



## County Council Committee Minutes

### Livability Committee May 20, 2019

The Livability Committee of Spartanburg County Council met on Monday, May 20, 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 Jack Mabry, Chairman; and Honorables Manning Lynch and David Britt, Committee Members; along with Honorables Michael Brown, Whitney Farr, Bob Walker, 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 Mabry called the meeting to order.

#### II.

- A. County Administrator Cole Alverson presented information in reference to the **property adjacent to the Pacolet Library**. Around April 18, 2019, Spartanburg County School District Three's Board met and voted to unanimously convey the property that is located adjacent to the Pacolet Library over to the Spartanburg County Library System and the County by extension. They are doing this as part of an overall project to create a Park with a separate outside group and effectively the division of land would leave a separate triangle adjacent to our current property. It is about .18 acres, and it is located at the corner of West Main Street and McDowell Street. This property is being conveyed to the County without costs. Motion made by Mr. Britt to accept the conveyance of Parcel No. 3-29-00-086.01. Motion seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried.
- B. Mr. John Montgomery, Montgomery Development Group, presented information in reference to **Business 85 Beautification**. Mr. Bill Barnet, Barnet Development, was also in attendance. (Presentation included in backup) Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Barnet are part of a group of individuals that are interested in continuing to beautify and enhance our Gateways and Thoroughfares in Spartanburg County. This was an initiative that Mr. Milliken probably began many years ago

through the efforts of the Noble Tree Foundation and a lot of the Interchanges that have been improved. Over the last several years, they have made improvements on key Gateways into our community. Most notably at Highway 14 and I-85 near Greer. A very nice Interchange Enhancement Project happened there through private donations with the coordination of Spartanburg County being very helpful with the permitting process. Most recently, in Landrum and I-26 at the State Line and the County Line, there is a very successful project. Mr. Montgomery highlighted a project in which the first phase has been completed recently on Business I-85 as you enter into Spartanburg County coming from the south from Greenville. The purpose of these Interchange and Gateway Enhancements is to clean up and beautify some of our unattractive roadsides to help enhance a sense of pride in our community. Obviously, we are recruiting people and industry into our community everyday and want to have something we can be proud of when people are either passing through our community or coming to visit. The initiative has been undertaken with a group of individuals and organizations that have come together. Most notably, private funders who have helped fund this project, and Spartanburg Community College Foundation who helped administer the funds. The County has been very helpful with securing some of the permits needed through the Department of Transportation. Roebuck Wholesale Nurseries gave them a very competitive price on the maintenance and installation of the landscaping project which was done. The South Carolina Department of Transportation was very helpful in giving dollars to do some of this work and also increasing their amount of maintenance being done along Business 85 during the growing season. The group also began an effort to do litter pick-up and cleanup along the interstate. Images were shown of the result of the beautification projects. They plan to begin the second phase of this project soon which would take it from Highway 9 north up to where the I-85s merge. They will also continue to improve more Gateways throughout the County. They have another project they are working on in the southern part of Spartanburg County on I-26, and as soon as construction finishes on I-85 on the northern end of Spartanburg County, they will be doing another Gateway project there. Spartanburg Community College will be having an event to celebrate the work they have done at their interchange at the entrance to their campus. Mr. Walker stated that he has received a number of emails on the work that has been done on I-26 at Landrum, and he appreciates what they are doing on these highways. Mr. Britt, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Mabry, and Mr. Alverson also expressed their appreciation to Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Barnet for all the work that has been done for the community.

C. Information received regarding activities of the Parks Department.

Meeting adjourned.