



MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, August 3, 2015
5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, August 3, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, located at 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Tom Corbin – Absent
Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator Lee Bright – Absent
Senator Shane Martin – Present
Senator Harvey Peeler – Absent
Representative Harold Mitchell – Absent
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present
Representative Edward R. Tallon, Sr. – Absent
Representative Mike Forrester – Present
Representative William Chumley – Present
Representative Rita Allison – Present
Representative Donna Hicks – Present
Representative Doug Brannon – Present

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

1. Chairman J. Derham Cole, Jr. called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was rendered and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Donna Hicks.

BOILING SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL GOLF TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

Representative Hicks presented the Boiling Springs High School Golf Team with a Resolution. Usually Championship Resolutions are presented to the winners on the State House floor. But it was late May by the time the golf team won the Championship, therefore Representative Hicks ask these champions to join the Delegation today to receive this Resolution. This is the second year they have won the championship.

2. Approval of the May 4, 2015 meeting minutes.

Representative Brannon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.
The motion was seconded. With no further discussions, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

3. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)

Representative Forrester reported the Economic Development Committee is in the process of updating materials which is the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the six counties the Council represents. This document is used extensively for Cities, Counties, and other entities to receive EDA grants or ARC grants which is critical to success in those areas.

4. REPRESENTATIVE TALLON – SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Representative Tallon is out of town on business and has asked Chairman Cole to present a partial update on what is going on as relates to the CTCs, this year.

The General Assembly, with some projected additional revenues, passed a supplemental appropriations bill, part of which resulted in the authorization of \$216,329,114.00 of additional onetime non-recurring funding for the CTC program. For Spartanburg County that portion will be almost \$9.8M which will be used in addition to the recurring funds normally received out of the State Budget to make improvements to the State Secondary system for paving, rehabilitation, resurfacing, reconstruction, bridge repair, replacement or re-construction. These funds will provide some much needed relief to the road system in Spartanburg County and across the state.

Included in each delegation meeting manual is a copy of the July 16, 2015 CTC meeting minutes.

5. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – SPATS

Representative Forrester reported the South Carolina Highway 9 widening from two lanes to five lanes from Rainbow Lake Road to River Oak Road, Phase 2 and 3 is eighty-seven percent complete – well ahead of schedule and should be completed by the end of Summer.

The preliminary engineering and the right-of-way is completed on the I-585 rehab project.

The California Avenue and the South Carolina 9 bridge have been completed. The SCDOT anticipates the total project will be completed by the end of summer.

6. REPRESENTATIVE CHUMLEY – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

a. Upstate forever grant application @ \$30,000 from Water Recreation funds

This request from Upstate Forever is to secure delegation endorsement from the Department of Natural Resources to provide \$30,000 from the Spartanburg County Water Rec funds to support their *Reconnecting people with rivers Initiative* which focuses on making the Upstate Rivers more familiar and desirable for people to help in our tourism. The application has received County Council endorsement and the Rainey Foundation has provided a \$100,000 challenge grant.

The DNR committee recommends approval of \$30,000 from the Water Recreation funds.

Representative Brannon moved to endorse the grant application as proposed. Representative Allison seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

b. Department of Natural Resources @ \$12,000 from Game and Fish

This funding is being requested to purchase three GPS bear collars for a better understanding of the bear population in Spartanburg County. There is a growing phenomenon of bear sightings and bear movement in the county. Other Upstate Counties have considered this request and voted to approve the funding. The DNR committee recommends passage. Senator Martin seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the DNR grant was approved as presented.

7. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Representative Allison updated the members regarding the Spartanburg Chamber growing economic developments since January of this year. Some \$350M investments have been committed – of which, all have not been publically announced, but will result in some 2,000 jobs created.

In May, the Chamber hosted 74 out-of-town Real Estate Agents, brokers, and developers to showcase the economic momentum of downtown Spartanburg.

The Chamber is also partnering with the seven school districts and connects South Carolina to bring a greater high speed broad-band internet access to Spartanburg.

A tremendous amount of work went into launching the Spartanburg Angel network in March. It comprises of twenty-seven accredited investors. Those investors have already invested \$250,000 in start-up companies in Spartanburg County.

In terms of Governmental Affairs, the business community’s number one priority is sufficient, long term funding for State Infrastructure. As we all know, this is of great need in the State and County as the fate of future jobs depend on it.

The Panthers have returned to Spartanburg. Last year’s count resulted in something like 49,000 visitors with a\$5.2M economic impact on Spartanburg County.

Currently, if you have eaten in any of our restaurants along the Tyger River Park, you will know you can’t get a seat, because the American Softball Association is holding their national championship tournament here in Spartanburg.

8. Representative Hicks – Parks and Recreation

A. Glendale Foot Bridge @ \$29,852.01

Representative Hicks reported there is money left over in PARD funds, the project request meets the guidelines for it, and the funds allocated will be used as matching funds grant.

Representative Hicks moved to recommend this \$29,852.01 be allocated to help with the fund raising effort to restore this foot bridge in Glendale. There are public and private funds going toward the project. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The funds will be used to restore the Glendale bridge trusses. The County owns the bridge, but the SCDOT is restoring the bridge.

With no further comments or questions, the motion carried.

9. Senator Martin – Chapman Cultural Center

As a brief update, the Chapman Cultural Center has a big festival scheduled for September 5th from 11 to 5:p.m. at N. Liberty Street, between The George, and the Chapman Cultural Center.

The Spartanburg Arts Commission won a \$1Million Public Art Challenge and has written 25 grants and received \$278,387 for Spartanburg County.

The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to lead the design, site, and construct “Artlets” in the city’s Northside neighborhood. Artlets are public structures designed to encourage people to be creative in their community. Conceived as public places with a platform/stage approximately eight to ten feet in diameter were created during the development of the Northside Community-Creative-Cultural Arts Master Plan in 2014.

NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

9. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Term of Lisa White

Applications received: None

Representative Doug Brannon moved to carry over this appointment. No applications were received, therefore the motion carried.

10. FIRST STEPS

Terms of Kelly Pope and Susan Ridings
Applications received: Jacqueline Jones Putnam

Senator Martin had some questions.
Representative Allison moved to carry the appointment over. The motion carried.

11. SPARTANBURG COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Term of Bartlett Winkler, District 1 (Resigned as of March 1, 2015; Eugene Anderson, District 2; and Kimberly Fowler, At large District 7
Applications received: Eugene Anderson, District 2, Kimberly Fowler, A-Large District 7, and Tracey Gaines Hill, District 1

Representative Brannon moved to re-appoint Mr. Eugene Anderson and to appoint Ms. Tracey Gaines Hill, District 1, and Ms. Kimberly Fowler, At large District 7. Representative Allison seconded the motion. The motion carried. Representative Forrester abstained.

12. UPSTATE EDUCATION CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Term of Business Leaders
Applications received: Coreen Culp, Sarah Simmons, and Andrew Lominack.

Representative Forrester understands that Miss Culp has withdrawn her application. *(Have checked on this; and, she has withdrawn her application but Mr. Lominack's application is still active. See November 2015 meeting agenda information.*

Representative Brannon moved to appoint the Honorable Sarah Simmons. The motion was seconded and carried.

Representative Brannon moved to carry over Coreen Culp and Andrew Lominack pending more information.

13. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Term of Dr. Susan Hilsman and Andrew Jones
Applications received: Carey Justice Rothchild and Miriam 'Jane' McCall

Representative Forrester moved to appoint Carey Rothchild and Miriam McCall. Senator Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

14. FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD 7C

Term of Zora massing
Application received: None

15. FORESTRY BOARD

Term or Ryan Brent Peeler

Application received: None

Representative Brannon moved to carry over the Foster Care Review Board 7C and the Forestry Board as no applications have been received for consideration. The motion carried.

16. NORTH SPARTANBURG FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

Terms of David Shafto, James W. Fowler, and Carroll Fred Wolfe, Sr.

Applications received: Ronald Hunter, Stephen Moore, Carroll Fred Wolfe, Sr., James W. Fowler, and David Shafto

Representative Brannon moved to appoint David Shafto, James W Fowler, and Carroll Fred Wolfe, Sr. Representative Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

17. DRAYTON FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of T. Mitchell Shook and Cathy Rogers

Applications Received: None

Representative Forrester moved to carry over this appointment. The motion carried.

18. STARTEX FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of William M. Allison

Application received: William M. Allison

Representative Allison moved to re-appoint William M. Allison. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

19. BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Resignation of Joe Williams

Application received: Walter Mills

Representative Hicks moved to appoint Mr. Walter Mills. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

20. GREENVILLE SPARTANBURG AIRPORT COMMISSION

Term of Doug Smith

Application received: Doug Smith

Senator Martin moved to re-appoint Doug Smith. The motion was seconded and carried.

21. CROFT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Resignation of James L. Jackson

Applications received: James R. Miller and William Littlejohn, Jr.

Senator Martin moved to nominate Mr. William Littlejohn, Jr. Representative Forrester seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion carried.

22. OLD BUSINESS

As all members are aware, there is a vacancy in the Veterans Affairs Office with Lynn O'Dell serving as the Interim VA Officer. According to the Delegation By-Laws, Chairman Cole, Jr. has appointed a screening committee to review the applications. The application deadline was Monday, July 27. The applications have been assembled and the screening committee will begin to review those and conduct meetings to make recommendations for a new Veterans Affairs Officer for Spartanburg County. The committee is made up of two members of the Delegation and three members from Veterans organizations in the County. The Chairman of the committee will be Representative Eddie Tallon and the Senatorial member will be Senator Harvey Peeler. The organizations will be represented by Mr. Sam Cox from the Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Terry Starkey from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Mr. Carroll Owens from the American Legion. Soon you will see letters go out about the meeting schedule and the process. With that we have some personnel matters related to that office as well as the Delegation office.

Representative Forrester moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the VA and the Delegation. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Delegation members proceeded to Executive Session.

At 6:15 p.m. Representative Cole called the meeting back to order after the executive session in which one matter was discussed and received information about the Delegation personnel matter and also matters were discussed relating to the Veterans Affairs Office vacancy and the interim officer. Lynn O'Dell has done a yeoman's job in operating the office in the interim. Delegation members thanked her for what she has done. In connection with that, we have a motion. Representative Brannon moved to appoint Ms. Lynn O'Dell as interim Director of the VA office. Senator Martin seconded the motion.

Representative Forrester noted the delegation has not received any complaints and thanked Lynn for all she has done to keep the VA office running smoothly.

The motion carried.

23. NEW BUSINESS

Representative Brannon moved to adjourn. The motion carried.

Honorable J. Derham Cole, Jr., Chairman

Attested: Carol Crowe