

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2010**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Kinard, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

James E. Kinard, Jr., Chairman
William C. Derrick
Debra B. Summers
Johnny W. Jeffcoat

William B. Banning Sr., V Chairman
George H. Davis
Bobby C. Keisler
M. Todd Cullum

Absent:

*John W. Carrigg, Jr.

*Mr. Carrigg 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.

Update of What Boy Scouts are Doing in the Midlands - Dan Hennigan, Board of Directors, Boy Scouts of America and Doug Stone, Director of Boy Scouts of the Midlands - Mr. Hennigan introduced Mr. Doug Stone the Scout Executive for the Indian Waters Council Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Stone reported the Boy Scouts are very much alive and growing, and serves over 2,100 young people in Lexington County. The primary reason for the update today is because of the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Stone said as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary he hopes it will reintroduce scouting to the community. Upcoming events scheduled: May 8th, 100th Anniversary Parade downtown Columbia; April 15th, Annual "Friends of Scouting" Dinner; and June 3rd, Eagle Scout Career Day. For information only, no action taken.

Strategic Visioning Process - Goal #1 Update - Councilman Summers - Ms. Summers provided updates on the County's Goal #1- Provide for public services to citizens of Lexington County. She highlighted the following objectives:

- Provide stability and efficiency for uninterrupted service in the emergency operation center and emergency communication center by reducing dispatch time by 15 seconds per call. Ms. Summers reported a space study will be conducted for this project to be

completed by April 1, 2010.

- Have all fire stations staffed with two full-time employee equivalents 24/7 by the year 2020 to reduce response time. Chief Rawl is scheduled to provide an update on volunteer recruitment at the March 23 Committee meeting.
- Develop a simple and complex plan for a review process in Community Development to reduce review time by seven days. Scheduled to be completed by December 2010. Ms. Summers gave a brief overview of the proposed process.
- Provide for contracted mandatory curbside waste and recycling collection County-wide in the unincorporated areas to be completed by July 2019. A hand-out with the total number of residences and percentage of households participating was presented to the Committee.
- RTA (Regional Transit Authority) - need to establish the objective for public transportation and work towards the formation of a long-term committee to study public transportation for the County. No objective deadline date has been established.
- Homelessness - to reduce the homeless population by developing a strategy with timeline and research the possibility of utilizing CDBG funds. Ms. Summers reported Cathy Novinger will be providing an update in the near future on the homeless. No objective deadline has been established.

The Committee discussed some areas of concern regarding the objectives presented such as issuing stormwater and land disturbance permits, public transportation funding, and engineering services. Mr. John Fechtel, Public Works Director, answered questions regarding the engineering fees and charging stiffer penalties. Ms. Summers asked Mr. Fechtel to consider making adjustments and bring back recommendations to the Committee for consideration.

Ms. Hubbard reported that Goal #1 would return at the end of April or first of May. She said the plan is to have Goal #1 report out at the first month of each quarter, Goal #2 on the second month of each quarter, and Goal #3 on the third month of each quarter. She said they plan to present all the objectives with recommendations in time for the annual budget process. For information only, no action taken.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of January 26, 2010 - A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve the January 26, 2010 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Possible Executive Session if Time Permits - Executive Session/Legal Briefing - A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Summers to go into Executive Session to discuss two contractual and ten legal matters.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Kinard reconvened the meeting in open session with no motions to be considered.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

James E. Kinard, Jr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk