



## MINUTES

Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation Meeting  
Monday, February 1, 2021  
5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in County Council chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, located at 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. Chairman Shane Martin presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Tom Corbin – Absent  
Senator Josh Kimbrell – Present  
Senator Scott Talley – Present  
Senator Shane Martin – Present  
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present  
Representative Rosalyn Henderson-Myers - Present  
Representative Max Hyde, Jr. – Present  
Representative Travis Moore – Present  
Representative Roger A. Nutt – Present  
Representative William Chumley – Present  
Representative Rita Allison – Present  
Representative Steven Long – Present  
Representative Josiah Magnuson – Present

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of this meeting was mailed/emailed in advance to the local news media and other interested parties.

Chairman Shane Martin called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Representative Nutt  
Pledge of Allegiance was given by Representative Moore

At this time Chairman Martin recognized the judicial candidates and any other elected officials and visitors that were present at the meeting.

### **1. Approval of the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes**

Motion was made by Representative Magnuson to approve the November 9, 2020 minutes as written.  
Second was made by Senator Peeler. Minutes were approved.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS**

### **2. Spartanburg County Commission for Technical & Community Education**

Term(s) of: Vollie C. Bailey, III; William R. Cobb; Ronald Wayne Garner; Harold Dean McClain; Edward G. Payne; Milton A. Smith, Jr.; John Bernard Travers (Cherokee County); Jason Daniel Maertens (Greenville County)

Application(s) Received: William R. Cobb; Harnetha Renee Dean; Ronald Wayne Garner; Johnny R. Lee; Harold Dean McClain; Milton A. Smith, Jr.; Victor Austin, Jr. (Greenville County)

Motion made by Representative Hyde to nominate William R. Cobb; Harnetha Renee Dean; Ronald Wayne Garner; Johnny R. Lee; Harold Dean McClain; Milton A. Smith, Jr.; Victor Austin, Jr. (Greenville County) and

to carry over John Bernard Travers (Cherokee County), Mr. Travers had recently passed away. Second was made by Representative Allison. Motion carried.

**3. County Transportation Committee (CTC)**

Term(s) of: Margaret "Rosalind" Brown – House District 31

Application(s) Received: None.

Motion was made by Representative Henderson-Myers to carry over. No opposition. Motion carried.

**4. Converse Area Fire District**

Term(s) of: Franklin D. Sprouse (resigned)

Application(s) Received: Larry Wayne Giles

Delegation Chairman Martin informed the Delegation that Franklin Sprouse has since now passed away. Chairman Martin also thanked Mr. Sprouse for his service and sent condolences to his family for the Delegation. He also allowed the Chairman of the Converse Fire Department Board to say a few words as well.

Motion was made by Representative Hyde to nominate Larry Wayne Giles and move the nomination be closed and Larry Wayne Giles be elected by acclamation. No objections. Motion carried.

**5. Forestry Board**

Term(s) of: Ryan Brent Peeler

Application(s) Received: Ryan Brent Peeler

Chairman Martin states Ryan Brent Peeler technically did not get his application in on time and ask that the Delegation for unanimous consent to allow his application to be accepted at this time. So move by Representative Allison. No objections.

Motion was made by Representative Moore to nominate Ryan Brent Peeler and move for the nominations to be closed and Ryan Brent Peeler be elected by acclamation. No opposition. Motion carried.

**6. Foster Care Review Board 7D**

Term(s) of: Charles A. Horton (resigned)

Application(s) Received: Heather Dawn Witt

Motion was made by Representative Allison to nominate Heather Dawn Witt. Second was made by Representative Hyde. Motion carried.

**7. Glendale Area Fire District**

Term(s) of: Robert W. Morris

Application(s) Received: Robert Wayne Morris

Motion was made by Representative Moore to nominate Robert Wayne Morris and move the nominations be closed and Robert Wayne Morris be elected by acclamation. No objections. Motion carried.

**8. Inman-Campobello Water District Commission**

Term(s) of: David E. Gibson

Application(s) Received: David Eugene Gibson

Motion was made by Representative Long to nominate David Eugene Gibson and move the nominations be closed and David Eugene Gibson be elected by acclamation. No objections. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9. Representative Hyde – Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce**

Carried over.

**10. Senator Talley – Chapman Cultural Center**

No report.

**11. Representative Long – Council of Government (COG)**

Appalachian Council of Government had a meeting last week, it was my first meeting with them being on that board after Representative Forrester position was vacated. It was a good meeting, had a presentation from the Department of Transportation on safety here in the upstate. We adopted some guidelines for that. I am sure I will have more to report in the future.

**12. Representative Henderson-Myers – SPATS**

No report.

**13. Representative Chumley– Department Of Natural Resources (DNR)**

No report.

**14. Senator Peeler- PARD Grant**

- a) PARD application from Town of Lyman
- b) PARD application from Spartanburg County

The PARD committee received two applications for funding through the PARD. One from Spartanburg County and one from The Town of Lyman. The Town of Lyman asked for \$62,150.00 and we want to recommend \$50,000 and Spartanburg County asked for \$100,000 for the Pacolet Park. Pacolet Park will address ADA issues, renovation of the restroom, new walking trail and a new basketball court. We place in form of a motion \$100,000 for Spartanburg County for Pacolet Park and \$50,000 for The Town of Lyman for a dog park. That leaves a PARD balance of \$6,653.98. Senator Peeler put that in form of a motion. Delegation Chairman Martin states that is coming from the Chairman of the PARD committee and does not need a second. No opposition. Motion carried.

Chairman Martin asked if there is any discussion. Chairman Martin recognized Senator Talley. Senator Talley wanted to clarify the PARD balance amount through June 30 is \$6,653.98 and would be through until the next physical year. Senator Peeler answer that is correct according to Debbie. Chief Administrative Assistant states that is correct.

**15. Representative Allison- Spartanburg County Transportation Committee (CTC)**

**CTC Quarterly Report as of January 21, 2021:**

Total Unobligated Funds as of December 31, 2020: (These funds can be applied to new projects)	\$4,635,443.53
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Funds Available after FY21 Liabilities	\$229,443.53
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Gas Tax for FY 2020 –\$4,680,300	\$ 2,730,175
Donor County Funds	-

<b>Total Estimated Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,730,175.00</b>
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**New Project Approved for this quarter:**

1. Annual CTC Paving – City of Spartanburg \$440,000
2. Annual CTC Paving – SCDOT - \$620,000
  - a. S-128-Hwy. 14 East (I-26 to N. Carolina State Line)
  - b. S-41 – N. Blackstock Road (SC-85 to New Cut Rd.)
3. Project Request 1162 – Rep. Magnuson set-a-side in amount of \$67,409 for S-128 (Hwy. 14 East) paving project.
4. Project Request 1161 – Reclamation/widening of Robinson Road from Fulmer Drive to Hwy. 290-\$350,000.
5. Annual CTC Paving – Spartanburg County - \$2,200,000.
  - a. Sloan Road/Mill Gin Rd. – Jordan Road to Mt. Lebanon Road
  - b. Shiloh Church Rd. – Hwy. 358 to Wasp Nest Road
6. Annual CTC Paving – Municipalities- \$275,000.
  - c. City of Greer (Westmorland Road) - \$150,000
  - d. Town of Cowpens (East Church St., Savannah St., Tumbler Rock Rd., Pebble Ct.) - \$75,000
  - e. Town of Duncan (Edwards Ln.) - \$50,000
7. Project Request 1156 – Rep. Allison set-a-side in the amount of \$20,000 for Edwards Lane paving project.
8. Project Request 1157 – Rep. Hyde set-a-side in the amount of \$25,089 to be added to Woods Chapel and Victor Hill Road intersection project 20025S.
9. Project Request 1158 – Rep. Allison set-a-side in the amount of \$40,565 to be added to Woods Chapel and Victor Hill Road intersection project 20025S.
10. Project Request 1159 – Rep. Long set-a-side in the amount of \$64,177 to be added to Woods Chapel and Victor Hill Road intersection project 20025S.
11. Project Request 1160 – Rep. Henderson-Myers set-a-side in the amount of \$65,884 for curb, gutter, and storm drainage improvements to Preston Street.

The Advisory Committee Meeting for Thursday, February 4, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m. has been cancelled. The next Advisory Committee Meeting will be on March 4, 2021 @ 3:00 p. m.

The next CTC meeting is Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

**SPEAKERS**

**16. Dr. Timothy Kowaiski, DO, D. FACN, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Update.**

Dr. Timothy Kowaiski, DO, D. FACN, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine made a power point presentation of an overview of the school campus in Spartanburg, demographic data, recruiting for diversity, tuition fees, programs of study, and rural health workforce programs.

Dr. Kowaiskie stated we are very close to getting official approval from DHEC to begin serving as a vaccinator for the COVID 19 vaccines and ReGenesis will be our partner in running the Northside Clinic with anticipated opening in the summer. We have already started our process of using our mobile outreach van that was donated to us by ReGenesis Health to go into rural areas to give immunizations. We have

talked with DHEC and we anticipate using our mobile van to provide COVID 19 vaccines as well in rural areas. We are anticipating Johnson and Johnson single dose without significant refrigeration maybe a good candidate for us to deploy into rural areas. Over 10 years now we have been the top 10 of medical schools in the country and whose graduates goes into primary care. VCOM has four campuses, Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana. VCOM is committed to outreach to medically underserved communities, both rural and international and seeks to train the best and brightest medical students to be well-rounded physicians.

**17. Dr. Laura Barbas-Rhoden, Founder, Alianza Spartanburg, College Access and Workforce Development legislation.**

Dr. Laura Barbas-Rhoden, Founder, Alianza Spartanburg, College Access and Workforce Development legislation made a presentation concerning Senate Bill 24. Dr. Barbas-Rhoden states that this legislation will strengthen our state by removing barriers to education and professional licenses for those with deferred action. Those with deferred action status came here because they were brought here, they have flourished and brought good things to our state. I know because I am an educator at a private institution. I have taught and partner with them and I've seen the work they do to make communities stronger, create prosperity and opportunities as professionals. The doors are closed to them in South Carolina, too many take their talent and workforce contributions elsewhere. Dr. Barbas-Rhoden states that the Delegation has a chance to make communities more prosperous by passing S. 24 this session. Passage of this bill will help fill positions in teaching in health, staffing challenges in Spartanburg Public Schools, and shortage of license professionals in mental health field. We can wait for Congress to pass legislation on to production but waiting for hypothetical Federal action means waiting months if not years of delays, jobs left undone, loss of opportunities for companies, hospitals, agencies and schools that need to hire people. We thank those of you that supported H3404 last session and ask that you support S.24 by becoming a co-sponsor and voting yes.

Dr. Barbas-Rhoden introduce Gia Quinone and Natalia Valenzuela Swanson to the committee. Gia Quinone, a mental health counselor in Spartanburg County. She spoke about her own experience, student graduates' achievements with deferred action that is muted by their paths of higher education, immigration status, and lack of ability for financial aid. She stated that other states have passed laws that allows students with deferred action to access higher education alongside their peers and they have the knowledge that the state economy benefits from more educated population. She thanked and ask the Delegation to support bill S.24. Natalia Valenzuela Swanson, employee of the Mary Black Foundation, informed that the Mary Black Foundation is not making a statement today. I am here on my own behalf to support bill S. 24. She spoke on workforce challenges in our state, shortages in education, healthcare and access to these critical educational and professional opportunities. She informed that she came to this country for higher education, obtained both undergraduate and master degrees. This state that welcomed me for my studies has now become my home. South Carolina's home to individuals with deferred action, many of them wants to further their education here and like me give back to their community with their many gifts. Please support bill S. 24, thank you.

**18. Michael Behnke, Citizen of Spartanburg County, Pandemic Shutdown and Legislative Response.**

Michael Behnke, Citizen of Spartanburg County, spoke on the Pandemic shutdown and the Legislative response. Mr. Behnke stated that the South Carolina State Constitution allows the Governor to issue emergency order for up to fifteen days and last March the Governor issued the first of countless emergency orders that has continued for the last eleven months. Mr. Behnke spoke about State Legislators duties, powers given to the Governor, rules of the Governor, the vaccine and the attempt to override DHEC to direct where the vaccine should go. Mr. Behnke states that he is not saying that the Wuhan virus threat is not real, it is. However, it has been politicized since day one to scare the people of the U.S. and the world. The media and politicians called for the President to do something, he suspended travel from China and called it the China flu, he was called racist and xenophobic. At that time Dr. Fauci and the CDC said there was nothing to be afraid of and no special precaution were needed outside of hospitals. Mr. Behnke spoke concerning method of coding deaths, CDC informed hospitals to list the Wuhan virus as the primary cause of death, hospitals compensation, death rate, CDC report on the annual common cold and flu rate, PCI test used to diagnose the Wuhan virus, mandatory lockdowns, and CDC studies wearing masks. Mr. Behnke

spoke on recovery rates with treatments available, Remdader, Regeneron, Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, Bamlanivimab, Etesevimab and Hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Mr. Behnke states now our schools, workforce, and businesses are suffering. Students are failing, restaurants closed permanently, massive layoffs, individuals have put off medical interventions and teenage suicides are up exponentially. Mr. Behnke stated we want constitutional carry for firearms for legal law abiding citizens to be restored and do not want red-flag laws. We want our state back. Open our state.

**19. Old Business**

None.

**20. New Business**

None.

**23. Executive Session**

- 1) Discuss a personnel manner

**21. Adjourn**

Hearing no other business, Delegation Chairman Martin announced we stand adjourned.

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Shane Martin, Chairman

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Attested: Debbie S. Culbreth

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Date

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Date