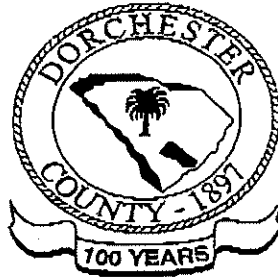


JAMIE FELTNER
CHAIRMAN

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

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**MINUTES
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
DORCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SUMMERVILLE
OCTOBER 23, 2009
9:05 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; Councilman Rosebrock gave the Invocation.



CHAIRMAN'S TIME

PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING TO ORDINANCE #09-18 "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 Feltner stated the Special Called Meeting of Dorchester County Council was being held for the purposes of holding a Public Hearing and for 3rd Reading to Ordinance #09-18 to amend Ordinance #09-09, as referenced in the above listed title.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Feltner opened the Public Hearing and provided time for the Dorchester County Auditor, J. J. Messervy, to offer his remarks and to start the public comments period of the Public Hearing:

-Mr. Messervy came before Council to offer a breakdown on deficit millages for various properties. He stated the current deficit millage projection was 2.2 mills and the following information was reported:

Six Percent (6%) Properties:

- Valued at \$100,000 would incur a one (1) time fee of \$13.20
- Valued at \$250,000 would incur a one (1) time fee of \$33.00
- Valued at \$1,000,000 would incur a one (1) time fee of \$132.00

Vehicles:

- Valued at \$20,000 would incur a one (1) time fee of \$2.64

-Allyson Dukes, Finance Director for Dorchester School District II, came before Council and reported the District's Fund Balance had been depleted to approximately seven (7) percent, which consists of less than one (1) month's operating expenditures. She stated that as of this year \$4 million have been cut in District II funding and the combining budget cuts from last year and this year have totaled over \$15 million. In addition, Ms. Dukes reported teachers would not receive increases this year and with the school district currently operating at 85% personnel it would be very difficult for the cuts in funding not to effect personnel, either through furloughs or positions. Ms. Dukes requested Council to consider reducing the funding cuts by half or by adding at least \$1 million because furloughs would cost the school district approximately \$600,000 per day.

CHAIRMAN'S TIME

PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING TO ORDINANCE #09-18 "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"

PUBLIC HEARING-CONTINUED

-Janet Frisco, resident of Dorchester County and parent of a former District School II student, came before Council and spoke of her negative experience with the school district. She expressed concerns on the quality of education provided by School District II, and stated she was opposed to providing the school district with additional funding.

-David Chinnis, resident of Dorchester County and parent of a former District School II student, came before Council and spoke of his positive experience with the school district, and stated that if the school system has made the determination that they have done everything they could and there was no dead weight, then the school system needs what they need. Mr. Chinnis spoke in favor of providing the school district with additional funding.

-Frances Townsend, School District II Board Member, came before Council and spoke on how the school district was a significant part of what brings growth into the community, through residents and industries. Ms. Townsend also reported the negative impacts budget cuts have on the school district and requested Council to consider the negative impacts, and to see if they could prevent cutting funding for School District II one more time.

-Charlie Stoudenmire, School District II Board Member, came before Council and stated Mr. Ken Seeger with MeadWestvaco, Inc. had recently given a report and half of Mr. Seeger's report consisted of remarks on the quality of education the children receive in Dorchester School District II. Mr. Stoudenmire stated this was the reason why this developer, a developer of 32,000 acres, and of 6000 acres in the school district, selected this community for their development. Those monies and funds remain in this community because the developer cares about the quality of learning provided to children.

-Paul Culver, D.M.D., resident of Dorchester County, came before Council to address his concerns of having budget cuts during the middle of the school year and stated growth was always present. In addition, he stated improvements in all areas were needed in order to bring industry into the County, and the community needed to invest in the children by emphasizing on education for all children, through conventional schooling and vocational schooling. Dr. Culver commented on the funding through impact fees, and questioned if loans could be provided to the school district until the impact fees could be utilized.

CHAIRMAN'S TIME

PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING TO ORDINANCE #09-18 "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"

PUBLIC HEARING-CONTINUED

-Joe Pye, Superintendent for Dorchester School District II, came before Council and spoke on the matter of last year's and the current year's budget cuts. Superintendent Pye stated he wanted to clarify the statistic concerning the drop-out rate for the school district, which currently stands at 3.5%. He stated the school district was working to reduce this figure. Additionally, he reported the school district's graduation rate, with students graduating on time, currently stands at 76%. Superintendent Pye also stated the school district was currently projecting to meet the demands growth has placed on the school system, and they were also reviewing the district's budget on operational and facility costs.

Chairman Feltner reported the Public Hearing would remain open for the purpose of Council having a discussion period prior to any action being taken on the subject matter.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Members of Council held discussions relative to the legalities and stipulations of using the 6% assessment properties on unoccupied properties as a funding source for the budgetary shortfalls vs. the County's inability of legally being able to utilize monies within the General Fund and Fund Balance as a funding source for budgetary shortfalls. Additional discussions were held concerning this being a State issue and for the County to get with state officials in order to receive assistance on this matter.

Chairman Feltner closed the Public Hearing and the following action was taken:

1. On the motion of Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Rosebrock, Council voted five in favor, one opposed, and one absent, to give 3rd Reading to Ordinance #09-18 "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".

Councilman Hargett opposed; Councilman Waggoner was absent.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S TIME - MR. JOHN FRAMPTON
REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

The County Attorney made a request for Council's consideration to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual matter dealing with a conservation easement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:41 A.M.

2. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Murphy, Council voted six in favor, and one absent, to enter into Executive Session as requested by the County Attorney.

Councilman Waggoner was absent.

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:53 A.M.

The County Attorney reported that Council discussed the item announced prior to going into executive session, and no action was taken on the subject.

DORCHESTER COUNTY ACCEPTANCE FOR ASSIGNMENT AND
TRANSFER BY THE CONSERVATION FUND OF ITS RIGHTS AS GRANTEE
UNDER THE CONSERVATION ESEMENT FOR MIDDLETON PLACE
WOODLAND

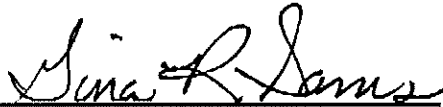
3. On the motion of Councilman Hargett, seconded by Councilman Rosebrock, Council voted six in favor, and one absent, to accept the assignment and transfer by the Conservation Fund of its rights as grantee under the conservation easement for Middleton Place Woodlands, and become the holder thereof, pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 27-8-20(2) provided that the conservation easement is in substantially the same form as presented for consideration by County Council and that Dorchester County receive from the Conservation Fund the sum of \$25,000.00 to offset the County's costs for monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with the conservation easement.

Councilman Waggoner was absent.

ADJOURNMENT 10:01 A.M.

4. On the motion of Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council voted six in favor, and one absent, to adjourn.

Councilman Waggoner was absent.


Gina R. Sams, Admin. Asst. Council