

MINUTES
LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 21, 2004

Lexington County Council held a special Council meeting on Monday June 21, 2004 in Council Chambers, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Davis presided; Mr. Rucker gave the invocation; Mr. Derrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending: George H. Smokey Davis Bruce E. Rucker
 William C. Billy Derrick Jacob R. Wilkerson
 Bobby C. Keisler John W. Carrigg, Jr.
 Johnny W. Jeffcoat Joseph W. Owens
 M. Todd Cullum

Also attending: Art Brooks, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Deputy County Administrator; Katherine Doucett, Personnel Director/Deputy County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; 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.

Bids/Purchases/RFPs - Request for Contract Award - Crime Statistics Electronic Reporting - Sheriff's Department - Chief Tim James, Director of Public Safety and Homeland Security -

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkerson, seconded by Mr. Rucker to approve staff's request and recommendations to award the contract for the crime statistics electronic reporting system for the Sheriff's Department to Progress Software Corporation and US Computing. This is necessary to meet the State requirements of electronically submitting crime data to SLED. The purchase of the software development from US Computing is through State Contract in the amount of \$49,400 including tax and \$6,600 to Progress Software Corporation to review the implementation of the developed software. The County has a Master Service Agreement with Progress to review any software running on Progress databases.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion.

Chief Tim James, Director of Public Safety and Homeland Security stated the crime statistics electronic reporting system is a grant that is a mandate by the State for the Sheriff's Department to merge their records with national and state databases. He stated the contract is for two separate vendors; Progress Software Corporation and US Computing. He stated Progress Software Corporation is currently under a Master Service Agreement with the County for the Sheriff's Department.

In Favor: Mr. Davis Mr. Wilkerson

Mr. Rucker	Mr. Derrick
Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
Mr. Cullum	

Committee Reports - Planning and Administration, B. Rucker, Chairman - 2004-2005 CEDS Priority Listing for Lexington County - Mr. Rucker stated the Planning and Administration Committee convened on Tuesday, June 15, 2004 to consider the 2004-2005 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Priority Listing for Lexington County.

Ms. Robin Cooley, Senior Planner with Central Midlands Council of Governments, gave the committee a brief summary of the 2004-2005 CEDS Priority Listing. She stated the listing is comprised of fourteen (14) proposed projects for fiscal year 2004-2005. Ms. Cooley said the priority list could be altered in regard to priority, if needed, by the CEDS Priority Setting Committee.

The Planning and Administration Committee voted to recommend that Council approve the 2004-2005 CEDS Priority Listing for Lexington County.

Mr. Rucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Derrick to approve the 2004-2005 CEDS priority listing for Lexington County.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Ordinances - Ordinance 04-04 - An Ordinance Adopting an Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05 - 3rd and Final Reading - Mr. Davis asked Mr. Porth, Finance Director, to give a recap of how the budget was affected during the prior Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Porth stated changes in the recommended budget that were discussed during the 6:00 p.m. meeting were either approved to be funded through millage or fund balance with the exception of Probate Court, thereby reducing the General Fund budget by \$36,621 for a revised recommended budget for approval of \$67,751,123. That means those additions to the General Fund original total of \$1,063,789 are now \$1,027,168 including the approval of one (1) mill. He stated one (1) mill generated in the first year will not have a full impact on vehicles, therefore \$610,000 was subtracted leaving \$417,168 to be funded through fund balance. The recommendation to the General Fund was one (1) mill and \$417,168 out of fund balance. Also, one-half (½) mill was recommended for the Library, .44 mill for Indigent Care, and one (1) mill for Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission. Therefore, combined total millage is 2.94 mills.

Mr. Porth stated the 2.94 mills is not all County-wide mills as the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission is a special purpose district.

Mr. Carrigg asked for a recap of all millage increases.

Mr. Porth stated one (1) mill for the General Fund, one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mill for the Library, .44 mill for Indigent Care, and one (1) mill for Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission in the areas covered by that special purpose district. Therefore, in all areas of the County it is 1.94 mills and the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission geographical area is 2.94 mills.

Mr. Cullum asked whether the one (1) mill for the General Fund was for Justice Committee recommendations.

Mr. Porth stated it is not specifically designated. He stated all the items considered are paid for out of the millage titled "County Ordinary" so you are just adding a mill to that.

Mr. Porth said if you want to say the Solicitor and Coroner came out of a mill, that is a way of saying it, but a mill is levied just as County Ordinary, it just goes into the General Fund.

Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve Ordinance 04-04.

Mr. Davis stated the approval of the budget is \$67,751,123.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Rucker stated this being his twelfth year on Council he has voted on past budgets even when there were some millage increases, however, he would not be able to support this one tonight and stated this would be the first simply because Council left out some items or added items that should not have been added and took from the fund balance, which he disagrees with. He stated because of this he is not supporting the budget; not because he does not feel that one (1) mill is needed for the library, but one and one-half ($1 \frac{1}{2}$) mills are needed for the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission and one (1) mill is needed for the Solicitor's office. He stated he could not vote for one without the other and wanted everyone to know why he could not support the first budget in twelve years.

Mr. Wilkerson stated this will be the second budget in twelve years that he has not voted to support. He stated he actually did not vote on the budget that included Air South. He stated he could not support a budget that did not include things he had promised people years ago that we (Council) would do therefore, he would not support this budget.

Mr. Jeffcoat stated he wanted to know what we (Council) need to do in order to get Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Rucker's support on the budget.

Mr. Wilkerson stated if Council will give the Lexington Recreation and Aging Commission one and one-half ($1 \frac{1}{2}$) mills, even though they requested three (3) mills and the Library one (1) mill then he will support the budget because that is what Council said they would do. He stated if that happens then he will support the budget. He said he does not like tax increases but when you talk about things like the libraries and the recreation commission they are quality of life issues. They are

things that do cost money, nothing is free, but in the long run by supporting libraries and the recreation commission you actually save money in the County. He stated the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission brings in millions of dollars every year with tournaments that they host. He stated during a tournament last week hotels were full because they were filled with softball teams. Mr. Wilkerson stated he did not like tax increases but when you talk about quality of life issues, he will support those. Why do people want to come to Lexington County? Because it is one of the greatest counties in the State, if not the greatest county in the State. You are not going to have people come in if you start cutting libraries, recreation commission, etc.; they will begin going elsewhere. Why do you not have other people flocking to other counties? Because they don't have the things that we have and yes, unfortunately things do cost money. He stated what the County is getting for the dollars is well worth it.

Mr. Jeffcoat withdrew his motion; Mr. Keisler withdrew his second.

Mr. Owens asked if Council is not going to pass the budget because we are not spending enough money to suit some people? Is that where we are?

Mr. Carrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Owens to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 04-04.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Owens asked for Council to vote it "up or down," that's the motion.

Mr. Carrigg replied, "I'm ready to get it over."

Mr. Jeffcoat replied, okay, whatever you say. He stated we have worked hard on this thing and to get to this point and everybody back off, I'll back off too. "I'm not in a hurry; I've got 'till forever; I don't ever have to vote."

Mr. Davis stated there was a motion on the floor and asked if there was further discussion; none occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
Opposed:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Cullum	

Motion fails.

Mr. Owens asked if Council has until the 30th to pass a budget.

Mr. Jeffcoat replied, or either we close the County down.

Mr. Davis advised everyone that another meeting will be scheduled to discuss the budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy K. Black
Clerk

George H. Smokey Davis
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Asst. Clerk to Council