



Richland County Council

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

July 11, 2017 – 6:00 PM

Council Chambers

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce Dickerson, Chair; Bill Malinowski, Vice Chair; Norman Jackson; Gwen Kennedy; Paul Livingston; Jim Manning; Yvonne McBride; Dalhi Myers; Greg Pearce and Seth Rose

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Sandra Yudice, Gerald Seals, Brandon Madden, Shane Kitchens, Larry Smith, and Beverly Harris

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Dickerson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:08 PM.
2. **PUBLIC HEARING**
 - a. **An Annual Operating Budget for Richland County, South Carolina for the period beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. The Ordinance shall include, but is not limited to, the Richland County General Fund, County Fire Protection, Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, Stormwater Management, Utilities Funds, Richland School District One, Richland School District Two, Midlands Technical College, Riverbanks Zoo and the Richland County Library**

No one signed up to speak.

Mr. Manning requested clarification about the agenda and Item 2(a). It was his understanding at the point we were doing “Annual Operating Budget for Richland County, South Carolina for the period beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019” that the millage agencies, as indicated: Richland School District One, Richland School District Two, Midlands Technical College, Riverbanks Zoo and the Richland County Library, had only submitted a budget for one year. He was unclear as to the reading of this item for this public hearing.

Ms. Dickerson requested Mr. Seals to address Mr. Manning’s concerns.

Mr. Seals stated the items were placed before Council with the intention of bringing the entire budget, but to also recognize that there would be the extensive amendments that Council directed and ordered in the 2nd year of the biennium budget for the millage agencies.

Ms. Dickerson inquired if Mr. Seals’ addressed his concerns.

Mr. Manning responded it absolutely did not address his concerns.

Mr. Malinowski requested Mr. Manning to restate his concerns.

Mr. Manning stated the fact we are holding a public hearing, as this item reads, for Richland School District One, Richland School District Two, Midlands Technical College, Riverbanks Zoo and the Richland County Library. There is no one here representing any of those entities because when they were here, when Council held the public hearing and took up the budget for the period beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, Council decided not move forward in year two of the Biennium Budget I with regard to the millage agencies. Therefore, the millage agencies would not have thought to come speak tonight about a budget they have not

submitted and Council decided not to take up in Biennium I. He further stated it's his belief the title should have stopped after Utilities Funds.

Mr. Livingston inquired if the General Fund listed here includes Hospitality Tax, Accommodations Tax, etc.

Mr. Seals responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Manning stated when Council had the discussion on year one of the Biennium Budget I, we were all clear that we were not going to approve the specific line items but the overall amounts for Hospitality Tax, Accommodations Tax, Conservation Commission and Discretionary Grants would be approved. The individual line items would be based on the applications received, reviewed and processed in the Spring. What was never said to the millage agencies, or the public, was that Council was not going to get into line item by line item but we would be moving forward with an amount in Third Reading with what we are having a public hearing on tonight. If we had been clearer, the millage agencies may have been present to provide input at the public hearing.

Ms. McBride stated Mr. Manning addressed her concerns.

Mr. Malinowski stated it is not necessary for the specific agencies listed on the agenda to be at the public hearing. The public hearing is about the public giving Council input on what they would or would not to see in the funding of those agencies. He further requested Mr. Seals to restate the adjustments to the General Fund (i.e. what was passed and what still needs to be passed).

Mr. Seals stated the public hearing is for the procurement of the entire budget, as indicated. The numbers it is based on are the aggregate numbers. It is not specifically dealing with the detailed line items. The intent was to allow for the public hearing, in terms of the budget, but with the full recognition that Council made it clear because of some things that have taken place within staff that the budget would go through extensive amendments. All of the agencies would be provided an opportunity to submit their requests during the budget submittal phase of the Biennium II period.

Mr. Malinowski stated, as he understands it, it is just like our public hearing on the first year of the Biennium Budget. While numbers were provided to Council by all of these agencies, they could be raised or lowered based on what Council decided to do.

Mr. N. Jackson stated it was advertised properly and the public has had an opportunity to voice their opinion.

3. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:24 PM.