

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 3:00 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.

Fallen, but not Forgotten: A Project for Lexington School District 1 Students - Daniel Hennigan - Mr. Hennigan presented information and handouts about a project for Lexington School District 1, "Fallen but not Forgotten." This is in reference to the September 11, 2001 events and White Knoll Middle School students who raised funds to buy a fire truck for New York City. Mr. Hennigan described the details of the essay project which would be entitled, "What 9-11 Means to Them." Essay winners would be recognized at the Lexington SC 911 Memorial Event and travel to New York City to participate in their 911 memorial events. Starting with May of 2009, two students will be selected from White Knoll Middle School and after that, one student from White Knoll Middle and one from School District One will be selected. The project would allow White Knoll Middle School and New York City to continue the ongoing relationship developed between South Carolina and New York since 1867. For information only, no action taken.

Tourism Economic Update - Capital City Lake Murray Country - Miriam Atria, President & CEO - Ms. Atria presented an economic update on the Capital City Lake Murray Country tourism. She reported that the Forrest Wood Cup event held in August 2008 had a total economic impact of \$46 million on the local community. The FLW went from a seven day event expanding to fourteen, which generated over \$16 million in new tourism revenues. Ms. Atria reported that over \$58 million has already been seen in the first quarter of this year from events as compared to revenues generated in 2006 at \$16 million, 2007 at \$22 million and 2008 at \$28 million. The South Carolina tourism industry presented Capital City Lake Murray Country with the 2009 Governor's Cup Award at the Annual S.C. Governor's Conference on Tourism & Travel for hosting the Forrest Wood Cup event. Information only, no action taken.

County of Lexington Wrecker Regulations (Public and County-Owned Vehicles) (Goal 1) -

Joe Mergo, Deputy County Administrator - Mr. Mergo presented proposed changes to the Wrecker Regulations. He said there was an issue about regulating wrecker companies who pulled wrecked vehicles to their shop then transferred to a body shop and overcharging. These issues will be regulated by the record log which will be required to be maintained by the wrecker service and accurately reflect all towing done by the wrecker service, including transfers to body shops. The record log will be available upon request by Lexington County for inspection. Mr. Mergo reported on the wrecker zones and how they work. Currently, there are seven wrecker zones originally set up by patrol zones which are no longer used by the Sheriff's department. The current zones have 10 wrecker service slots per zone area for a total of 70 slots. Staff recommends using Council districts as the new wrecker zones, allotting eight wrecker slots in nine districts for a total of 72 slots. Mr. Mergo listed the priority order for eligibility of wrecker services in these zones. He said that once Council has approved the wrecker ordinance and regulations the effective date is scheduled for July 1, 2009 to allow appropriate time to conduct all necessary backgrounds checks and preparations.

A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's recommendation for the wrecker regulations as submitted to be effective July 1, 2009.

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

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of January 13, 2009 - A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Kinard to approve the January 13, 2009 minutes as submitted.

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

Old Business/New Business - Dress Code, Tax Installment Payments - None.

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

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

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