



MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, May 3, 2010
5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Spartanburg County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator Lee Bright – Present
Senator Shane Martin – Present
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Present
Representative Mike Forrester – Absent
Representative Keith Kelly – Present
Representative Rita Allison – Present
Representative Steve Parker – Present
Representative Joey Millwood – Absent
Representative Mike Anthony – Present

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were mailed in advance to the local news media and other interested parties.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was rendered and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Steve Parker.

1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FEBRUARY 1, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Representative Rita Allison moved to approve the February 1, 2010 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. Representative Steve Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. HONORABLE BOB BRIGGS, PRESIDENT, SPARTANBURG COUNTY MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION – TAX REFORM

Mr. Briggs read a prepared statement because of last years decision to borrow money from Aid to Subdivisions. The Municipal Association has had several discussions concerning taxes in South Carolina. It makes it hard on municipalities to plan budgets if it is not known exactly what the state is going to do with the Aid to Subdivisions monies. (See Exhibit I.)

3. MS. CAROLYN MCINTOSH, MARCH OF DIMES ADVOCACY PRIORITIES – VOLUNTEERS POLICY AGENDA

Ms. McIntosh supports the cigarette tax to go towards access for health care for women in the state. Statistics tells that 20.7% of women of child bearing age in South Carolina smoke. One of the problems with that is it can lead to prematurity. The March of Dimes organization’s goal is to promote infant health and wellness, to prevent prematurity, and to hopefully find out one day to find an end to that debilitating stress on families. It cost exorbitant amount of money to our state and individuals to have a premature baby in the NICU for any length of time. The March of Dimes can do two things with the passage of increasing the cigarette tax 1) is to fund this program to give health care access to women and babies, and, 2) hopefully encourage smoking cessation in ladies of child bearing years across the state.

The March of Dimes appreciates the passage of this tax and is hoping the legislature will direct those funds in the direction for health care for women and babies across the state access to those that income levels prohibit them to afford their own private health care insurance.

The Children’s Health Insurance Program or CHIPs has been something that the March of Dimes has supported for a number of years. The March of Dimes hopes the CHIPs program will be expanded in future years.

There are still decisions to be made in the legislative session with regard to the passage of the cigarette tax as to where and what this tax will fund.

4. MR. GERLAD CHARLES – FOUNDATION AND STRUCTURE DESIGN UPGRADES

Mr. Charles presented his ideas on improving the residential and commercial buildings codes to shield against the intrusion of termites, and structural damage from violent destructive winds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Representative Allison had no report other than the delegation is sitting in an awkward situation with the possibility of a new airlines coming into the area.

6. REPRESENTATIVE KELLY – COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The proposed April 15, 2010 CTC meeting minutes has been included in the binder.

7. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)

Representative Forrester was not present to present a Council of Government report.

8. REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN – SPATS

The SPATS Committee will meet in a couple of weeks. A detailed report will be mailed out to delegation members at that time. SPATS is working to secure right-of-way on the Highway 9 project through Boiling Springs.

9. REPRESENTATIVE MILLWOOD – CHILDREN’S SHELTER OF THE UPSTATE

Representative Millwood was not present to present a report on the Children’s Shelter of the Upstate.

10. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

No report.

11. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

One of the major projects about to be constructed in Spartanburg County is a product of the Hospitality tax which was passed by County Council. The tax was an initiative to keep the taxing system consistent. All the municipalities participated in the Hospitality tax in the unincorporated areas that were not represented.

The Tyger River Park will be constructed on the Westside of Spartanburg County in the Reidville area. The facilities will be available to all residents of Spartanburg County. It is the first large project the Spartanburg County Hospitality tax is being used for.

A fly thru video was presented depicts a large green space as you enter the park. Next you see the Club House facility which will house the offices, media space, hospitality suite, concessions, restrooms and other spaces. Directly behind the Club House will be the central playground area. The playground area will be designated as the earth section. All the play structures will be as if you were in the woods behind your house type instead of traditional playground units.

A 60 foot observation tower will be designed to see the entire park facility. Within the confines of the tower will be two spiral slides. Off the play area, a wind play area will be constructed. Other play areas will include water and sun play areas. Children and adults will be able to play in all four of the play areas. There will be three pods representing twelve fields in the complex with an additional stadium facility.

The facility is one that will host a number of major national tournaments. Spartanburg currently generates about \$3M to \$3.5M a year in direct economic impact from the athletic tournaments hosted here. It is anticipated that once the facility is completed, it will generate between \$12 to \$14M direct economic impact. The \$14M investment is a large local investment.

A commitment has been made for October 2011 that will bring in about 250 to 300 teams. That equals six to eight thousand people visiting in our community. The biggest issue now is to find hotel rooms for all of them. Some hotels have contacted Spartanburg that have an interest in developing additional facilities in the area.

There are over 1200 parking spaces in the park area. The facility is heavily shaded with trees. All the seating areas are shaded.

Also, improvements to the Northside facility in Boiling Springs are underway at \$1.3M to include a much needed concession stand and press box facility. Other capital improvement projects throughout the county are also being considered.

These are all investments in the community that County Council has provided resources to develop for the citizens.

Federal money is being sought through Land and Water Conservation fund money and other options available through the state, as well as CTC for the necessary road improvements to accommodate the high volume of traffic.

A fund raising campaign for sponsorship is programmed to provide naming opportunities for local industries to participate in the project.

12. REPRESENTATIVE PARKER – POLICY AND PROCEDURES

No report at this time.

13. SENATOR MARTIN – UPSTATE CAUCUS

There has been concentrated efforts for the Upstate Caucus to work together to have more of an influence in Columbia. Mark Cothran, Senator DeMint’s former right hand man, is now overseeing the Upstate Caucus. He has done an excellent job in keeping all members informed.

APPOINTMENTS

Signatories combined weight factor must be greater than 50% for endorsement of nominated applicants.

14. ARKWRIGHT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of E. R. Thomas, Philip “Greg” Turner, Charles Nichols, and Mary Lynn Melton.
Applications received: None

There were no applications received, therefore, Senator Martin moved to carry this appointment over by acclamation.

15. UPSTATE REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Spartanburg terms of Dr. Scott Turner, Pamela Health, Dr. Deryle Hope, Dr. Charles Jackson, Fred Marsh, Craig Jacobs. Union County terms of Roger Bailey and Joe Walker. Cherokee County term of Steven C. Blanton, Jr. Applications received from Spartanburg County: Dr. Scott Turner, Pamela Heath, Dr. Deryle S. Hope, Mr. Stephen J. Wunder, Fred Marsh, Craig Jacobs and Mr. Gregory A. Scull

Representative Allison moved to nominate Dr. Scott Turner. Representative Parker seconded the motion.

Representative Cole moved to nominate the remaining applicants from Spartanburg. Representative Kelly seconded the motion. Both motions were approved.

Representative Anthony moved to carry over the Union county seats. Senator Peeler moved to carry over the Cherokee county seats. The motions were approved.

16. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Spartanburg County terms of Kathleen Baechle, George Wideman, and Gayle Singletary. Cherokee County term of R. Dewitt Clyde. Union County terms of Dr. Stephen R. Buchanan and one additional seat. Applications received: From Spartanburg County: William Larry Bishop, Gayle Dillard Singletary; From Cherokee County: R. Dewitt Clyde; and from Union County: Dr. Stephen R. Buchanan.

Representative Cole moved to nominate Gayle Singletary. Representative Kelly seconded the motion.

Senator Martin moved to nominate William Larry Bishop. Representative Littlejohn seconded the motion.

The motions were approved.

Senator Peeler moved to nominate R. Dewitt Clyde. Representative Littlejohn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Anthony moved to nominate Stephen R. Buchanan. Senator Peeler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

17. CHILDREN’S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Terms of William Bond from 7C and Todd Stephens from 7A. Applications received for 7C Board: Sherrie S. Smith and Carole Self.

Representative Parker moved to nominate Carole Self. Senator Bright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

18. BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Leon D. Kimbrell, Jr. Application received: Leon D. Kimbrell, Jr.

Representative Parker moved to nominate Leon D. Kimbrell. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

19. WESTVIEW FAIRFOREST FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Unexpired term of David Parks and terms of James F. West and Bobby Edgar Wilder. Applications received: John S. Mason, Josh Scott, Todd Gilmore, James F. West and Bobby Wilder.

Senator Bright moved to nominate John Mason, Todd Gilmore and Bobby Wilder. Representative Littlejohn seconded the motion. There were no other nominations made. The motion carried.

20. COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Terms of Bill Painter (House District 32), John Throckmorton (House District 37), and Hubert Boyd Waldrop (House District 38). Applications received: John Throckmorton (House District 37), Billy Painter L. Painter (House District 32).

Representative Parker moved to carry House District 37 appointment over until the next meeting. Representative Cole moved to nominate Billy Painter for House District 32. Representative Allison seconded the motion. The motions were approved.

21. CROFT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Phil Sinclair. Application received. Mike Shackelford.

Representative Kelly moved to nominate Mike Shackelford and the nominations be closed and he be elected by acclamation. Representative Littlejohn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

22. FORESTRY BOARD

Term of Sanford Smith. Application received: None

Senator Martin moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting.

23. NEW PROSPECT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Horace Edward Rich, Jr. and Ronny Blackwell. Applications received: Ronny W. Blackwell and Horace E. Rich, Jr.

Senator Reese moved to nominate Horace Edward Rich and Ronny Blackwell. Representative Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

24. NORTH SPARTANBURG FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

Terms of John L. Prince, Jr. and George Kevin Rush. Applications received: John L. Prince and George Kevin Rush.

Representative Parker moved to nominate John L. Prince, Jr. and George Rush. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

25. PELHAM BATESVILLE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Davis Holder. Application received: Davis M. Holder.

Representative Allison moved to nominate Davis Holder by acclamation. The motion carried.

26. GLENN SPRINGS-PAULINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Jeffrey W. Chandler. Application received: Jeffrey Wayne Chandler.

Senator Martin moved to nominate Jeffrey Chandler. Representative Kelly and Littlejohn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

27. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

28. NEW BUSINESS

a) August meeting date change.

There was no opposition to scheduling the next delegation meeting for Monday, August 9, at 5:30 p.m. in County Council Chambers.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Shane Martin, Chairman

Attested: Carol Crowe

SPARTANBURG MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

May 2010

WE THE PEOPLE who represent the people in the municipalities of Spartanburg County, South Carolina, in order to govern more wisely, make the following Declaration.

Our state is in an economic crisis and our revenue system is broken. The system is grossly unfair and unreliable. Its flawed and haphazard design continues to cost our state and our people dearly in terms of security and stability.

Piecemeal attempts to repair this albatross have been likened to re-arranging furniture on the deck of a sinking ship. We have clearly failed in our duty and responsibility to serve our citizens well.

Recent tax laws such as Act 388, arbitrary tax caps and the proposed Point of Sale amendments are simply bad Legislation. Years of tax breaks and resulting tax shifts have compounded many inequities and caused unintended and harmful consequences to our people. We are hemorrhaging from years of easy fixes and popular measures. Attempts at study and reform have only added terrible insult to previous injury.

In the current economic crisis, some of our leaders appear to be bent on avoiding deep-rooted problems by forcing local governments and schools to do much dirty work of raising local taxes and slashing local services. Rather than addressing and fixing a flawed revenue system at the state level, we appear to be fixed on 'sharing the pain' with local governments and dodging politically painful solutions.

WE ENCOURAGE our legislature to seek wise counsel from our many academics, economists and business experts. We ask you to allow the Tax Realignment Commission (T.R.A.C) to do its job and make unbiased and reasonable recommendations on comprehensive tax reform considering *all* tax sources without political limitations and handicaps.

WE SUPPORT comprehensive tax reform and we will support our legislature as it studies and designs a better financial system. We will support our elected officials if they will in turn support us by developing a good and equitable financial system for South Carolina and its future generations.