



## MINUTES

Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation Meeting  
Monday, August 10, 2020  
5:30 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 Impact, a public virtual meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in County Council chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, located at 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. Chairman Edward Tallon, Sr. presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Tom Corbin – Present  
Senator Glenn Reese – Present  
Senator Scott Talley – Present  
Senator Shane Martin – Present  
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present  
Representative Rosalyn Henderson-Myers – Absent  
Representative Max Hyde, Jr. – Present  
Representative Edward R. Tallon, Sr. – Present  
Representative Mike Forrester – Present  
Representative William Chumley – Present  
Representative Rita Allison – Present  
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. The virtual meeting for public viewing was accessible at the following web address: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7gqyyNDZOuoyo\\_g7qCsoCw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7gqyyNDZOuoyo_g7qCsoCw?view_as=subscriber)

Chairman Edward Tallon, Sr. called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Representative Chumley

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Representative Forrester

Delegation Chairman Tallon recognized Republican nominees for the General Election. Travis Moore for House Seat No. 33 and Roger Nutt for House Seat No. 34. Congratulation on your victory in the primaries and look forward to a victory for you in November.

### **1. Approval of the February 3, 2020 meeting minutes**

Motion was made by Representative Forrester to approve the February 3, 2020 minutes as written. Second was made by Representative Magnuson. Minutes were approved.

## **SPEAKERS**

### **2. Christy Hall, Secretary of Transportation**

Christy Hall, Secretary of Transportation introduced Commissioner Woody Willard. Commissioner Willard states that the agency has come a long way under Secretary Hall's guidance and from the reports progress

is being made and you will be proud in the direction that things are moving. Secretary Hall has the complete confidence of the commission.

Secretary Hall made a power point presentation on South Carolina's Transportation system. The monies used to fund \$1 billion in road and bridge work across the state. Paving projects, rural road safety projects, interstate widening and additional bridge projects. Trust fund documents such as monthly account statement, contractor and vendor payments. The SCDOT provides all this information on its website and is updated monthly.

### **3. Dr. Christopher M. Lombardozi, M.D., Emergency Medicine Physician**

Dr. Christopher M. Lombardozi, M.D., is the Emergency Medicine Doctor and Chief Medical Officer for the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System made a power point COVID-19 presentation with SC Demographic Data, DHEC data 8/8/2020, Cases by Zip Code & Percent Detected, Hospitalization, Recovery, Race and COVID Deaths. For updated information you can go to the South Carolina DHEC website. Prevent the spread of COVID-19 by distancing, hand hygiene, masks, and seek care if sick. It will be a long time before an effective vaccine or specific treatment is readily available.

### **4. Dr. Michael Mikota, President, Spartanburg Community College**

Dr. Michael Mikota, President of Spartanburg Community College, became the college's seventh president on July 13, 2020. Dr. Mikota made a presentation concerning the focus of the college is the SCC (Safety, Communication and Continuity). Safety a safe environment, maintaining high levels of Communication in order to sustain Continuity. Higher education is changing very rapidly, since 1980 higher education cost increase has risen by 763%. The college is going to continue to provide continuity and is adaptable to implement and deliver higher education. Spartanburg Community College is very prime and ready to make great strides.

### **5. Henry Laye, Director of Registration and Elections, Impact of DOJ survey of our Polling Locations**

Henry Laye, Director of Registration and Elections made a presentation concerning November 3, 2020 General Election. Projection is for record turnout, both in absentee voting and in-person voting and having to combine precinct as we did in June, because of concern for the COVID-19. We have adequate number of poll managers and new polling sites. Each of our poll managers are equipped with face mask, gloves, shields, hand sanitizers, cotton swaps and alcohol wipes. Protecting our voters is our goal.

I have several things to ask your support when you reconvene in September. The recommendations would protect the public by minimizing crowds and long lines during in-person voting. For the use of absentee ballot drop boxes, no excuse absentee voting, and removing the witness signature. Also, by allowing counties to process absentee ballots beginning the Friday before the election, this would be verifying a voter's signature, opening the outside of envelope, but leaving the ballot herein envelope sealed until opening on the day of the election. Our election officials need adequate time to implement the policies, process, and procedures for the November 3, 2020 presidential election. South Carolina can display its leadership across this nation through protecting the public health of its citizens.

### **6. Gloria Close, Executive Director of Citizens Scholars**

Gloria Close, Executive Director of Citizens Scholars made a presentation on their vision to develop citizen scholars to have academic success and become empowered individuals with a positive life vision. To provide disadvantaged youth, through mentoring and program support, with the life skills, knowledge, and character development needed to obtain college scholarships, complete college, and become contributing citizens. To ensure the Spartanburg County public school students receiving Citizens Scholars Institute services complete post-secondary programs fully career ready as productive citizens.

### **7. Jody Traywick, Citizens for Safe Streets**

Jody Traywick, Citizens for Safe Streets made a presentation on Red Light Running that happens frequently and is often deadly. Close to 900 people were killed in crashes that involved red light running. Usually the person that runs the red light does not die. Over a 140,000 people were injured in red light accidents.

Triple A says the number is increasing every year. The only thing that changes behavior is consequences, right now on our streets and road there is no consequences to breaking the law and putting yourself and other people in harm's way. Photo enforcement is a proven, effective tool to make roads safer. Well controlled before and after studies have found that red light cameras reduce violations and injury crashes.

#### **8. Robyn Farrell, Co-Founder and CEO of Sharpen, Technology platform Sharpen**

Robyn Farrell, Co-Founder and CEO of Sharpen, made a presentation on the cloud service that helps communities improve behavioral health outcomes. The high growth technology company was built in Spartanburg and two of Sharpen products built in partnership with Upstate Warrior Solution and United Way of the Piedmont. Both are free for residents of Spartanburg and can assist parents, veterans, foster families and students with the mental health stressors that are impacting so many Spartanburg residents during COVID. The service helps with stress management and improves resiliency, both of which are critical to support mental wellness.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS**

#### **9. Spartanburg County Commission for Technical & Community Education**

Term(s) of: James M. Folk -District 6 At Large Member (resigned)

Application(s) Received: Katherine L. O'Neill

Motion was made by Senator Martin to nominate Katherine L. O'Neill. Second was made by Representative Allison. No objections. Representative Forrester abstained from vote.

#### **10. County Transportation Committee (CTC)**

Term(s) of: Margaret "Rosalind" Brown – House District 31

Application(s) Received: None.

Carried over.

#### **11. Department of Social Services (DSS)**

Term(s) of: Paul Manly; Lisa White

Application(s) Received: Amber Victoria Geathers

Motion was made by Senator Talley to carry over. No objections. Carried over.

#### **12. Forestry Board**

Term(s) of: Ryan Brent Peeler

Application(s) Received: None

Motion was made by Representative Allison to carry over. No objections. Carried over.

#### **13. Croft Fire District**

Term(s) of: John Marvin (Mark) Blackman; James Arthur Elam; Harold (Hal) E. Hall; Bruce Schoonover

Application(s) Received: John Marvin (Mark) Blackman; James Arthur Elam; Harold (Hal) E. Hall; Bruce Schoonover

Motion was made by Representative Forrester to nominate John Marvin (Mark) Blackman; James Arthur Elam; Harold (Hal) E. Hall; Bruce Schoonover. Second was made by Senator Martin. Motion carried.

#### **14. Drayton Fire District**

Term(s) of: Harold Wayne Bradey; Johnie O. Byars

Application(s) Received: Harold Wayne Bradey; Johnie O. Byars

Motion was made by Representative Hyde to nominate Harold Wayne Bradey; Johnie O. Byars. Second was made by Senator Martin. Motion carried.

**15. Glendale Area Fire District**

Term(s) of: Gayle T. Decker; Ralph L. Williams

Application(s) Received: Gayle T. Decker; William Barnett Littlejohn, Jr.; Ralph L. Williams

Motion was made by Representative Long to nominate Gayle T. Decker and Ralph L. Williams and move for the nominations to be closed and they be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

**16. North Spartanburg Fire & Rescue District**

Term(s) of: Willie E. Browning, Sr.; Paul Wayne Jolly (deceased)

Application(s) Received: Willie E. Browning, Sr.

Motion was made by Representative Long to nominate Willie E. Browning, Sr. and move for the nominations to be closed and they be elected by acclamation. Second was made by Representative Magnuson. Motion carried.

**17. Pacolet Station Fire District Commission**

Term(s) of: Frank Mitchell (resigned)

Application(s) Received: Stephen Greg Bradley

Motion was made by Senator Martin to nominate Stephen Greg Bradley. Second was made by Representative Forrester. Motion carried.

**18. Startex Fire District**

Term(s) of: Roy W. Crow; Delano B. Williams

Application(s) Received: Roy W. Crow; Delano Bryson Williams

Motion was made by Representative Allison to nominate Roy W. Crow; Delano Bryson Williams and move the nominations be closed and be elected by acclamation. Second was made by Representative Forrester. Motion carried.

**19. Westview-Fairforest Fire District Commission**

Term(s) of: Todd Gilmore; Kimberly Jolley; James Duren Trout

Application(s) Received: Todd Gilmore; Kimberly Jolley; James Duren Trout

Motion was made by Representative Forrester to nominate Todd Gilmore; Kimberly Jolley; James Duren Trout. Second was made by Senator Talley. Motion carried.

**20. Whitney Area Fire District**

Term(s) of: Linda Y. Cox (resigned); James R. Forbis; William Claude Thomason

Application(s) Received: James R. Forbis; William Claude Thomason; Frederick Scott Watson

Motion was made by Senator Martin to nominate James R. Forbis; William Claude Thomason; Frederick Scott Watson. Second was made by Representative Hyde. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**21. Representative Tallon – Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce**

No report.

**22. Senator Talley – Chapman Cultural Center**

No report.

**23. Representative Forrester – Council of Government (COG)**

The Government Services Director, Trey Eubanks is serving as the Inman interim Administrator, coordinating the process of hiring a new administrator. He is also facilitating the process for Pacolet to hire a new police chief and provide orientation to the new mayor. He is developing a procurement ordinance for Woodruff. He is working with Lyman on the selection of a new accounting firm and also working with Chesnee on the process to select the new Municipal clerk. A lot of planning going on in Cowpens, Inman and Reidville. Assistance by the COG as well as DOT is doing the freight mobility plan for our upstate area. One thing you might want to be aware of is on aging services, most of the dining sites were closed in mid March and now they are doing home delivery and the numbers of meals have increased by 35 % but that is funding by the Cares Act Funding.

**24. Representative Henderson-Myers – SPATS**

Carried over.

**25. Representative Chumley– Department Of Natural Resources (DNR)**

No report.

**26. Senator Peeler- PARD Grant**

Representative Allison and Representative Long serve on the PARD committee with me and after our previous awards there is a balance of \$81,496.44. We only had one request from the City of Spartanburg that requested a \$100,000.00. The committee recommends that we award \$50,000.00 of the \$81,496.44 to the City of Spartanburg. That will leave us a balance of \$31,496.44 and then the addition of the 2020-2021 allocations forth coming.

**a) PARD application from City of Spartanburg**

Committee recommendation in the amount of \$50,000.00 to City of Spartanburg

Motion made by Senator Peeler. Second comes from the committee. Motion carried.

**27. Representative Allison- Spartanburg County Transportation Committee (CTC)**

**CTC Quarterly Report as of June 30, 2020:**

Total Unobligated Funds as of June 30, 2020: \$1,453,315.35  
(These funds can be applied to new projects)

**Estimated Revenue FY 2020:**

Gas Tax for FY 2020 –\$4,342,100	\$ 723,683
Donor County Funds -	

Total Estimated Revenue \$723,683.34

**New Project Approved for this quarter:**

No new projects at this time.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting is Thursday, August 6, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m.

The next CTC meeting is Thursday, October 15, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

## 28. Old Business

None.

## 29. New Business

### 1) Senator Shane Martin

I wanted to bring to the bodies attention, it is my understanding that our Master-In-Equity is going to be retiring at some point next year when the term expires. It is my understanding I believe Senator Talley pointed this out. It is going through the Judicial Merit Selection committee as well. I just wanted to remind the Delegation that we have our rules that a week prior to our meeting whenever we set this for our meeting next year that we don't do any commitments before that one week period. But we also need to be cognizant that there may be other requirements in addition to our Delegation rules from the Judicial Merit Selection committee. I don't want anybody and we got two potential new members out here in the audience. I wouldn't want anybody to get caught in any pre-commitments or anything like that and get themselves in trouble without knowing and that is why I wanted to bring up in this meeting. The other thing I would like to suggest to the Delegation, we have done this successfully in the past either with a full body, maybe executive session or at least a committee of Senators and House Members to at least interview maybe the top three candidates that maybe get screened out or maybe we got another process here because of Judicial Merit Selection committee is going to release a slate of candidates. I think the Delegation should appoint a committee or maybe take time and do a fifteen minute interview for each of the three candidates at least prior to the meeting. I think that would be good. That way before we vote, especial we are going to have new members coming on it would be nice for them to get a chance to go through that interview process. I just wanted to point that out to the Delegation.

Delegation Chairman Tallon addressed Senator Martin. That is a matter of information for the new Delegation coming in November, correct.

Senator Martin answered Yes Sir. Thank you.

### 2) Pelham-Batesville Fire District Board of Fire Control (Greenville County)

Greenville County Delegation at their July 13, 2020 meeting recommended the reappointment of 3 appointees and have elected and signed off on reappointments and request for Spartanburg County Delegation to sign off on the 3 Greenville County reappointments.

Motion was made by Senator Corbin. Second was made by Representative Magnuson. Motion carried.

Also, in new business Delegation Chairman Tallon informs on the electing Chairman and Vice Chair of this body. The rules say that the Chairman and Vice Chairman is co-terminus which means that when the term ends in November, the Chairman and Vice Chairman are gone too. So when you come back in November, Senator Peeler is the Vice Chairman now and he would just preside over the election for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Then their term ends two years later at the end of the term. This is information on what are the rules, unless you change rules when you come back in.

Delegation Chairman recognizes Representative Forrester. Thank you Mr. Chairman, it has been my pleasure to serve for the last 12 years on this Delegation. This Delegation has come a long way and we work well together. I appreciate working with each and every one of you. I ask that you would help my replacement Roger Nutt. He will be coming on and is a great guy. He has been on County Council for 10 years. He will do great things. He needs your help and guidance, in grooming him and teaching him the rules in Columbia, helping him to be successful. If he is successful we all are successful. I appreciate each and every one of you, the help and guidance you given me. I am going to miss you but not the process.

Delegation Chairman Tallon addressed Delegation, thank you for letting me serve as Chairman of this distinguished Delegation. This is just a fine group of people. Never have I asked one person on this Delegation to do something and they have not bent just over backwards to do it. We may disagree on votes at times. You are a great bunch of people and you serve Spartanburg County well. I've got a replacement that is going to do a jam up job. I love you all and enjoyed being with you. Thanks for allowing me to serve with you.

### 30. Adjourn

Delegation Chairman Tallon announced we stand adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harvey Peeler, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested: Debbie S. Culbreth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date