

M I N U T E S
LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
December 11, 2012

Lexington County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 in Council Chambers beginning at 4:30 p.m. Chairman Banning presided.

Matters Requiring a Vote as a Result of Executive Session - During the afternoon meeting of the Committee of the Whole, Council entered into Executive Session to discuss seven contractual, two legal and two personnel matters but were unable to conclude. Council will have to go back into Executive Session during the meeting to conclude.

Councilman Davis gave the invocation. David Kerr, Director of Public Safety and US Army Retired Major in the Military Police Corps, led the Pledge of Allegiance

Members attending:

William B. Banning, Sr.	James E. Kinard, Jr.
Frank J. Townsend, III	George H. (Smokey) Davis
Debra B. Summers	Bobby C. Keisler
Johnny W. Jeffcoat	Kenneth Brad Matthews
M. Todd Cullum	

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; John Fechtel, 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.

Presentations - Presentation of Utility Tax Credit Funds from Comporium to the County of Lexington to Support Economic Development in Lexington County - Glenn Martin, Senior Vice-President and Ben Spearman, Vice-President - Messrs. Martin and Spearman presented a \$100,000 check representing Utility Tax Credit Funds from Comporium to the County of Lexington to support Economic Development in Lexington County.

Presentation to Lexington County as a “Fit-Friendly Company” by the American Heart Association - Murray Coleman, Director of Development, Midlands Heart Walk - American Heart Association - Mr. Coleman recognized Lexington County as a “Fit-Friendly Company” by the American Health Association and presented the County with the 2012-2013 Gold Level Fit Friendly Worksite award.

United Way Campaign Report - Charlie Compton - Charlie Compton, Director of Planning & GIS, gave an update on the 2012 United Way campaign and reported Lexington County employees contributed \$28,334.74.

Presentation to Lexington Middle School - Councilman Davis presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Student Council of Lexington Middle School in appreciation of their outstanding contribution and community service in raising 2,149 pounds of food for Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Chairman's Report - Mr. Banning reported he has received twenty-three resolutions in support of the John Hardee Expressway. Also, reported that we were successful in getting SCDOT to unbundle the John Hardee Expressway from three other programs in the state. Following are events attended: Nov. 13 - Lexington Chambers Breakfast Meeting; Nov. 14 - Grand Opening of the City of Cayce Regional Water Treatment plant; Nov. 15 - County Council and Municipal Strategic Planning Session and Grand Opening of the new Lexington Chamber of Commerce office; Dec. 6 - Meeting with SCDOT; and Dec. 10 - Meeting with the City of Cayce and West Columbia regarding their Animal Control Shelter.

Council Members' Report/Comments - Councilman Matthews reported he and incoming Councilman Kent Collins attended the NFPA1720 Compliance Review at Fire Service and received an overview of where Fire Service is today and where Fire Service should be going tomorrow.

Ms. Summers reported she attended the Arbor Day ceremony at White Knoll Elementary School.

Mr. Cullum reported he attended the Arbor Day ceremony at Pine View Elementary. Also, met with the Lexington County Soil and Water Conservation District and received a preview of posters children submitted for Arbor Day.

Mr. Kinard reported he participated in a couple of Christmas Parades. Also, he and two members of Council and staff have been working on a new proposal for the distribution of future industrial park fees. Mr. Kinard proudly announced the birth of his first grandchild last week.

Recognition of Guests - Chairman Banning recognized Judge Eckstrom, Mayor Halfacre of Lexington; Rep. Chip Huggins; Auditor, Chris Harmon; Sheriff Metts; and Mayor Shealy of Chapin.

Presentation of Resolution - George H. "Smokey" Davis - Chairman Banning and members of Council presented a resolution to Councilman Davis for his invaluable leadership, service and dedication to Lexington and its citizens during his 16 years on county council. Councilman Davis represented District 3.

Sheriff's Award - Sheriff Metts presented the Sheriff's Award, the highest honor that the sheriff can bestow, to Councilman Davis recognizing his years of service dedicated to Lexington County.

Order of the Town of Lexington - Mayor Halfacre presented the Town's first Order of the Town of Lexington to Councilman Davis recognizing not only his service to the County, but to the Town of Lexington as well.

Recognition of Guest - Chairman recognized Beth Carrigg, Clerk of Court.

Point of Privilege - Councilman Davis said the landscape around Lexington County has changed a lot in the last 16 years. But, one thing that has not changed and that is the culture of the employees of this county. It is a culture of caring. The citizens, I think, know and appreciate how much the employees care about each citizen of this county. And the employees of this county care so much about the regulations. Some of them federal, some of them state, and some of them we enact here. They care about doing that. They care about every dollar that is spent by this county. And one other thing- the culture of caring is very important in their feelings about each other; they care about each other. This culture was here when I came, and it is here today even stronger. Not because of me, but because of the employees.

I have one other thing I want to do before I leave, and it is very important to me. I want everybody in this room that has had some dealings with me to stand up and take a pledge with me, if you will? If you will just repeat after me, and if it becomes a problem that you can't say it, you can sit down.

On my honor, I pledge never to reveal the dumb and stupid questions Smokey Davis asked me while he was on County Council so help me and him. Thank you very much.

Administrator's Report- Holiday Closings - Mr. Mergo announced the County offices will be closed for Christmas holiday on Dec. 24-26 and for New Years on January 1, 2013. However, the County's solid waste collection stations will be open on the 24th until 3:00 p.m. and will remain closed on the 25th. The collection stations will reopen on December 26.

Lexington County Employee Committee - Mr. Mergo reported the Employee Committee, on their own time and expense, built and entered a float in the Cayce-West Columbia Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 2. Mr. Mergo noted several of the employees' children rode on the float.

Keep the Midlands Beautiful Recognition - Synithia Williams, Environmental Coordinator - Ms. Williams proudly announced Keep the Midlands Beautiful held their first Gala for a Greener Midlands at the Holiday Inn in West Columbia on Saturday, December 1 and several businesses, people and events from Lexington County received an award. The following awards and recipient are: **The Green Small Business Award** - Tomato Palms; **The Green Event Award** - Summer Celebration of Water; **The Green Elected Official Award** - Rep. Chip Huggins; and **The Green Law Enforcement Officer of the Year** - Resident Deputy David Nievens.

Employee Recognition - Joe Mergo, County Administrator - Mr. Mergo recognized Jo Marie Brown in Procurement for being elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Association of Governmental Purchasing Officials (SCAGPO) for 2013-2014 and receiving the President's Award for Outstanding Service.

Mr. Andrew Bigony, Microfilm, was recognized for receiving the Lindy Smith Distinguished Service Award for 2012 by the South Carolina Public Records Association.

Christmas Caroling - Mr. Mergo announced the Employee Committee has invited all County employees to participate in caroling with them. The Committee will be caroling on Tuesday, December 18 at Lexington Extended Care at 6:30 p.m. and on Thursday, December 20 at the Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter at 6:00 p.m.

Resolution - Chapin High School Varsity Cheerleaders - Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Matthews to approve.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Matthews	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Cullum	

Appointments - Boards and Commissions - Accommodations Tax Board - Kathy Rabune - Mr. Matthews made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to reappoint Ms. Rabune. Mr. Banning opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Matthews
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Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Kinard
Mr. Townsend	Mr. Davis
Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
Mr. Cullum	

Stormwater Advisory Board - Nick Leventis, John Collum, and Frank Hahne, P.E.- Mr. Cullum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Matthews to reappoint Messrs. Leventis, Collum, and Hahne.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Matthews	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	

Bids/Purchases/RFPs - Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kinard to approve the following Bids/Purchases/RFPs (Tabs Y, Z, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6).

Bulk Deliveries of Unleaded Gasoline and Diesel Fuel - Fleet Services - Resumes were solicited from qualified fuel service providers to provide bulk fuel delivery services on an as needed basis to any of the County's nine (9) satellite fuel sites. Five (5) resumes were received. The term of the contract is for one (1) year with the option to extend additional years if deemed in the best interest of the County. Staff recommended to contract with RKA Petroleum Companies, Petroleum Traders Corporation, Mansfield Oil, and Great Lakes Petroleum Company.

Eight (8) Early Literacy (AWE) Computers (Sole Source) - Library Services - Staff recommended the purchase of eight (8) Early Literacy (AWE) computers for Library Services from the sole source provider, AWE, Inc. This has been deemed a sole source as AWE, Inc. is the only vendor capable of providing the computers that will match the existing units. Total cost, including tax, is \$35,952.

West Columbia/Cayce Library HVAC Upgrade - Library Services - Bids were solicited for the West Columbia/Cayce Library HVAC upgrade. Eight (8) bids were received. Staff recommended the award of the bid to Cullum Services. Total, including tax, is \$51,476.

EMS Rescue Equipment - EMS/Public Safety - Bids were solicited for EMS Rescue equipment. Two (2) bids were received. Staff recommended the award of the bid to MES, Inc. Total cost, including tax, is \$33,983.20.

Three (3) Life Stat Cardiopulmonary Resuscitators Model #1008 (Sole Source) - EMS/Public Safety - Staff recommended the purchase of three (3) Life-Stat Cardiopulmonary Resuscitators (Thumpers) for EMS/Public Safety from the sole source provider, Michigan Instruments. This has been deemed a sole source as Michigan Instruments is the only distributor for the device. Total cost, including tax, is \$29,114.70.

Lab Renovation for Lexington County Sheriff's Department (Grant Funds) - Sheriff's Department - Bids were solicited for lab renovation for the Sheriff's Department. Three (3) bids were received. Staff recommended the award of the bid to Climate Control. Total cost, including tax, is \$31,858.

Two Hundred (200) License Barcode Scanners (Partial Grant Funds) - Sheriff's Department - Bids were solicited for 200 license barcode scanners for the Sheriff's Department. Seven (7) bids were received. Staff recommended the award of the bid to Ridgeline Technology. Total cost, including tax, is \$59,190.42.

Sheriff's Department Administration HVAC Upgrade - Sheriff's Department - Bids were solicited for the Sheriff's Department HVAC upgrade. Six (6) bids were received. Staff recommended the award of the bid to Bear Mechanical Services. Total amount, including tax, is \$50,690.

Construction of Fourteen (14) Concrete Slabs - Solid Waste Management - Bids were solicited for the construction of fourteen (14) concrete slabs at five (5) county recycling sites. Six (6) bids were received. Staff recommended the award of the bid to W.T. Murphy Construction. Total cost, including tax, is \$39,580.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Kinard	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of October 23, 2012 - Ms. Summers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes as submitted.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Davis	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

Ordinances - Ordinance 12-13 - An Ordinance Extending the Residential Solid Waste Franchise Contracts - 3rd and Final Reading- Mr. Kinard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve third and final reading.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Kinard
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Davis	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

Ordinance 12-15 - Authorizing the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission of the Irmo-Chapin Recreation District to Issue General Obligation Bonds in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding

\$18,000,000; and Other Matters Relating Thereto - 2nd Reading- Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cullum to approve second reading.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Matthews	

Committee Reports - Economic Development, J. Jeffcoat, Chairman - Approval of Blanchard Agreement - For public information, Mr. Jeffcoat said the agreement is with Blanchard Machinery, who owns 243 acres that adjoins the Saxe Gotha Park which is near full capacity, without having to bear all the cost. By doing so, Blanchard Machinery will partner with the County on the property that is along Old State Road near intersection of Old Pine Plain and Old State Road and Lexington County, SC. The County's portion will be putting in the infrastructure estimated at \$3.7 million. The revenue is being shared with all five school districts.

Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cullum to approve the agreement.

Mr. Banning opened the meeting for discussion; none occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Matthews	

Justice, S. Davis, Chairman - New Position - General Sessions Docket Clerk/Court Clerk - Mr. Davis reported the Committee met to consider a request from the Clerk of Court for a new General Sessions Docket Clerk that is mandated by the state Supreme Court Justice. The new clerk will take over all the dockets from the Solicitor's office. The Committee voted in favor to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

Mr. Davis reported on the following grant application requests and awards for the Committee's consideration.

Drug Parcel Interdiction Unit Grant Application - The Drug Parcel Interdiction Unit Grant application is in the amount of \$74,161 and requires a 10% County match. The match will be in the Sheriff's Department's FY13-14 budget. If awarded, the funds will be used to continue funding the officer for another year. The Committee voted unanimous to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve staff's request to submit the grant application.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

FY12 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Award - The award in the amount of \$2,534.64 requires a 50% County match. The match will be in the Sheriff's Department's FY13-14 budget. Funds will be used to help offset the cost to replace about 50 bulletproof vests. The Committee voted in favor to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cullum to approve the acceptance of the grant award.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Matthews	

Highway Drug Interdiction Unit Grant Application - The application in the amount of \$289,416 requires a 10% County match. The match will come from the Sheriff's Department's FY13-14 budget. If awarded, the funds will be used for two enforcement investigators, operating costs and equipment. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Townsend to approve the grant submittal.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Kinard
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

School Resource Officer (SRO) - Meadow Glen Middle School Grant Application - The grant application in the amount of \$118,220 requires a 10% County match. The match will come from the

Sheriff’s Department’s FY13-14 budget. If awarded, funds will be used to provide salary, operating and capital costs for a SRO for the Meadow Glen Middle School. The Committee voted in favor to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve the submittal of the grant application.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

School Resource Officer (SRO) - River Bluff High School Grant Application - The grant application in the amount of \$120,444 requires a 10% County match. The match will come from the Sheriff’s Department’s FY13-14 budget. If awarded, funds will be used to provide salary, operating, and capital costs for a SRO for River Bluff High School. The Committee voted in favor to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve the submittal of the grant application.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

Request to Amend School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract - Lexington School District Three - Lexington School District Three is requesting an additional SRO officer for the Batesburg-Leesville High School. The SRO will be responsible for providing security and teaching duties. School District Three will reimburse the Sheriff’s Department \$30,000 for the remaining of the school year. School District Three will fund the entire cost of the SRO position in their upcoming FY13-14 budget. The Committee voted in favor to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Townsend to approve the request to amend the contract.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Kinard
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

Public Works & Solid Waste Management, T. Cullum, Chairman - Sidewalk Enhancement (LPA) -

Mr. Cullum reported the Public Works and Solid Waste Management Committee met to consider staff's request to allow the Lexington County Engineering staff to seek SCDOT's authorization to administer and manage both the Bush River Road and Archers Lane & Crossbow Drive Sidewalk Enhancement Project proposals through the Local Public Agency Administration (LPAA) program. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Cullum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Matthew to allow staff to seek permission from SCOT to seek the Local Public Agency Administration (LPAA) designation to administer and manage the two sidewalk projects.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Matthews	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	

Approval of Par Tee Lease Amendment - Also, the Committee discussed the current Par-Tee Lease Agreement. Mr. Tom Mason, a local PGA in Lexington, is interesting in assuming the lease. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Cullum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kinard to engage in the contract with Mr. Mason.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Kinard	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Matthews	

Airport, F. Townsend, III, Chairman - Pelion Airport FY 2014-2018 ACIP - On behalf of Chairman Townsend, Vice-Chairman Kinard reported the Airport Committee reviewed the FY2014-2018 ACIP report for the Pelion Airport. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to full Council for approval.

Mr. Kinard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cullum to approve the FY2014-2018 ACIP report.

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

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Matthews	

Retirement of Jim Starling, Engineering Associate III - Mr. Mergo announced the retirement of Mr. Starling on December 31st and recognized him for all his dedicated service to the County.

Budget Amendment Resolutions - The following BARs were distributed and signed:

13-070 - A supplemental appropriation increase of \$1,000 for Public Safety/Fire Service. Fire Service received a donation from Dixie Pipeline Company, LLC to purchase fire prevention supplies for residents in Lexington County.

13-071 - An appropriation transfer of \$5,401 and a supplemental appropriation decrease of \$10,782. The Sheriff's Department was awarded \$2,534.64 for the Bulletproof Vest Grant. These transactions are to adjust the budget to reflect the actual award and match requirements.

13-072 - An appropriation transfer of \$4.00 and a supplemental appropriation decrease of \$4,773. These transactions are to reduce the budget by the amount that was budget in the FY2012-13 budget to give an actual reflection of the funding that Emergency Management received for the CERT program.

13-074 - A supplemental appropriation increase of \$6,623. The South Carolina Worker's Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) performed a Worker's Compensation Audit on the County's FY 2011-12 Volunteer First Responders payroll and, as a result, recalculated the premium based on their payroll audit. Based on the recalculation, the County was reimbursed by SCCWCT for premium overpayment.

13-075 - A supplemental appropriation increase of \$3,500. The County was donated an infrared camera to be used by the Building Inspectors in Community Development and this transaction is to pick up the donated camera on Banner and assign an asset tag number.

13-076 - An appropriation transfer of \$200,000 from Tourism Development Fee Surplus to the SC State Museum Renovation projects.

Recess - Due to limited time available before the public hearing, Mr. Banning recessed the meeting until the 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Banning called the meeting back to order.

6:00 P.M. – Public Hearings - Ordinance 12-14 - An Ordinance Approving the Conveyance of Real Estate From the County of Lexington to the South Carolina Department of Transportation - All nine members were present for the public hearings.

Mr. Banning opened the public hearing.

Mr. Banning announced no one signed up in favor or in opposition; therefore, closed the public hearing.

Special Recognition - Dutch Fork High School - Mr. Banning recognized students from Dutch Fork High School government class.

Ordinance 12-15 - Authorizing the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission of the Irmo-Chapin Recreation District to Issue General Obligation Bonds in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding \$18,000,000; and Other Matters Relating Thereto - Mr. Banning opened the public hearing.

Mr. Banning opened the public hearing for those in opposition.

Mr. Banning noted no one signed up in opposition; therefore, closed that portion of the public hearing.

Mr. Banning opened the public hearing for those in favor.

In Favor:

John Sowards - 315 Quail Walking Trail, Chapin, SC 29036 - I withdrew my request to speak.

Doug Hull - 109 Rose Lake Road, Lexington, SC 29072 - I own Seven Oaks Plant Shop at 4522 St. Andrews Road, across the street from the Components property, and I am very much in favor of this bond because my grandkids are involved in a lot of sports that are on the Irmo-Chapin properties. And, when I go to see them, I have a blast. I think it is a very good investment in the youth of our community.

Chief Brian Buck - 12 Hilton Glen Court, Chapin, SC 29036 - I play soccer, and I know there are several others out here who are between ages that play soccer. We are not the kids, and we are not quite old enough to be senior services people yet, but we are very enthusiastic about this bond referendum. We will love it, and we will be using those fields all the time. We appreciate your support.

Bill Harmon - 213, Linsbury Circle, Columbia, SC 29210 - I am very much in support of the bond recommendation. I have been a twenty-plus-year resident and neighbor of Seven Oaks Park. All three of my kids grew up playing sports there, and my wife and I walk the park there. It has been very much of our life. Even more so this year, my wife who had cancer and was recovering, as we were able to take advantage of the shaded walkway through the Saluda Shoals Park; it is beautiful. We appreciate the community and the County in terms of providing recreation in that regard. I really want to speak in support on several facets – one is the process this time. I was involved several years ago when we tried to get a bond referendum passed and this one is different. This one included a lot more community involvement. The Commission engaged the community through focus groups, open public forums, even a park shaper opportunity where people could provide input. The community has been engaged from the get-go through multiple meetings. The process has been very consistent with the Mission Statement that we have seen. In their documents they talk about increasing the quality of life. I heard Sheriff Metts speak on that earlier when he was addressing Mr. Davis. I see this as very much an investment in our community to improve the quality of life on the Irmo-Chapin side of the district. We openly acknowledge that recreation facilities may not be for all and no doubt you will or have heard from some folks in that regard. That is fine. That is what debate is all about. But, I think as you will see tonight most of your constituents, at least what it would appear, are very much in support of this. I think what we are all in support of is in maximizing our property values and improving the quality of life in our communities. We choose to live where we live and businesses choose to locate where they locate around the quality of services in the environment they are in. We are talking about a very, very small investment to the tune of about \$8.00 per \$100,000 on the home taxes. That is a very, very small investment. I would argue on terms of rate greatly more than that. Also, I support this because I know my money and yours is going into the hands of a fiscally responsible organization. It is not just the \$18 million cost; it's how that money is going to be spent and administered over the years. And I refer to Dwayne Parrish, State's Park and Tourism Director, when he said they have a goal over the next couple of years of becoming self-sustaining. Well, Saluda Shoals Park some years ago came before with a goal to be self-sustaining and, I believe, they actually accomplished that in five years; so a very, very effective management and oversight of our resources. I basically trust the Commission to do what is fiscally responsible with my money. They have a track record and have earned my trust. I think I speak on behalf of a lot of others in that

regard. I reviewed the proposal. I have been involved in a lot of the discussions and meetings, and I know it fairly intimately. But another unique piece of this is the engagement of the local businesses. And business people, like myself and Mr. Hull and others, understand that to reap the benefits you've got to make the investment and businesses are lined up and ready to be engaged in helping to sponsor some of the programs and so forth that will be offered here. The proposal is not just for kids' sports or the aging or any one specific group, but it is a rather wide diverse proposal that addresses the needs for people of all ages and abilities. So no fluff proposal. There is nothing superfluous in it. I think the return on investment will be realized in many ways. Lexington County was most recently recognized in *The State* paper on an article why tennis was good for business. And they were referring to Lexington County's Recreation and Commission on Aging's tennis facility which brought in the USTA 14 and 18 under tournaments. What that did was bring in tons of money into the community to the extent that Lizard's Thicket and their CEO was quoted as being appreciative of the forethought and investment in the community and recreation and drawing in people from touring tournaments. We heard at the Irmo meeting in October from several soccer constituents who have kids in classic soccer and so forth who have to travel the state and go to places like Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Sumter, and Charleston where they have invested money.

Ken Simmons, 610 Spring Lake Road, Columbia, SC 29206 - I withdraw my request.

Stevie Lee, 3039 Wessinger Road, Chapin, SC 29036 - I have been a coach for 12-15 years. Both of my boys came through Crooked Creek Park, and I have coached kids that now actually work for me at SCE&G. The reason I am here is for one reason - I have a passion about recreation. I have a passion about whatever kind of ball you want to play. I just believe that when you get kids involved in what they are doing, and they have good leadership, people will invest in what they are doing out there on the field and they become better productive citizens. And, I want to thank you guys for opening up this opportunity for the kids in the Chapin and Irmo area. One side note - I was fortunate to be part of two All-Star Teams back seven or eight years ago that went to two World Series. But, that is big in Chapin. Out of those 13 kids on each team, which they overlapped one year, I have 12 kids on our teams who are now playing college baseball and getting financial aid through college baseball. So from having more fields and presenting more opportunities, it will, hopefully, give more kids the opportunity to go to school. It is also about the passion we have.

J. Donald Sylvester - 79 Isley Lane, Columbia, SC 29210 - I moved down here 16 years ago. My sister brought me to a place called Seven Oaks. I said, "What the heck is it?" In 16 years, I found out what the heck it is. It puts character into young kids that have grown up to be men and women just like you. We now are trying to expand - not only to help these kids and the community, but to stretch out and help business coming in. I have been involved with the baseball end. We held tournaments. These tournaments, people can't drive home from them. Why? Because they are from Pennsylvania, they are from New Jersey so what do they have to do? They come in on a Friday night and spend those days at our hotels, motels, eat our food and find out what good recipes we have down here. But, it brings money back into our community and it attracts businesses in. This is one of the efforts that we are trying to do. We are trying to expand to not just the people in the community, but the businesses. We have had support from people coming to see what we are planning. Yes, soccer fields. You can't bring in a tournament on just one soccer field. You bring in a bunch of teams; they have nowhere to play except one field. That's why we need to get seed money to make it grow. And, I think we have proven that when we plant the seed, it grows and it grows for the whole community, not just for us. If the community profits, we do too. We can walk away with a smile. I am 71 years old and I have been smiling for 16 years. I will tell you - if it wasn't one of the best run organizations, I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't bother

talking. Why? Because I wouldn't believe in them. But, I have seen what they have done with their seeds. They have grown them. They have grown men into developing trees that spread out all over, and this is what we wanted to do. We don't want to do it just for us; we want to do it for every one of you sitting up there and your grandchildren, and their grandchildren, and keep growing. We are not an organization that is going to die tomorrow. We are an organization that is going to keep striving for tomorrow. I may not see your grandchildren, but I hope when they hear Mr. Don, they will remember that I helped, volunteering a lot for the community. And, this is why I am here, and I hope that every one of you listen to us. Look at the people out there. I told them to be sure they are wearing green, because that is what supports us – these people. They have been to our meetings; they have seen what we want to do, and they agree with it. I thank you for giving us the opportunity to come before you people and speak. You have to hear what we are going to do and they see what we do with that money. And, it will certainly be a tree growing strong. Thank you.

Molly Price, 200 Lockshire Road, Columbia, SC 29212 - I moved back after college to Irmo, and I coach the River Bandits Softball Travel Team. We started back in June, and this is a new thing for the park – travel softball. We have done really well and the girls have done wonderful, and I am here to speak on their behalf. It gives them a good workout moving soccer goals off the field before practice, but I would love for them to not to have to do that. Your support will mean the world to them. Thank you.

Lee Parker, 115 Azure Bay Court, Chapin, SC 29036 - I am a father of two children, and I have been a baseball coach for a decade. I am going to speak about Chapin. We are sorely in need of tournament caliber fields in Chapin. I just got to spend a little bit of time at Conestee Park in Mauldin. Their facilities are just spectacular. If you come back to Chapin and come back to Seven Oaks, our facilities are acceptable, but they are not tournament quality, and tournament-quality facilities bring people in as the gentleman was just talking about. The good news is that the kind of folks that follow tournament baseball are pretty wholesome folks. It is generally families. They come in; they eat; they use your hotels; they use your facilities and then they go home. So, they come spend their money and are in our area and then they go home and don't put so much stress on the system. My real job is, I am a commercial real estate appraiser, and I can tell you that parks, especially well-planned parks enhance property values. Cutting density down, and I am not a big fan of density, but if we have density, I like it to be high-quality density. But, cutting density down and taking away the stress on infrastructure tends to enhance overall quality of value and overall property values as well. Those are the kind of points that I wanted to make to you tonight. I wanted to say that tournament baseball is a lot different than recreation ball. We need to support recreation ball, but tournament baseball is also good for kids that are at a level that maybe the recreation ballplayers are not at. And it supports kids that may or may not play on a high school team, but it also gives them an opportunity. One more point that I think is very important is that entertainment in sports has become extremely important. I don't know whether Mr. Ross is here or not, but he will talk to you about jobs; he loves to talk about good jobs. A lot of the good jobs in our country over the next decade will be in entertainment and sports. And, when we can take the community and bridge that together with sports that is a good way to develop. Not only athletes, but business leaders as well. Thank you.

Karen Owens, 302 Columbia Avenue, Chapin, SC 29036 - I will not repeat everything; you get the message.

Jo Wright, 522 Sugar Berry Road, Chapin, SC 29036 - I agree. I don't think I will say anything else differently than anybody else has to sway your votes, because it should be a 9-0 vote anyway. But, I think it is important to the children sitting out here that I do speak because we do have members of the

baseball teams, and we have the youth up in the top. I am a teacher at Chapin Middle School. I have seen the athletic fields. I have been involved at Crooked Creek Park since my own child was three or four years old, begging him to get involved. But, I also know the outstanding senior citizen programs at both of the parks. We also have the homeschooled children come to the parks for recreation activities. There are also so many activities available for disabled children. So it's not just for the children, but with the senior citizens, the active youth with the middle-aged groups. There are all kinds of athletic things, but it is such a wide variety of everything that is available, and I just encourage you to invest in everyone's future. Not just the children, but everyone's future because they do an outstanding job. Thank you.

Richard Coltrane, 522 Sugar Berry Road, Chapin, SC - As a lot of the other folks have already said, the park is asked to do a lot with very little. You compete more for a field than you do to win a ballgame sometimes. The rugby team, we have had rugby up there for the last four or five years. You have a rugby program in Chapin that the last two years have been the number one in the state. Year before last they were 17th in the country. Last year they were number 13 in the country. That program now is trying to compete with lacrosse, and adding soccer, trying to get a field. The lady that spoke about the River Bandits, my cousin's daughter plays on that team. They are having to compete for fields. The staff at Crooked Creek Park, when we call them they will ask what they can do to help us and they will bend over backwards to help. They do whatever they can. The Seven Oaks Park has been the same way. If you need it, they will do whatever they can. They are limited, very limited. I would like to give each one of them a pat on the back. I would like for you to give them a pat on the back and give them the money they need. Thank you.

Glenn Kitchens, 325 Bent Oak Drive, Chapin, SC 29036 - I represent a lot of folks from teams that I have coached and parents who support this measure, so hopefully, 9-0 will be great. One thing I want to point out. I moved out from Richland County four years ago to Chapin and love it out there. But the thing that I have noticed is that the facilities get used an awful lot in Lexington, all the facilities. Lexington, Ballpark Road, and all the places I have been to are highly used. But, the other thing that I have noticed from moving out of Richland County is that I thought the facilities would be better than Richland County, but they are not. Some of the facilities are aged. They were old when I was playing ball. So, I hope you will support it. At Crooked Creek Park we have needs that this bond will help and, obviously, Seven Oaks Park, too. Thank you so much.

Mr. Banning noted no one else signed up in favor of Ordinance 12-15 and closed that portion of the hearing.

Mr. Banning opened the floor for comments from Council.

Mr. Jeffcoat thanked those in the audience for being present. He said during the public hearing, the one thing he kept hearing was community involvement. He noted the audience was made up of all ages and said we are not just talking about one age group but all age groups that are involved in the community effort of making things better in recreation for our county in the Chapin and Irmo area. Quality of life is extremely important. If you don't think so, look at some of the other areas that don't have facilities like we have today, and we are trying to make them better. I think that is a great thing. We talk about having to pay taxes, and none of us like to pay taxes, but if you find places that have real low taxes, they have a real low quality of life in most cases. It usually goes hand-in-hand. And if you want to see your property taxes tank, then stop being involved in the community and stop with the recreation facilities, and stop with the good schools and you will see things go south in a hurry. Also, as someone mentioned about economic development, if we did not have the facilities that we have today, we wouldn't have Nephron or

Amazon or companies wanting to come to Lexington County. You can count on my vote and this council supports good recreation in this county.

Mr. Cullum said even though Councilman Jeffcoat and Matthews represent the Irmo-Chapin area, the majority of Council represents the other recreation area, and we (Council) fully support what you are trying to do.

Mr. Banning closed the public hearing.

Old Business/New Business - None.

Executive Session - Mr. Banning reported Council needed to go back into Executive Session to continue discussions on remaining legal and personnel matters that were not covered in the afternoon meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Davis	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum,	

Matters Requiring a Vote as a Result of Executive Session - Reporting out of Executive Session, there were no motions to be considered.

Adjournment - Mr. Kinard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting.

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Davis	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Matthews	Mr. Cullum

Not Present:* Ms. Summers

*Ms. Summers left following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk

William B. Banning, Sr.
Chairman