

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2008**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 2:55 p.m. Mr. Derrick, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

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

Absent:

* George H. Smokey Davis

*Mr. Davis was not present due to medical reasons.

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Joe Mergo, Deputy 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.

Executive Session/Legal Briefing – A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Mr. Kinard to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter.

The vote was in favor. Ms. Summers was not present at the time the vote was taken.

Mr. Derrick reconvened the meeting in open session with one motion to be considered.

Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement with Nextel - A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve the Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement with Nextel subject to review and approval of the County's attorney.

The vote was in favor. Ms. Summers was not present at the time the vote was taken.

Lexington County's Bank Deposit Collateralization Update (Goal 3) - Finance and Treasurer's Office - Larry Porth, Finance Director and Assistant County Administrator and Brad Mathis, Deputy Treasurer (Collections & Investments) – Mr. Porth gave an update on the County's Bank Deposit Collateralization in the event of possible problems with the banking industry today. He reported that the policy of the County is to obtain adequate collateralization on all deposits that exceed FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)

insurance - that is \$100,000 on any account. The custody of all funds for the county and school districts is maintained by the Treasurer's office and is handled by the Deputy Treasurer, Brad Mathis. At June 2007, the fair value of all investments was \$97.7 million and \$91.9 million of that was in the State Treasurer's investment pool. Mr. Porth said all deposits are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the federal government. For information only – no action taken.

Mid-Year Local Government Fund Cut Update (Goal 3) - Finance - Larry Porth, Finance Director and Assistant County Administrator – Mr. Porth reported on the Mid-Year Local Government Fund cut made by the SC Budget and Control Board. He said the State government pool is funded based upon a certain formula on the last completed state budget. The Board passed a three percent across the board cut for this year by a separate vote, according to the statute (§6-27-20), to reduce the Local Government Fund which will affect the County's budget by almost \$400,000. The one cut by the State will have an effect on the County's budget for FY2008/09 and FY2009/10. Mr. Porth said that this is roughly .0042 percent of the county's total budget. He reported that a budget amendment will be presented to reflect the reduction in the County's contingency. For information only – no action taken.

Proposed Branding Campaign - Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism - Ric Luber, President and CEO – Mr. Luber presented a Power-point presentation along with posters introducing the proposed branding campaign for Columbia. He said the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism (MACST) has launched a new marketing campaign to attract individuals from beyond its borders to the Columbia area. The campaign is built on Columbia's greatest assets—it's happening nightlife, sizzling cuisine, fiery music and arts scene, and of course, the heat. The new branding campaign being launched is "Columbia, SC - Famously Hot." Mr. Luber introduced Ms. Kelly Barbrey, MACST Vice President of Sales and Marketing; Ms. Lora Prill with ADCO, the company that put the program together; and Mr. John Durst, MACST Board Chairman. For information only – no action taken.

Ordinance 08-03 - Landscape Ordinance Amendments (Goal 2) - Planning and GIS - Charlie Compton, Director – Mr. Compton reviewed key issues regarding Ordinance 08-03 - Landscape Ordinance Amendments. He said key issues include the Planning Commission's recommendation to expand the ordinance County-wide and changes to the sign restrictions in order to coordinate the transition of properties into municipalities through annexation. Staff requested permission to move forward with a County-wide Landscape Ordinance proposal and return with a proposed draft for sign restriction changes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cullum, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to recommend to full Council to allow staff to move forward and made the proposed changes for Council review to the Landscape Ordinance.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Update on Out-of-State Vehicle License Tags - Auditor's Office - Chris Harmon, Auditor – Mr. Harmon reported on out-of-state vehicle license tags in Lexington County. He said there is a

collaborative effort between his office, the Sheriff's Department and the Treasurer and there is a report form available on the Auditor's web-page for citizens to report out-of-state/expired vehicle registrations. Mr. Harmon said currently when they receive information on out-of-state tags it is given to the Sheriff's department to verify the owner and confirm if they are a legal resident. Once they are determined to owe taxes, the Auditor's office sends a courtesy letter explaining the registration laws with an affidavit to complete and return in case they do not owe taxes. If they do not respond, they are billed for the vehicle taxes. Mr. Harmon said this is where the programs as a whole stops. He said he has been working with the Treasurer's office in the next step to enforce and possibly suspend the owner's license, however, there is no way to indicate the number of out-of-state tags that are out there or see how big a problem this is for the County. The Committee asked the Auditor what Council needs to do to enforce the law in order to collect the appropriate taxes. Mr. Harmon responded they did not need assistance that they have a form available on-line for citizens to report out-of-state tags. Mr. Harmon and Mr. Mike Cummins, Deputy Auditor, answered questions about the concerns of citizens wanting to be anonymous and the issue of company cars. For information only – no action taken.

Approval of Minutes - Meetings of June 24, July 22 and August 12, 2008 - A motion was made by Mr. Carrigg, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to approve the June 24, July 22 and August 12, 2008 minutes as submitted.

The vote was in favor. Ms. Summers was not present at the time the vote was taken.

New Business – Harvest Hope Food Bank Luncheon Invitation – Mr. Banning reported Harvest Hope Food Bank has invited Council for a luncheon and tour of their facilities. Two dates were presented, September 9th and September 16th; September 16th was chosen as the best date for Council members.

Single-family Home Definition – Mr. Banning reported he had received a phone call concerning the County's definition of a single-family home. Staff requested to return with an appropriate definition.

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