



Minutes From Sumter County Council's  
Special Meetings  
November 3, 2009, Held at 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
County Administration Building County Council Chambers  
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

1. Chairman Vivian Fleming McGhaney, Council District #5
2. Vice Chairman Eugene Baten, Council District #7
3. Councilman Artie Baker, Council District #2
4. Councilman Larry Blanding, Council District #6
5. Councilman Jimmy Byrd , Council District #3
6. Councilman Charles T. Edens, Council District #4
7. Councilwoman Naomi D. Sanders, Council District #1

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Denise McLeod, Executive Secretary  
Johnathan Bryan, County Attorney  
Keysa Rogers, Budget Analyst  
Pam Craven, Finance Director

William T. Noonan, County Administrator  
Gary Mixon, Deputy Administrator  
Lorraine Dennis, Deputy Administrator

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

The Item Newspaper - Gina Vasselli

**THE PUBLIC PRESENT:**

One member of the public was in attendance.



**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney called Sumter County Council's meeting of November 3, 2009, meetings to order.

**INVOCATION:** Chairwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation at both meetings.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Everyone present repeated the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The Chairwoman sated that she would entertain a motion concerning the approval of the agenda.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Baten, seconded by Chairwoman Sanders, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the agenda as present and to allow for Item B on the agenda to be held in executive session.

**A. Sumter County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Discussion And Review; Possible Actions May Be Taken Concerning This Plan If Necessary.**

Mr. George McGregor, the Planning Director, indicated that this is Council's third workshop and if Council would like to schedule another workshop to discuss this plan, he stands ready to do so.

Mr. McGregor stated that Council has been provided copies of the following items.

1. **Policies.** The language of selected policies has been revised to better articulate Council's support and encouragement of stated policies. A softening of the tone, if you will. Staff also took the opportunity to revise the wording in some cases to clarify, but not alter, intent.
2. **Rural Family Enclaves.** A new policy is offered for consideration in an effort to address the issue of density of rural family patterns.
3. **Priority Corridors.** Highway 441 and Myrtle Beach Highway are now recommended for Priority Corridor status.
4. **Population and Income Trends.** Staff will be prepared to respond to Council's question regarding demographics from the October 27, 2009, meeting of Sumter County Council.
5. **Implementation.** Note that a revised Implantation Chapter was forward to Council last week under separate cover. Also, a copy of given to each Council member at this meeting.

Mr. McGregor also provided Council members with a copy of a PowerPoint Presentation concerning the Implementation stage of the Comprehensive Plan.

He stated that the Implementation process is very important, specific action items must be accomplished to implement the plan, goals, and policies. The implementation process also represents a Planning agenda for Sumter County. There are achievable items in the implementation section and they are defined by achievable timeframes.

Chairwoman McGhaney stated that during the Regional Council on Government's meeting on November 2, 2009, the Board members received a special presentation from a representative from the Core Of Engineers and he talked about corridors in Sumter County and other things that needed to be done as the County continues to develop this plan. The Chairwoman asked Mr. McGregor to contact Mr. Darby so that Mr. Darby, Mr. McGregor and the representative from the Core of Engineers could meet to discuss Sumter's needs.

Mr. McGregor also talked about:

- Small Neighborhood/ Area Plans
- Corridor Plans
- Conservation and Open Space
- Sustainability and Resource Protection
- Historic resources
- Zoning ordinance
- Specific Zoning Needs

Councilman Edens stated that he would like to take the Implementation section out of the Comprehensive Plan and place it in a separate advisory document from Planning or from the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. This would allow Sumter County Council to act on these items on a case by case basis or whenever Sumter County Council feels that something needs to be handled. Councilman Edens also said that if the Planning staff sees that there is a need for Council to address any of these issues, then Council could do so. Also, he said that when it comes to mandates by the state or federal government, Council will have to address the issues regarding implementation of the mandate.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Edens and seconded by Councilman Byrd to remove the Implementation Section from the Comprehensive Plan and to use the Implementation Section as an Advisory document. Prior to voting on this motion, Councilman Edens withdrew his motion to allow time for the Planning Director and the County Attorney to decide whether or not state law would allow for this section to be withdrawn from the Comprehensive Plan. *No Action Taken.*

PS14 was discussed in length which is the Rural Development area. No formal action was taken at this meeting; however, the notes that were being read by Vice Chairman Baten will be attached to either of the meetings other than to approve the agenda at each meeting.

Vice Chairman Baten voiced his concerns about the 2030 Comprehensive Plan; he stated that this plan is a visionary document. It is an aspiration plan of what the future of Sumter can look like. He further stated that some people will not want to hear what he has to say and some will, but he felt that he had to say what he felt in his heart.

After reading four of the six pages that he had prepared, the Chairwoman stated that he would need to conclude his statements. She asked Vice Chairman Baten to submit his comments or prepared speech in writing to each of the Council members.

After additional dialogue between the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman, the Chairwoman hit the gavel to declare that the Vice Chairman was out of order (his statement was "that is the problem with you as Chairman of this committee, this Council, you do not want to hear things that might step on people's toes.")

Chairwoman McGhaney asked Vice Chairman Baten to get copies of his prepared speech to each Council member for them to peruse. She stated that it is her duty as Chairman to control the meeting.

**B. Update And Discussions On Building America Bonds (Two Types).**

The Chairwoman stated that she would entertain a motion to enter executive session to discuss potential contractual matters.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to enter executive session to discuss a contractual matter. At the conclusion of executive session, Council re-entered open session.

No action taken.

NOTE: This matter was be discussed further at the November 10, 2009, Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee meeting.

- C. **It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss A Personnel Matter, Receive A Legal Briefing, Or Discuss A Contractual Matter, And Appropriate Actions May Be Required And Taken Thereafter.**

ADJOURNMENT: After all comments, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

*Mary W. Blanding*

Mary W. Blanding, Clerk

Approved: **November 10, 2009**

NOTE: Although the Clerk to Council was out on bereavement leave, the notes for this meeting were taken by Denise McLeod and transcribed by the Clerk to Council.