

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2009**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Ms Summers, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

Debra B. Debbie Summers, Chairman	James E. Kinard, Jr., V Chairman
William C. Billy Derrick	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; 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. Davis seconded by Mr. Kinard to go into Executive Session to discuss one personnel matter, two contractual matters, and one legal matter.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Summers reconvened the meeting in open session with no motions to be considered.

County of Lexington Wrecker Regulations (Public and County-Owned Vehicles) (Goal 1) - Joe Mergo, Deputy County Administrator - Mr. Mergo presented the proposed County of Lexington Wrecker Regulations. There are two documents, one for public vehicles and one for County-owned vehicles. He reported that a group of County employees involved with wrecker services and the Stake Holders Group, which included representatives from every wrecker company that currently provides service on a rotation, met twice and provided input on the proposed wrecker regulations. Mr. Mergo said most of the regulations mirror the State Regulations that the State Highway Patrol requires for their wrecker services. He said wrecker services must be in compliance with the County Ordinance or be suspended until compliant. Other additions to the public wrecker regulations were: each wrecker will be equipped with and maintain an accurate towing log, wrecker services must apply yearly to be on rotation, all wrecker services must accept major credit cards, companies must provide names of eligible responsive drivers that correspond with the eligibility list maintained by county dispatch, only

one contract issued per contractor identified by their federal employee identification number or social security number, and, a Wrecker Rotation Disciplinary Policy and Board will enforce the wrecker regulation. He reported that copies of drivers licenses, medic cards, ten-year driving history and criminal background checks will be required for county evaluation. Wrecker classifications and towing charges are listed in the regulations. Mr. Mergo said to prevent citizens from being overcharged they will be required to go to the Sheriff's department to pick up their tow slip which will be stamped by the Sheriff's department with the rate structure on back. The Committee asked staff about transfers from the wrecker company to a repair shop where the owner wants his car released from the wrecker towing service. Mr. Mergo responded the County is only responsible from the point of the original request at which the County used the rotation list to tow the individual's car. If the owner requests their car to be towed from the wrecker company's location to another location then that is another contract between the car's owner and the other company. However the question remains as to what happens to the original tow service fee from the first wrecker company. Staff to bring back recommendations to the Committee. Staff recommends the wrecker regulations to go into effect concurrently with the third and final reading of Ordinance 09-03 - An Ordinance to Amend the Lexington County Wrecker and Towing Services Ordinance. For information only, no action taken.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of December 09, 2008 - A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to approve the December 09, 2009 minutes as submitted.

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

Old Business/New Business - Dress Code - None.

New Business - Tax Installment Payments - Staff to provide information at the February 10, 2009 meeting on businesses paying taxes in incremental payments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

Debra B. Debbie Summers
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk