

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2009**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 2:30 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	John W. Carrigg, Jr.
William B. Banning, Sr.	M. Todd Cullum

Absent:

*Johnny W. Jeffcoat

*Mr. Jeffcoat was not present due to a conflict with his schedule.

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.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

The 12,000 Year History Park and Greenway Connections at Congaree Creek - River Alliance - Mike Dawson, CEO - Mr. John McCartha, River Alliance Chairman, and Mr. Dawson presented a request for assistance to examine options for capital necessary to construct the proposed 12,000 Year History Park and Greenway Connections at Congaree Creek. Mr. McCartha gave a brief overview of the site and reported the National Park Service endorses the history park concept. The park would be located near the SCANA Campus and a future Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission tennis center. Mr. Dawson said the cost is estimated at approximately \$3.5 million for the park complex. The Committee asked if there

would be any entrance fees for the park facility. Mr. Dawson responded they are looking at parking fees for those taking the history tour, however, they would need to consider those just using the greenway for recreational purposes. The Committee requested the County Administrator to coordinate with the River Alliance to examine options for capital necessary to construct the park and return with recommendations to Council. For information only, no action taken.

Executive Session/Legal Briefing - A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Kinard to go into Executive Session to continue discussions until 4:00 p.m.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

Lexington County Transit Summit Report (Goal 2) - Lill Mood, Transit Summit Planning Committee - Ms. Mood presented a report for the Lexington County Transit Summit held October 15, 2009. The purpose of the summit was to begin a discussion of transit needs and possibilities for Lexington County and provide information to Lexington County Council. She provided an executive summary and a detailed report of the summit for the Committee's review with suggested recommendations. Ms. Mood reported the summit was a success with a broad range of participants representing the County's business community. Small group discussions allowed individuals to address transit issues such as growth, traffic congestion, economic development, air quality, and quality of life. Ms. Mood outlined suggested recommendations for Council's consideration including appointing a committee to continue to address transit needs for Lexington County. The Committee thanked Ms. Mood for all her work in planning the Transit Summit. For information only, no action taken.

Approval of Minutes - Meetings of October 13 and 27, 2009 - A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Mr. Kinard to approve the October 13 and 27, 2009 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

New Business - Point of Sale Assessment Legislation - Mr. Derrick reported that a bill is being considered that would eliminate point of sale assessment in order to catch property up to its current market value and replace lost revenue. He said the House has already passed the legislation and has done away with it. The Senate has had 2nd Reading. If they do away with the point of sale assessment revenue, both Lexington County and Lexington County Schools will see a reduction in funding for next year. It was suggested to contact our Senators about this pending issue. Ms. Summers requested this item to be placed on the next agenda. For information only, no action taken.

New Business - Airport Corridor Beautification Project - Ms. Summers reported about possible plans for a trip to Washington, DC to solicit funds for the Airport Corridor Beautification Project. The Committee suggested adding the River Alliance History Park Project request to the trip agenda. For information only, no action taken.

Old Business - Tax Installment Payments, Local Contractors Procurement - None.

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