

Berkeley County Council Meeting

March 28, 2017

Observers: Marylou and Doc Ardrey

Attendance about 80

Meeting Highlights

- Water/Sewer Project – Approved
- Rail line easement to improve traffic flow near Bushey Park -- Approved.
- Water Project funding (detailed at previous meeting)-- Approved
- Financial Report

Excellent financial shape – Revenues ahead of projections, expect to end year with \$4.4MM surplus. Healthy debt to revenue ratios.

Main reason: one-time impact and hookup fees from new homes and businesses in the county growth spurt. Berkeley is 17th Fastest growing county in the US. Surpluses go to R&M fund – repairs, maintenance and expansion of infrastructure, principally sewer and water. Buy/lease deals have stabilized cash expenditures for trash hauling equipment.
- Pay raise for employees earning <\$60k/yr -- Approved. About 25 county employees were present to show support.
- Pay raise for employees earning >\$60k/yr -- Tabled pending clarification in consultant's report in hand.

- Rezoning of Royall Road Tract to Allow One More Trailer Park -- Denied. Discussion centered on traffic congestion, drugs and high crime rate in the area. Motion was denied even though the county's Land Use Plan would have allowed it. About 20 Royall Road residents attended to register their objections.
- Re-enacting Free Recycling -- No decision but board pledged general support and work toward that end.
- Miscellaneous – Several other minor rezoning or land use requests were approved.

OBSERVATION: Overall, meeting was orderly and constructive.

Full Minutes will eventually be posted on Berkeley County website.