged to do a good job if appointed. Councilman Forrester also mentioned that he had spoken with Mr. Farmer, and that he felt he would do a good job. There being no further discussion the Chairman called for a vote. Mr. Farmer received three votes and Ms. Goodwin received four. Ms. Goodwin is the official appointment to the Piedmont Technical College Board.

Councilman Gunnells mentioned to the Board that he had been informed by the Donalds-Due West Water Authority of their intent to lay a water line down Hagan Road. The proposed line would be a 3" line that would serve 6-8 residents. Former Councils requested the Authority inform them when they intended to lay lines less than 6" in size thereby unable to provide fire protection. A line must be a minimum of 6" to provide necessary water flow for fire protection. Councilman Gunnels mentioned that the additional cost would be $11,664 to increase the size of the line. The County would pay this additional cost. The Chairman and Councilman Brown expressed concern with this issue. They wanted a greater understanding of what is planned along Hagan Road along with a capital improvements plan for approximately three (3) years. The capital improvements plan will allow council to determine approximate monies necessary to upgrade planned water lines. This was submitted for information only, and additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

The final issue under new business was a request by the County Director for authorization to file a letter of intent to seek grants monies for recreational purposes at the Wright Middle School. The County Director informed Council that this is neither a commitment nor an application, and the County is not bound by the letter of intent. A motion was made by Chairman Walker to authorize the Director to file the letter of intent. Councilman Claude Thomas seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the Chairman called for the vote. The motion passed 7-0-0.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The County Director updated the Council on the mid-year South Carolina Association of Counties conference. He requested they let him know if they wish to attend as soon as possible. He further informed them that all applications have been received for Accommodations Tax monies, and that they have been forwarded to the Accommodations Tax Committee. They will meet in January to make a recommendation on the requested funding. Finally he informed Council that the next Council meeting would be held at the Civic Center in Calhoun Falls

Councilman Gunnells made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilman Gunnels made a motion to come out of executive session. Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0. The Chairman informed the public that nothing was decided in executive session.

Councilman Ray Gunnels made a motion to adjourn. John Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Council adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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