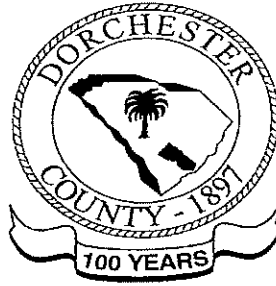


JAMIE FELTNER
CHAIRMAN

WILLIE DAVIS
VICE CHAIRMAN

JASON L. WARD
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

SANDY W. LAWLEY
CLERK TO COUNCIL



LARRY S. HARGETT
BILL HEARN, JR.
CHRISTOPHER J. MURPHY
RICHARD ROSEBROCK
KENNETH WAGGONER

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

201 JOHNSTON STREET
ST. GEORGE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29477
(843) 563-0196 FAX (843) 563-0137
SUMMERVILLE (843) 832-0043 FAX (843) 875-8509

**MINUTES
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
DORCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SUMMERVILLE
OCTOBER 12, 2009
8:30 A.M.**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post & Courier, were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENT: Mr. Jamie Feltner, Chairman
Mr. Willie Davis, Vice Chairman
Mr. Larry Hargett
Mr. William (Bill) Hearn
Mr. Chris Murphy
Mr. Richard Rosebrock
Mr. Jason Ward, County Administrator
Mrs. Ashley McDonald, Deputy County Administrator
Mr. John Frampton, County Attorney
Mrs. Gina R. Sams, Admin. Asst. to Council

ABSENT: Mr. Kenneth F. Waggoner

Chairman Feltner called the meeting to order; Mr. Hargett gave the Invocation.

CHAIRMAN'S TIME

2ND READING TO "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #09-09, "THE FY 2009-2010 DORCHESTER COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE", TO REDUCE THE DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET, TO FUND THE FY 2008-2009 DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET DEFICIENCY, AND TO CORRECT A SCRIVENER'S ERROR"

CHAIRMAN'S TIME

2ND READING TO "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #09-09, "THE FY 2009-2010 DORCHESTER COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE", TO REDUCE THE DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET, TO FUND THE FY 2008-2009 DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET DEFICIENCY, AND TO CORRECT A SCRIVENER'S ERROR"

The proposed amendment to Ordinance #09-09 includes three changes; the first change, corrects a scrivener's error for the County Operating and Capital Taxes. The amendment's corrected amounts for Operating and County Capital Taxes are \$24,501,225 and \$3,430,804.

The second change includes the collections of \$472,092 in additional millage to fund a tax deficiency from the preceding year (Fiscal Year 2008-2009) for Dorchester School District 2, in accordance with Section 6-1-320 (B) (1) of the S.C. Code of Laws 1976, which was due to the reduction in assessment of \$13 million dollars from October 2008 to January 2009, from \$141 million down to \$128 million.

The third change includes reducing the Dorchester School District #2 Operating Budget. The County Portion and State Portion of the School Operating Budget will be reduced to \$37,556,100 and to \$28,239,669, respectively.

Chairman Feltner stated the purpose for conducting the Special Called Meeting of Dorchester County Council, as referenced in the above listed title; Chairman Feltner called for a motion on the subject:

1. Vice Chairman Davis motioned to give 2nd Reading to "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #09-09 for "Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Dorchester County Budget Ordinance", to Reduce the Dorchester School District #2 Operating Budget to Fund the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Dorchester County School District #2 Operating Budget Deficiency, and to Correct a Scrivener's Error"; Mr. Rosebrock seconded the motion, and Council voted six in favor and one absent in favor, once the following general discussions were held.

Mr. Waggoner was absent.

DISCUSSIONS HELD PRIOR TO VOTE

-Councilman Murphy inquired if the County could delay implementing the reassessment for 1 year, and go back to the millage rate from the previous calendar year.

-Mr. Ward, County Administrator, stated the reassessment had already been certified.

CHAIRMAN'S TIME-CONTINUED

2ND READING TO "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #09-09, "THE FY 2009-2010 DORCHESTER COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE", TO REDUCE THE DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET, TO FUND THE FY 2008-2009 DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET DEFICIENCY, AND TO CORRECT A SCRIVENER'S ERROR"

DISCUSSIONS HELD PRIOR TO VOTE-CONTINUED

-Mr. Wayne Welch, Assessor for Dorchester County, stated he was not sure if delaying the implementation of the reassessment could be done, but would review Councilman Murphy's inquiry.

-Councilman Murphy stated he would like to have an answer to his inquiry, prior to giving the proposed ordinance 3rd Reading and prior to Dorchester County sending out its tax notices.

-Councilman Hargett stated he had a problem with not giving the monies to Dorchester School District #2 because he believed they deserved getting the money, but he also had a great problem with the how the monies would be funded, which would be through the levying of the 6% assessment. He stated it was his understanding the monies could not come out of the County's Fund Balance, but stated the fund balance was at an all time high and he wanted to know if the County could receive a special dispensation from someone.

-Councilman Rosebrock stated he believed there were no other alternatives but to fund the monies through the 6% assessment, and stated he was opposed to using the County's Fund Balance, due to the County being in an area at risk for natural disasters.

-Vice Chairman Davis stated he concurred with Councilman Rosebrock's statement.

-Councilman Hearn stated that Councilman Hargett's concerns were valid regarding the imposition on 6% taxpayers, particularly on the higher amount for 2009-2010, which would devastate an already devastated small business community and economy. He stated if there was another way to provide the funds needed, he would be willing to listen; however, it was conveyed that Council could not legally use the County's Fund Balance, and if all research and avenues were exhausted then a decision needed to be made. Councilman Hearn also noted there was a time limit on this matter as well.

-Vice Chairman Davis commented on the changes made by the State's Legislature creating the circumstances for this situation to occur.

CHAIRMAN'S TIME-CONTINUED

2ND READING TO "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #09-09, "THE FY 2009-2010 DORCHESTER COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE", TO REDUCE THE DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET, TO FUND THE FY 2008-2009 DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 OPERATING BUDGET DEFICIENCY, AND TO CORRECT A SCRIVENER'S ERROR"

DISCUSSIONS HELD PRIOR TO VOTE-CONTINUED

-Chairman Feltner stated that Mr. Murphy's question on the reassessment was a good question, but the one concern he had was the amount of time and manpower it had taken to complete the reassessment. He also provided comments on the legislative changes in the funding mechanisms which brought this matter to the forefront.

-Councilman Murphy confirmed that the next Special Called Meeting by Council would be held on October 23, 2009, and requested to have an answer to his question on the reassessment, prior to giving the proposed ordinance 3rd Reading.

-Chairman Feltner stated the County did owe the school district the money and it was the County's obligation to pay the monies for the 2008-2009 shortfall.

ADJOURNMENT 8:44 A.M.

2. On the motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Rosebrock, Council voted six in favor, and one absent, to adjourn.

Mr. Waggoner was absent.



Gina R. Sams, Admin. Asst. Council