

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 24, 2007**

The Committee of the Whole Committee met on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 3:55 p.m. Mr. Derrick, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

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

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 was unable to be present for the Fire Service Leadership update due to a family emergency. He will provide an update at the August 28th meeting.

Wireless Telecommunications Update - Telecommunication Committee - Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator – Ms. Hubbard presented a report from the Telecommunications Committee on Wireless Communications. The Telecommunications Committee has provided recommendations for county wireless telecommunications strategies for the new fiscal year and for future action. The Committee consists of: Bill Byrd, a member of the International Standards Committee for Wireless Communications; Boykin Roseborough, who has been involved with 800 mega hertz (mhz) communications for many years; Mike Ujcich, CIO with the South Carolina Chief Information Office; and staff members; Jim Scafer, Information Services; Larry Porth, Finance; Sheila Fulmer, Procurement; and Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator. The Committee will continue to explore a county wireless telecommunications network. It was recommended that the Telecommunications Committee meet with State representatives who are working on the state wireless network and investigate taking the County's communications system to the next level. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, July 26. Ms. Hubbard will report at the August 28 meeting with the long term plans for wireless communications. It was also recommended to consider short term contracts for wireless communications due to the significant changes in technology. One of the options is to allow use of a mobile device instead of an air-card, which is currently being done with the Nextel telephone cards and air-cards. The Committee recommended moving forward with a

limited contract for a very limited number of users for the Blackberry or smart phone device on state contract through the Nextel/Sprint contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's recommendations.

The vote was in favor. Mr. Keisler was not present at the time the vote was taken.

Mr. Derrick mentioned that at the Telecommunications Committee meeting on Thursday, July 26, the Committee would like to volunteer the County to be a part of a pilot program with the State to tie into a system, similar to a WiMAX type system, that would allow the state of South Carolina to lead east coast wireless telecommunications. WiMAX, the Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access, is a telecommunications technology aimed at providing wireless data over long distances in a variety of ways, from point-to-point links to full mobile cellular type access. The County has the infrastructure to make it happen whereas other counties do not have the infrastructure to participate.

Old Business/New Business - Revised Building Use and Naming Policy – None.

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