

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

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 1:50 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.

**Absent:**

\* M. Todd Cullum

\*Mr. Cullum was not present due to an illness.

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.

**Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission General Obligation Bond Request – Elizabeth Taylor, Director** - Ms. Taylor presented a request for consideration of a General Obligation Bond for the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC) in the amount of \$1,030,000. The funds would be used to finance the acquisition of property in Chapin in order to expand recreation facilities in that area. Ms. Taylor said they have a little over \$1 million as a result of millage collected to service debt for the ICRC over a number of years and would like to access those funds for this purpose. This would not result in a tax increase for the citizens in the district and is in line with ICRC's strategic facility objectives. Ms. Taylor requested to be placed on the November 10<sup>th</sup> agenda for 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the General Obligation Bond. For information only, no action taken.

**Midlands Arbor Day Committee Update - Community Development - Rhett Bickley, Landscape Administrator and Heidi Johnson, Executive Director, Keep the Midlands Beautiful** – Mr. Bickley highlighted the County's landscape ordinance and its benefits. Ms. Johnson gave a brief update on the creation of the Midlands Arbor Day Committee, the participating organizations, and the many activities by the committee. Arbor Day is recognized the first Friday of December and Arbor Day Week will be celebrated Monday, November 30 through Saturday, December 3, 2009. Ms. Johnson presented handouts containing the Midlands Arbor Day Committee members, calendar of events, and other information. For information only, no action taken.

**Riverbanks Parks Future Plans - Satch Krantz, Executive Director** - Mr. Krantz presented a PowerPoint presentation on future plans for the Riverbanks Parks facility. He first introduced Lexington County Council's board appointees for the Riverbanks Park Commission, Ms. Mary Howard and Ms. Jan Stamps. Mr. Krantz said based on a recent economic impact study the Zoo's impact was about \$60 million a year, throughout the Midlands, and provides about 700 jobs in the community. He gave a brief history of Zoo expansions over years, proposed future exhibits, and the continued growth of attendance. Mr. Krantz said a \$40 million bond issue would be needed in order to carry out much needed renovations to the current infrastructure and add new exhibits. He asked Council to consider the bond issue during their upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat and how it fits in with the County's plans. Mr. Krantz said both Lexington and Richland counties have to approve the Zoo's bond issue and he would be making the same presentation before Richland County Council. For information only, no action taken.

**Approval of Minutes - Meeting of September 22, 2009** - A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to approve the September 22, 2009 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**New Business - Project Pet Update** - Mr. Joe Mergo, Deputy County Administrator, presented a virtual tour and update of the proposed Project Pet facility to be located on Bower Parkway. The targeted completion date is January 2011. He said the projected cost is estimated at \$5 million. Lexington and Richland counties have both contributed \$1.5 million along with Project Pet's \$1 million. However, Project Pet will need to provide another \$1 million in funds or in-kind donations. Mr. Mergo confirmed Project Pet's commitment to both counties is to receive 1,200 pets a year from their animal services. For information only, no action taken.

**Old Business/New Business - Tax Installment Payments, Local Contractors Procurement Incentives** - None.

**Possible Executive Session if Time Permits - Executive Session/Legal Briefing** - A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Kinard to go into Executive Session for three personnel, two contractual, and five legal matters.

The vote was unanimous.

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

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