



MINUTES

Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation Meeting
Monday, February 7, 2022
5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in County Council chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, located at 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, S.C. Vice Chairman Max Hyde, Jr. presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Tom Corbin – Present
Senator Josh Kimbrell – Present
Senator Scott Talley – Present
Senator Shane Martin – Absent
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 – Absent
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.

Vice Chairman Max Hyde announced that Chairman Shane Martin was not able to be present for meeting.
Vice Chairman Hyde called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Representative Nutt
Pledge of Allegiance was given by Senator Peeler

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

1. Approval of the November 1, 2021 meeting minutes

Motion was made by Representative Hyde to approve the November 1, 2021 minutes as written. Second was made by Representative Chumley. Minutes were approved.

NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

2. Spartanburg County First Steps

Term(s) of: Carolyn A. Gibson; Kay Phillips; Kelly Pope
Application(s) Received: Carolyn A. Gibson

Motion was made by Representative Magnuson to nominate Carolyn A. Gibson and move the nominations be closed and she be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

3. Children's Foster Care Review Board 7-D

Term(s) of: Monica Hill (resigned)

Application(s) Received: Glenda Brady

Motion made by Representative Nutt to nominate Glenda Brady and moved the nominations be closed and she be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

4. Upstate Regional Education Center Business and Civic Leaders

Term(s) of: Pamela Heath; Andrew Lominack; Robert A. Moore, Jr.; Sarah Simmons; Stuart Smith; Stephen Wunder; Three (3) New Seats

Application(s) Received: Alfred Dwayne Hatchett; Pamela Gray Heath; Robert A. Moore, Jr.; James Warren Sneed; Sarah Simmons; Stuart Lee Smith; Hope Johnson Talley; Jonathan Kilgariff Thrasher; Stephen Joseph Wunder, Sr.

Motion was made by Representative Long to nominate Alfred Dwayne Hatchett; Pamela Gray Heath; Robert A. Moore, Jr.; James Warren Sneed; Sarah Simmons; Stuart Lee Smith; Hope Johnson Talley; Jonathan Kilgariff Thrasher; Stephen Joseph Wunder, Sr. and move the nominations be closed and they be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

5. Veterans Affairs Officer

Term(s) of: Lynn O'Dell (deceased)

Application(s) Received: Brent Danny Cobb; Anita Carol Dixon; Robert McKinley Hall; James Thaddeus Mulak; Ashley Lauren O'Dell

Veterans Affairs Screening Committee- After Interview Report.

Senator Josh Kimbrell informed that Senator Peeler was the Chairman of this committee and he had taking on some new responsibilities as Chairman of Finance. Senator Peeler and I worked closely together in screening the candidates before session began. I helped host an informal screening committee with Representative Moore, members of the American Legion, Disable Veterans of America and other interested parties. We had five applicants for this position. Brent Danny Cobb, Deputy Director of Veterans Affairs in Greenville County, Anita Carol Dixon currently in Spartanburg, Robert McKinley Hall, James Thaddeus Mulak with Upstate Warrior Solution and Ashley Lauren O'Dell with Upstate Warrior Solution. All candidates were certainly well qualified and had a lot of experience. We found two was exceptional out of the five. The committee recommended Brent Danny Cobb and James Thaddeus Mulak out to the full Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Chairman at this time I move to nominate Brent Danny Cobb and James Thaddeus Mulak and that the nominations be closed and we proceed to hear from the two candidates and then the Legislative Delegation can make a decision on those two. Second was made by Senator Peeler. All in favor. No objections. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Hyde recognized Senator Kimbrell. At this time, we can go in alphabetical order. I do not know if you want to do this in open session or if we need to have some form of executive session that we need to allow Brent Danny Cobb and James Thaddeus Mulak to speak to the Legislative Delegation. I recommend we go in order and let Brent Cobb speak first, followed by James Mulak. Vice Chairman Hyde states it appears appropriate to proceed in public without going into executive session, as this is not a personnel issue. So please proceed. Senator Kimbrell called Mr. Cobb to the podium. You have five minutes to speak to the committee and if any member of this Legislative Delegation has any questions, they can ask after your opening remarks. I have already asked all of mine in sub-committee.

Brent Cobb thanked the Chairman and Delegation for this opportunity to speak tonight. He has been working with Veteran's Affairs as Deputy Director in Greenville County for two years this coming June. He has processed thousands of claim through his office. Currently we do board of Veteran appeal hearings in our office virtually which is not done in Spartanburg County. That, is one of the things I would like to bring

to Spartanburg. Where our veterans do not have to travel to the Regional office. Also, like to start a joint Veterans Council here along with some other community partners, such as Upstate Warrior Solutions. We can broaden our Veteran organization and put everybody on the same page. We currently do not have that here. I have discussed with the American Legion Commander at Post 28 and he is willing to host those quarterly meetings to get all our Veteran groups together. In the population of Spartanburg, roughly nineteen thousand Veterans. The majority of that is your Gulf War Veterans. They are a little more text savvy and they can help us do this deal. The other Veterans that we service the most is Vietnam Veterans, they are not as technical savvy and they need a little more help filling out forms and processing. With some guidance and making sure we are across the board, the claim representatives in office are all standard accredited with the South Carolina Dept. of Veteran Affairs and the American Legion, we can process them adequately through that. We just love Veterans, that is what I do in Greenville County and that is what I would bring here to Spartanburg County.

Vice Chairman Hyde asked if there is any questions from the Delegation. No questions.

Senator Kimbrell asked if Mr. Mulak would like to speak up to five minutes at this time and we can see if Delegation has any questions.

James Mulak thanked the Delegation. He states he is a residence of Woodruff, a Spartanburg County resident. He has been working with Veterans for the past seven years at Upstate Warrior Solution. Post the military, I have got my under graduate and graduate degree in Social work. I have carried my entire career with serving my country into serving my community and the Veteran population has been a huge part of that. My transition was not exactly the greatest in having gone through that whole process and continue to do that in my community is very near and dear to my heart to be able to help our veterans in our community. I had the opportunity to work across all seven counties of the Upstate, I've had a footprint in all those counties working with our community partners. I have noticed that Spartanburg County does not do well with working with community partners and we need to do that. It takes a village and not just the claim side working with Veterans but the holistic approach. Claims and extra money might help somebody there is also a need beneath that need, as a trained Social worker that is what we try to do. Especially Upstate Warrior Solutions and I want to bring that over to the County itself, work with that family, work with that Veteran in all aspects of what they need to do and not just file claims. I am extremely excited to be able to continue to work with Veterans in my community.

Vice-Chairman Hyde asked if there is any questions from the Delegation. No questions.

Senator Kimbrell move at this point we move to election on one of these two candidates.

Vice Chairman Hyde, Thanked Mr. Cobb and Mr. Mulak for appearing today and offering yourself. Any discussion. Vice Chairman Hyde asked a judicial question, is there a requirement that you must be a Spartanburg County resident? Senator Kimbrell states we looked into that as we went through this discussion. No, Mr. Mulak currently lives in the county and Mr. Cobb lives in Greer right at the border on Hwy. 14. His lease expires in August and he is moving into the county if elected. Either candidate when they serve will be in Spartanburg County. Vice-Chairman Hyde asked if there is any other discussions. No other discussions.

Senator Kimbrell had already moved to election on one of these two candidates. Second was made by Representative Long. Vice Chairman Hyde states this a weighted voting. Delegation Chief Administrative Assistant called the roll to vote, starting with the Senators and then House Representatives. Vice Chairman Hyde announced that the new Veteran's Officer was Brent Cobb.

6. Converse Area Fire District

Term(s) of: Larry Wayne Giles

Application(s) Received: Larry Wayne Giles

Motion was made by Representative Moore to nominate Larry Wayne Giles and move the nominations be closed and he be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

7. Glendale Fire District

Term(s) of: Paul G. Smith
Application(s) Received: Paul G. Smith

Motion was made by Representative Moore to nominate Paul G. Smith and move the nominations be closed and he be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

8. Whitney Area Fire District

Term(s) of: James Forbis (deceased)
Application(s) Received: None.

Motion was made by Representative Moore to carry over. Motion carried.

9. Inman-Campobello Water District

Term(s) of: John D. Edmondson, Sr.
Application(s) Received: Gene Craig Sims; Daryl Lamar Workman

Motion was made by Representative Magnuson to nominate Gene Craig Sims and move the nominations be closed and he be elected by acclamation. Second made by Senator Kimbrell. Motion carried.

10. Liberty-Chesnee-Fingerville Water District

Term(s) of: Nancy Ogle
Application(s) Received: Nancy Ogle

Motion was made by Representative Henderson-Myers to nominate Nancy Ogle and move the nominations be closed and she be elected by acclamation. Second made by Representative Magnuson. Motion carried.

11. Startex-Jackson-Wellford Water District

Term(s) of: Barry Frost; Brian Samuel Leonard
Application(s) Received: Barry Frost; Brian Samuel Leonard

Motion was made by Representative Nutt to nominate Barry Frost and Brian Samuel Leonard and move the nominations be closed and they be elected by acclamation. Second made by Senator Talley. Motion carried.

12. Renewable Water Resources (ReWa)

Term(s) of: New Seat
Application(s) Received: None.

Motion was made by Representative Hyde to carry over. Second made by Representative Long. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

13. Representative Hyde – Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce

One Spartanburg report, 2021 was a banner year. Highlights were \$1.9 billion dollars in new investments, four thousand and forty new jobs and number one in the Upstate in South Carolina. Of the South Carolina Department of Commerce's top twelve projects in new investment jobs creation Spartanburg recruited three of them. In 2022 through 2026, One Spartanburg Vision Plan 2.0 is set to launch in March. The future pipeline is promising and One Spartanburg is appreciative of each member of our Delegation.

13. Senator Talley – Chapman Cultural Center

No report.

14. Representative Long – Council of Government (COG)

No report.

15. Representative Henderson-Myers – SPATS

We have a total of twenty-four projects that are ongoing now. Nine are in the planning stage, three are in the construction stage and twelve are in other stages. Our next SPATS meeting will be a week from today, February 14 at 10:00 a.m. here in the Council Chambers.

16. Representative Chumley – Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

No report.

17. Senator Peeler - PARD Grant

No report.

18. Representative Allison- Spartanburg County Transportation Committee (CTC) Information in Notebook

CTC Quarterly Report as of December 31, 2021:

Total Unobligated Funds as of December 31, 2021: \$6,902,554.17
(These funds can be applied to new projects)

FY22 Estimated Liabilities to be Approved Upon \$7,010,000.00
Receipt of Funding

Estimated Revenue for FY2022:

Gas Tax for FY 2022 –\$5,041,000.00 \$3,360,664.00 (estimated amount to receive for
November 2021 to June 2022)

Donor County Funds -

Total Estimated Revenue \$ 3,360,664.00

New Project Approved for this quarter:

- a. Project No. 22002L- FY22 Annual CTC Paving - City of Spartanburg \$510,000.
- b. Project No. 22003S- FY22 DOT Paving-Annual CTC Paving \$1,905,092(total amount).
S-30 - Clifton Glendale Rd. (2.56 miles beginning at Hwy. 176)
 - 1. Project No. 22003S- Annual Paving DOT –\$1,835,000.
 - 2. Project No. 22003S - Annual Paving DOT-Rep. Moore set-a-side \$70,092.
- c. Project No. 22004L- FY22 Annual CTC Paving - Spartanburg County - \$2,500,000.
 - 1. Old Petrie Road
 - 2. Dogwood Club Road
 - 3. Bishop Road
- d. Annual CTC Paving - Municipalities - \$294,500 (total amount).
 - 1. Project no. 22005L- City of Greer - \$140,000

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2. | Project no. 22006L- Town of Pacolet - | \$ 35,000 |
| 3. | Project no. 22007L- Town of Lyman - | \$ 52,000 |
| 4. | Project no. 22008L- Town of Cowpens - | \$ 67,500 |

e. Project No. 21017S Apple Valley/Berry Shoals Intersection Improvement:

1. To be Added to Project 21017S -Rep. Chumley set-a-side in the amount of \$46,840.
2. To be Added to Project 21017S -Rep. Nutt set-a-side in the amount of \$34,677.

f. Project No. 2209L -Rep. Nutt set-a-side in the amount of \$34,677 for the reclamation/repaving of New Hope Road.

g. Project No. 20025S - Victor Hill/Woods Chapel Intersection Improvement:

1. To be Added to Project 20025S-Rep. Allison set-a-side in the amount of \$63,219.
2. To be Added to Project 20025S - Rep. Long set-a-side in the amount of \$50,000.
3. To be Added to Project 20025S - Rep. Magnuson set-a-side in the amount of \$25,363.
4. To be Added to Project 20025S – Additional funding- \$386,418.

h. Project No. 22010L -Rep. Hyde set-a-side in the amount of \$67,941. Bryant road corridor improvement to include widening and intersection improvement with Flatwoods Road.

i. Project No. 22011L -Rep. Henderson-Myers set-a-side in the amount of \$68,771. Roadway crossingimprovement, E. Broad St. at Meeting St. Academy.

j. Project No. 22012L -Rep. Magnuson set-a-side in the amount of \$45,000. Old Asheville Hwy. roadway and associated storm water conveyance improvements.

k. Project No. 22013L -Rep. Long set-a-side in the amount of \$16,989. Improvements to Hanging Rock Rd. from Valley Falls Rd. to the intersection with DoubleBridg Rd.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.

The next CTC meeting is Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

SPEAKERS

21. Steven R. Pelissier, Executive Director, Appalachian Council of Governments, Appalachian Council of Governments Services to the People of Spartanburg County.

Steven R. Pelissier, Executive Director for Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) made a presentation on Senior Advocacy aging programs, the two partner organizations (Spartanburg Regional and Spartanburg County Parks & Recreation), Grants Services, Economic Development, Transportation planning, Government Services, and Planning Services. We receive a \$98 thousand dollar fund appropriation from the Legislature every year, last year that \$98 thousand dollars supported \$7 million dollars in Federal funding across our six county region that went back to the people of the six county upstate. Thank you for that appropriation.

22. Bennie L. Harris, Ph. D., USC Upstate Chancellor, his Vision for USC Upstate.

Bennie L. Harris, PH.D., USC Upstate Chancellor made a presentation on USC Upstate economic impact and vision. USC Upstate is Number One Public Regional College in South Carolina, Number Two Public Regional College in the South, and Number One College for Veterans. Chancellor Harris informed on College to Career, Upstate Crime Analysis Center, Financial Aid to students, College Alumni, Household incomes, Build enrollment, Economic growth and development, priorities submitted to General Assembly, support from General Assembly, Cyber Security, and Capital requests.

This is not in our Legislative request. However, it is critically important to our region, we have been talking to One Spartanburg, our omission on Higher Education as well as our Foundation investing in the county and investing in this particular industrious for our county. We do not have a venue at USC Upstate or in this county that can support more than three thousand individuals attending. This facility will support about seventy five hundred folks. It will cost about \$85 million dollars and it will have a significant economic impact on the city, this county and the state. We will share more about this in the future with you. We want your inquiries, conversations and support. Thank you very much.

23. Jennifer Piver, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Greenville County, Transition to 9-8-8.

Jennifer Piver, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Greenville County made a presentation on Suicide Prevention Lifeline here in South Carolina. They answer for the whole state and answered over 32 thousand calls last year. Ms. Piver informed on The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act that passed in October 2020, three-digit phone number 988, mental health, anticipated growth, and funding.

Last year you passed the Student I.D. Prevention Act. Some of the Upstate schools already have that number this year on their students I.D. and within the first 24 hours we saved the life of a 12 year old who had already taken pills to kill themselves. These hotline services do work and we are here.

24. Charles Mann, SC Counts Fellow, District 7 School Board Redistricting,

Charles Mann, a member of the Spartanburg local Redistricting Advisory Committee informed we are a coalition of community, civic organization and engaged citizens. Our goal is to provide more a collective voice around redistricting in Spartanburg County. Mr. Mann made a presentation on Spartanburg District 7 school board, redistricting in 2015, 2020 census data, Delegation power over school district, 1999 court settlement, request to divide District 7-5, and configuration of school board. To ignore the community in this effort for redistricting and dividing District 7-5 into single member districts is to turn your backs on the citizens of Spartanburg. Thank you.

25. Sevi Alvarez, Citizen of Spartanburg County, Spartanburg 7 School District Redistricting.

Sevi Alvarez, Citizen of Spartanburg County and a parent of a future Spartanburg 7 student made a presentation on redistricting District 7-5, neighborhoods without adequate representation, 2010 census data, 2020 census data, and Delegation districting of school board. I ask that you begin the process of redistricting for the Spartanburg 7 School District, that 7-5 to be split fairly into five separate sub-districts each with its own member, all appropriate steps be taken to receive input from the public, draft new maps that are fair and representative of the communities who live there. I have a one year old son named Benjamin and soon enough he will attend classes and I want to ensure his school board representative is looking out for him and all the other kids in the neighborhood. Thank you for your time.

26. Lou Nespeca, CRC Metal Recycling, Road Paving Review 2021 and 2022.

Lou Nespeca, CRC Metal Recycling made a road paving review presentation on four points. 1) Interstate 73. Hope Spartanburg Delegation would vote against it until the roads in Spartanburg are fixed. 2) 2021 and 2022 projects listed on the DOT website they are addressing 5 to 10% of the roads in poor condition in Spartanburg County. 3) The 85-385 connector even though it is in Greenville County, the backup often reaches Spartanburg. The 85 business bridge is going to take two years to fix. 4) Mr. Nespeca states that Christy Hall has gotten massive raises, with current condition of the roads I find it hard to believe it is

warranted. Mr. Nespeca had questions, is money generated out of the gas tax and moved to the general fund? With the short comings of the roads only 5 to 10 percent being fixed by the DOT's project, how do you intend to pay for the other 90 to 95 percent of the roads that the DOT designated in poor or substandard condition? How much gas tax are we going to have to endure to fix our roads? When do we say enough is enough? I am not saying that you are not doing anything, because you are I see the paving projects. We cannot stop progress, but when are we going to fix the roads? Thank you.

27. Mike Behnke, Citizen of Spartanburg County, The Legislature Protecting The State From Medical Mandates.

Mike Behnke made a presentation on Medical Mandates and states that a genuine deadly pandemic does not require 24/7 advertising or marketing campaigns, definition change, forcing people against their will, my body my choice, and mandate on medical personnel. That Dr. Robert Malone, who invented the mRNA gene altering shot, said it was never intended for its current use and it does not work the way we are led to believe. The CDC in August admitted that the vaccine does not stop the spread or infection and now admits that the efficacy is only at best 50%. The Feds have also changed their recommendations regarding the monoclonal antibody therapy with regard to prioritizing ethnic group. Political elites are pushing mandates on us. You need a shot passport to simply live your life. The government dictates to employers, OSHA, EPA and DHEC tell businesses how to operate every day. Employers cannot ask about identity or health status, but allowed to ask about vaccine shot. State governments have the Constitutional authority to nullify almost every federal law and rule. At least for the time being states' rights come first. Do not subjugate our state into federal submission. Thank you to those fighting for our individual rights and freedoms.

28. Liberty Harris, Citizen of Spartanburg County, How Voter Fraud Impacted My First Election Ever.

Liberty Harris made a presentation on how voter fraud impacted her first election and states since January 2021, she has been involved with many political engagements, strive every day to find ways to serve country and community. Since childhood taught to love my country and it is right to defend what you value most. When introducing herself as a child, would say my name is Liberty it means freedom. Privilege for me was to become a registered voter. We have a right in this great country to elect one who will steer America into the direction that will suit the best interest of We, the People, while keeping the Constitution first priority and placing our Trust in God. The man in office was not elected. That is why I refuse to call him my President. I believe Joe Biden is ineligible to be in office. I have personally have knocked on doors, spoke with people who said voters registered at that address do not currently live there nor did they live there at the time of the 2020 Election, seen and taken pictures of empty lots with voters registered at that address. We the people, given a voice the minute we became citizens and deserve our voices heard. I have to wonder was my first vote cast in vain, was your vote even counted and will future generations have the same liberties and freedoms that we enjoy today. I say yes to freedom, right, and personal choices. We will not back down, bend or bow to the so call power of government. We want a full forensic audit of the 2020 election and with the help of God's mighty hand we can make it happen. We are the people and we have the power to led South Carolina and our country to be great once again. Thank you.

29. Rob Harris, Citizen of Spartanburg County, The Future of Voting-Preserving Precinct Participation.

Rob Harris, EC from Fairforest Elementary precinct made a presentation on being involved in a precinct in regards to voter/election integrity, Canvas in the state of South Carolina, full forensic audit resolution, and voter's fraud. The Organizers from Canvas are going to be in Lyman this Thursday to answer any questions. You can go to actions.org to the event tab to find out where, when and we can answer questions. Voting is the most important thing, the freedom to vote for who you want. Thanks.

30. Gene Kaiser, Citizen of Spartanburg County, A Veterans View of Voter Fraud.

Gene Kaiser, a Veteran made a presentation on remembering tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, and perhaps in the millions of Veterans both living and dead of why they served. Mr. Kaiser told of his days in 1966 serving the military and the events he had seen. Mr. Kaiser states that now it seems to be unimportant about our elections. I was on the Canvas team. I could not believe the things we found. I am asking you today are we going to throw these men aside, all these men over the years and years they fought

for this country, have they die in vain. If Mr. Biden had won legitimately would be perfectly fine with me, but I see otherwise in this state and county. I plead for you out of respect for the men and women who have died for our country that you would at least do a forensic audit in Spartanburg County. It is a necessity not only for my grandchildren, but for yours too. Thank you.

31. Karen Coponen, Citizen of Spartanburg, Election Integrity-The Numbers Don't Add Up.

Karen Coponen, South Carolina Safe Election Committee Data Analysis made a presentation on taking part of canvassing in neighborhoods and research for the canvassers. Ms. Coponen gave statistics and informed on absentee voting, phantom votes, ghost registration affidavits, deadline dates for voting, voting outside deadline dates, dates for voters to register, late registration dates, and registered voters at commercial lots and at 366 North Church Street. Ms. Coponen quoted Ronald Reagan. Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We did not pass it on to our children in blood stream, it must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same. We need a forensic audit to fix 2020 and nothing will change if 2020 is not fixed. They will manipulate the numbers, so the percentages will go up. So, when they flip this state in eight years. They are going to say, Well, can't you see the trend. It's fake.

32. Old Business

None.

33. New Business

Consolidation of Roebuck and Croft Fire Districts.

A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Addition of Two Members to the Board of Fire Control of the Roebuck Fire District, South Carolina; and Providing For Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Motion made by Representative Hyde to adopt this Resolution accordingly. Motion made by Representative Long. Second made by Representative Nutt. All in favor. No objections. Motion carried.

34. Adjourn

Representative Henderson-Myers moves to adjourn. Second was made by Senator Kimbrell. All in favor. Vice Chairman Hyde states meeting adjourned.

Max Hyde, Jr., Vice Chairman

Attested: Debbie S. Culbreth

Date

Date