

# Charleston County Council

January 18, 2018  
(rescheduled from January 4th, followed by 3 Committee Meetings)

**Observer: Kristen French**

## County Council Meeting ([Agenda](#)):

Chair Vic Rawl opened with a moment of silence to remember victims and survivors of gun violence.

**Selection of Chair:** Vic Rawl and Teddie Pryor were nominated. Vote was 4 - 4 with one abstention (Schweers). Mr. Dawson stated that in the case of a tie, the current chair keeps their seat. The Chair asked for new nominations. Vic Rawl was nominated and Mr. Pryor nominated Elliott Summey. During roll call, after 3 abstentions, Mr. Summey asked for a 5 minute recess. Mr. Rawl granted. After recess, Mr. Rawl made a new request for nominations. Mr. Rawl was the only nomination. Vote 8 - 0; Schweers was absent for the vote. Mr. Rawl re-elected chair.

**Selection of Vice Chair:** Herb Sass, Dick Schweers, and Joe Qualey were nominated. Mr. Schweers declined the nomination. Vote Sass 7 - Qualey 2. Mr. Sass re-elected Vice Chair.

**Public Comments:** Most comments were directed at Item #5, a request to reconsider a rezoning request for Jeanine Rhodes's property on Oyster Factory Road, Edisto Island. Two, including Ms. Rhodes, spoke in favor; 7 spoke against (~18 people came to oppose, standing when asked by one of the speakers), bringing up the following issues:

- The land is on a Scenic Bi-Way, and residents are concerned about the long-term implications of zoning this parcel commercial.
- Rezoning this parcel could lead to a domino effect of rezoning in the area.
- The Edisto Island Community Association is opposed, citing concerns about possibility of increased flooding.
- Opposition to "spot zoning."
- Request that Council honor and enforce zoning ordinances and stop making exceptions that do not follow the plan for the area.

William Hamilton spoke in support of public transit.

**Item #5 – Request for Reconsideration:** Request to Reconsider the vote at the December 14, 2017 meeting that denied Ms. Rhodes's request for rezoning her land to commercial. Mr. Summey spoke in favor of reconsidering the vote and approving Ms. Rhodes's request. He pointed out that the denial means Ms. Rhodes will still have options. After one year she can make a new zoning request or apply with a PUD. Ms. Johnson pointed out that the community is clearly opposed, and that she will listen to their concerns and vote against. Mr. Sass also indicated that he favored listening to the community concerns.

Mr. Summey then asked whether the one year clock would start on Dec 14, 2017, if he withdrew his Request to Reconsider. The answer was yes, and he withdrew.

**Item #6:** Approved unanimously.

#### **Special Sales and Use Tax Oversight Committee, Elliott Summey, Chair**

1. **Mass Transit Update:** Mentioned new routes in place or that are being considered primarily to improve mobility for hospitality workers on islands, in Mt. Pleasant, and the Peninsula. Fleet replacement is underway. The new Intermodal Center in North Charleston is expected to be completed in August 2018; the City of North Charleston is managing the construction. Replacement and new shelters are in the works, with Senate District 42 having some priority.

There is a new website (<https://www.ridecarta.com/>) that keeps riders informed, and apps are available to track buses in real time. CARTA feels a major challenge is getting people to understand the convenience of riding.

Mr. Darby raised the issue of small rail. The response is that there are several impediments that make small rail very costly. Norfolk Southern and CSX have heavy traffic on their own rail and do not appear willing to cooperate with sharing rail. Building new rail is very expensive, although they are looking at any ideas. In addition, planning for the future is difficult without local funding, since federal funding can only be used to purchase right-of-ways for current projects, not for possible future projects.

2. **Greenbelt Update:** The new Advisory Board has been meeting and has one vacancy. Based on a recent survey of residents, they plan to maintain the current vision, which is based on the hubs and spokes model of planning. One council member pointed out that past work has focused about 30% on urban and 70% on rural areas; the Advisory Board is considering changes to that focus.

#### **Finance Committee, Vic Rawl, Chair**

Full [Agenda](#) approved with minimal discussion.

#### **Environmental Management Committee, Brantley Moody, Chair**

#### **Updates:**

Mr. Quigley reported that the recycling program experienced disruptions during the snow event and should be caught up by Saturday, Jan 20th.

Mr. Quigley introduced Tim ....., who reported that the Alternative Work Plan is continuing and ground improvement issues are being addressed. A shallow foundation with stone columns is deemed adequate for the structure. The estimated completion date is Feb 25th, 2019. Council members asked for more clarification. Although not all questions were answered in detail, Tim ..... answered questions about cost, saying that all costs are staying under the original estimates and that the necessary ground improvement would not be a cost for the County. Mr. Qualey said that he doesn't think that the County should be paying anything for this project. Mr. Schweers pointed out that everyone expects the County to have a recycling program and that the public would demand it if they tried to stop it. Mr. Moody mentioned the new Recycling Facility, which may be the building they are discussing. This [Post & Courier article from October 2017](#) appears to be related.