



County Council Committee Minutes

Public Safety and Judiciary Committee January 28, 2019

The Public Safety and Judiciary Committee of Spartanburg County Council met on Monday, January 28, 2019, in County Council Chambers of the County Administrative Office Building. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of this meeting was provided in advance to the local news media and other interested parties. The following were in attendance: Honorable Michael Brown, Chairman; and Honorables Whitney Farr and Bob Walker, Committee Members; along with Honorables Manning Lynch, Jack Mabry, David Britt, and Roger Nutt, Council Members. Also attending were Cole Alverson, County Administrator; Jim Hipp, Deputy County Administrator; John Harris, County Attorney; and Ginny Dupont, County Attorney.

I.

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order.

II.

- A. Mr. Lawrence Flynn, Pope Flynn, presented information in reference to the consolidation of the **Trinity Fire Department and the Woodruff Fire Department**. Mr. Flynn stated in follow-up to the presentation by Mr. Massey during the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting, back in late July of 2018, once we had finalized the completion of the merger of Enoree, Hobbysville, and Cross Anchor into the Trinity Fire District, we were approached by the Woodruff Fire Service Area about the potential for expanding the service boundaries of the Trinity Area to serve the Woodruff Fire Service Area. Knowing that we were in the implementation process, we wanted to work through the initiation issues associated with that change. We have now entered into a Memorandum of Understanding laying out the foundation for moving forward with Woodruff. Unfortunately, the City Manager fell ill and could not attend the Council meeting, but the City of Woodruff is behind this move. It is more efficient to bring the service together for this consolidated entity. Woodruff is comfortable moving forward with this. An Ordinance has been drafted of the County expanding the current boundaries of Trinity Fire District to include the existing Woodruff Fire Service Area, which is a County created Fire Service Area, and expanding those boundaries to encapsulate Woodruff Fire Service Area, as well as the City of Woodruff. The County does not have the ability to provide service within the boundaries of an

Incorporated Municipality without their consent. The City of Woodruff has to provide that consent. They are going to have a similar Ordinance that is going to be moving forward with the same kind of process. It takes two readings for them to approve an Ordinance. Preliminary documentation for Ordinances have been drafted collapsing the Woodruff Fire Department, expanding the boundaries of the Trinity Fire Department, and then by Intergovernmental Agreement dictating the terms behind how service will occur within the City of Woodruff by Trinity Fire Department. The most important and probably pressing issue folks have is making sure the tax millage that the City of Woodruff currently has in place to provide fire service is removed, so there is not a duplication of taxes. Cross Anchor is the consolidating entity for purposes of Trinity. At 29.9 mills in place, the budgeted millage for fiscal year 2019 will come in somewhere less offsetting that against the City of Woodruff. They will pay a higher aggregate millage for fire service. The thought would be that you pay a high level of taxes to receive a high level of service. The documents will be available at first reading of the Ordinance in February, along with a Resolution to hold a public hearing at the meeting in March. Third reading will be held in April. The implementation of this process will be effective July 1, 2019, the beginning of the fiscal year 2019 Budget.

B. Updated information received regarding activities of Building Codes

Meeting adjourned.