

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 28, 2007**

The Committee of the Whole Committee met on Tuesday, August 28, 2007 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 3:35 p.m. Mr. Derrick, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

William C. Billy Derrick, Chairman	Debra B. Debbie Summers, V Chairman
James E. Kinard, Jr.	Bobby C. Keisler
Johnny W. Jeffcoat	John W. Carrigg, Jr.
M. Todd Cullum	

Absent:

George H. Smokey Davis*
William B. Banning, Sr.*

* Messrs. Davis and Banning were not present due to conflicts in their schedule.

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Fire Service Leadership Update - Public Safety/Fire Service - Perry Bailey – Mr. Bailey reported on the Fire Service Leadership. He said the Fire Service is facing a serious challenge in stopping fires in Lexington County and the challenge is being met through public education, inspections, code enforcement, training and emergency response. The Leadership team is working on a unified agenda and maturing into a valuable asset for the County and the most visible sign of change is the Fire Service website with the operating standards. One of the newest standards is how they manage fund raisers. The Leadership team is focused on visioning by looking forward, what is coming and how they will respond to it; managing change in an intelligent manner; applying technology where it can help; matching the new developments the County has so they are prepared, and get the new developments the services they need; and continuing to align the Fire Service values to the community's values. For information only. No action taken.

Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism Overview - Richard A. Luber, President & CEO – Mr. Luber is the new president and Chief Executive Officer for the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism. He was accompanied by Mr. Bert Pooser, the County appointed board member for the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism. Mr. Luber gave a brief overview of the structure of the Authority which oversees four separate entities with four different budgets; the Convention Center, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Visitor Information Centers, and the Sports Council. He said they have restructured the organization to provide better services and bring in bigger events to the Convention Center. Mr. Luber presented each member a copy of the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism Annual Report FY 2007. For information only. No action taken.

Ground Maintenance/Landscaping Committee Report - Katherine Hubbard, County

Administrator – Mr. Rhett Bickley, Community Development and Mr. Bob Hall, Building Services, presented a Power Point presentation from the Ground Maintenance/Landscaping Committee for the Grounds Beautification Project for the County. The project has been broken down in two phases; Phase I – Main Street/South Lake Drive Complex consisting of the Administration Building, Courthouse and the Judicial Center and Phase II – Auxiliary Administration Building consisting of just that complex area. The plan includes removing some of the existing material, adding topsoil, adding a sprinkler system, planting trees and plants, and mulching the areas. \$200,000 has been budgeted towards a ground maintenance/landscaping project. Staff has been requested to develop an ordinance to save the County's trophy trees.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to that staff move forward with the recommendations for the Grounds Beautification Project.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of July 24, 2007 – A motion was made by Mr. Cullum, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve the July 24, 2007 minutes as submitted.

The vote was unanimous.

Old Business/New Business - Revised Building Use and Naming Policy - No discussion.

New Business – Budget Process –As an item of new business, it was suggested, as a topic for discussion at the upcoming strategic planning retreat, that during the budget process we look at holding the CPI and growth and have a recommended budget based on the current millage and revenue generated by that millage first. And then, save the CPI and growth for new programs, increase personnel costs, etc., if needed. Staff was asked to bring any pitfalls and/or benefits to Council to assist in the decision making process. The Strategic Planning Retreat is planned for Sunday, October 14 and Monday, October 15.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

William C. Billy Derrick
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk