A meeting of Charleston County Council's Finance Committee was held at 5:00 PM on January 13, 2022 in the Beverly T. Craven Council Chambers, Second Floor of the Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building, located at 4045 Bridge View Drive, North Charleston, South Carolina.

The following committee members were present: Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Chairman who presided; Henry E. Darby, Jenny Costa Honeycutt, Anna Johnson, Kylon Jerome Middleton, Herb Sass, Dickie Schweers, and Robert L. Wehrman. Brantley Moody was absent.

County Administrator Bill Tuten and County Attorney Natalie Ham were also present.

Ms. Johnson moved for approval of the Finance Committee minutes of January 4, 2022. Mr. Sass seconded the motion, which carried.

The Chairman announced the next item on the agenda was the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sass, which carried.

The Consent Agenda items are as follows:

Sol Legare Road
Turn LaneItem A:
County Administrator Bill Tuten and Procurement Director Barrett J. Tolbert provided a
report regarding an award of contract for the Sol Legare Road Turn Lane Project. It was
stated that the Sol Legare Road Turn Lane project is in Charleston County, South
Carolina. The work shall include, but is not limited to, site excavation, sub-grade
preparation, grading, asphalt paving, improving traffic signaling, roadway striping and
associated appurtenances, moving and improving an existing drainage ditch, sediment
and erosion control, temporary and permanent vegetation, and traffic control. The project
will be constructed utilizing the items listed on the bid tab form in the solicitation.

Bids were received in accordance with the terms and conditions of Invitation for Bid No. 5652-22C. The mandatory Small Business Enterprise (SBE) requirement for this solicitation is 12.2% and the Minority Women Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) goal is 25%.

Bidder Truluck Construction, Inc. Charleston, South Carolina 29407 Principal: Charles Truluck, Jr.	Total Bid Price \$129,400.00	SBE % 20.1%	MWDBE % 6.6%
Blythe Development Company Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 294 Principal: Frank W. Blythe	\$234,598.20 64	20.2%	17.5%

Department Head recommended that Council authorize award of contract for the Road Work project Sol Legare Road Turn Lane Project to Truluck Construction, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$129,400.00 with the understanding that the funds are available in the Transportation Sales Tax Fund.

Item B:

Adele Street Improvements

Award of Contract County Administrator Bill Tuten and Procurement Director Barrett J. Tolbert provided a report regarding an award of contract for Adele Street Improvements. It was stated that the Adele Street Improvement project is located in Charleston County, South Carolina. The work shall consist of paving 650 LF of Adele Street in Charleston, South Carolina with pervious asphalt. The work shall include, but is not limited to, Clearing and grubbing, asphalt paving, erosion and sediment control and traffic control.

Charleston Water System (CWS) will fund the scope of utility work which shall include the construction of approximately four hundred four linear feet (404') of six-inch (6") water main, two hundred fifty-three feet (253') of four-inch (4") water main, one (1) fire hydrant, two hundred forty feet (240') of eight-inch (8") gravity sewer main and associated appurtenances from the intersection of Adele Street and Savage Road along Adele Street. The existing water service lines will be abandoned in-place with above ground appurtenances being removed. The project will be constructed utilizing the items listed on the bid tab forms for the paving work and the utility work in the solicitation. "Contingency Cash Allowance shall be used at CWS's discretion for project overruns or changes in scope of work. Contingency shall not be used at BIDDER'S discretion. Contingency shall only be used with approval and authorization by CWS."

Bids were received in accordance with the terms and conditions of Invitation for Bid No. 5647-22C. The mandatory Small Business Enterprise (SBE) requirement for this solicitation is 12.2% and the Minority Women Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) goal is 25%.

Bidder *IPW Construction Group, Inc Charleston, South Carolina 29423 Principal: Bryan Rembert	Total Bid Price \$228,334.13 Paving \$361,716.22 Utility Total \$590,050.35	SBE % 0%	MWDBE % 100%
Truluck Roadway Services, LLC Charleston, South Carolina 29407 Principal: Chris Truluck	\$224,912.00 Paving \$418,961.00 Utility Total \$643,873.00	100%	100%

*Deemed Non-Responsive for failure to submit required paperwork.

Department Head recommended that Council authorize award of contract for Adele Sidewalk Improvement Project to Truluck Roadway Services, LLC., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$643,873.00 with the understanding that the funds are available in the Transportation Sales Tax 2021 Rural Roads Fund and authorize acceptance of funding in the amount of \$418,961.00 from Charleston Water System. The previous item was the last item on the Consent Agenda

The Chairman announced the next item on the agenda was a presentation regarding the Permitting Process.

Permitting
ProcessProject Coordinator Karen Green began her presentation by stating that Mr. Schweers
has previously seen this presentation in May 2021 and thought it will be important that
Council knows how the permitting process works. The Permitting Departments are
working together to streamline the permitting process for the citizens of Charleston
County and implemented a new program.



Permitting Departments

Permitting Process Committee

Mission:

To simplify the permitting process for all the citizens of Charleston County, with cross departmental communication and a unified message

Zoning and Planning : Niki Grimball

Public Works/Stormwater: Wes Linker & Sonya Cromwell

Building Services: Diamond Cooper

Computerized System Utilized

- EnerGov Community Development software automates your governmental operations in land use planning, permitting, enforcement case management, and inspections
- EnerGov uses GIS to automate and connect critical processes, streamline workflow, improve communication, and increase productivity from desk to field



Planning & Zoning Department Planner Niki Grimball began her presentation by giving an overview of the new process and discussing the specific process improvements as seen below:



Permit Application Submittals

		Number of Submittals (Calendar Year)			
Plan Type	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Pre-Application Site Plan (PAPP)	373	345	336	277	299
Site Plan Review (ZSPR)	116	125	93	104	107
Subdivision Review (SWPR)	38	42	16	7	15
Subdivision (SBDV)	312	234	249	295	316
Single Family Residential (CONS)	1,442	1,090	1,098	985	893
Commercial (CONS)	1,618	1,360	1,113	1,131	980
Clear and Grubb (ZonA)	66	98	37	78	82
Encroachment Reviews (ENCR)	160	94	98	101	184
Stormwater MS4 Permits	522	436	514	489	555
Building Permits (ALL)	15,433	11,751	14,669	11,424	13,261
Zoning Permits	2,572	2,207	2,133	2,022	1,730
Total	22,652	17,782	20,356	16,913	18,422

New Module Implementation

Decision Engine: This solution expedites the permitting process by asking a series of simple questions to help the citizen arrive at the correct destination. From there, the citizen can read background, fill out necessary forms, and find out the status of their request

- Permitting Committee has met weekly to map out the process
- Thru the mapping process the committee has made updates to make these processes more efficient
- Ready for "Go Live"

Decision Engine



Decision Engine Views



Charleston County Single Family Residential Permit Process



Mr. Schweers asked is there an opportunity for users to provide feedback in the new system. Ms. Grimball stated yes, there is a link for feedback on the citizen self-service portal. Mr. Schweers asked how that will be monitored. Ms. Grimball stated that representatives from the three departments will meet regular to discuss the feedback and implement any changes.

Chairman Pryor asked if they would there be a need more staffing. Deputy County Administrator for General Services Walt Smalls stated that they will be asking for more full-time employees.

The Chairman announced the next item on the agenda was a presentation regarding the Library Construction Update.

LibraryFacilities Design & Construction Manager Carl Wohlfeil began his presentation by statingConstructionthat this is an update on the progress of the new and renovated libraries that wereUpdatefunded through the Library referendum.

Presentation The four new libraries can be seen below:



Mr. Wohlfeil stated that after the completion of the 4 libraries, they were 14% under their forecasted budget, which allowed for \$9 million of available funding to be reallocated back into the budget for the library projects.

Mr. Wohlfeil provided an update on the Keith Summey Library stating that the advantages that came from using renovating the existing library and add onto was the frontage site on Rivers Avenue, the increased size of the location, and preserving the Cooper River Memorial Library. He stated that the library is 40% complete with a scheduled occupancy for August 2022. The contractor has successfully stayed on schedule despite challenges with dismantling the Cooper River Memorial Library and preserving the shell, as well as construction industry impacts on material delays and labor shortages. The Keith Summey Library can be seen below:



Mr. Wohlfeil stated they are renovating the older libraries to update them with new technologies at great extents due to the \$9 million saved. The Cynthia Hurd, Johns Island, and Otranto libraries are completed and currently reopened. The Mount Pleasant and Dorchester Libraries are 60% complete with a scheduled occupancy for June 2022.





Mr. Wohlfeil stated that savings from 4 new libraries were reprioritized/reallocated to North Charleston Library and Regional Renovation. He stated that the current funding is adequate to complete the remainder as originally programmed. The current schedule can be seen below:





The 2016 program renovation for the Main Library can be seen below:

Mr. Wohlfeil stated that the amount of available funding is sufficient for this very limited scope. However, there is a concern that the level of renovation that this funding provides will not match the level of services/quality at all other library locations. He stated the good news is that there is potential opportunity to do something more and asked the Library Executive Director Angela Craig to speak to the opportunity.

Library Executive Director Angela Craig began her presentation by stating that the Library Board of Trustees would like to supplement existing funds to renovate by fundraising \$12.4 million in order to elevate the renovations and services at the Main Library. She explained the prioritized areas they would like to elevate with any monies raised through fundraising as shown below:







It was explained that the fundraising efforts would postpone the renovation of the Main Library by approximately one year.



Chairman Pryor asked if they needed Council action to move forward. Ms. Craig stated that they would like the support of Council for them to move forward with their fundraising efforts beginning next month. She stated that they are not asking for additional funds from the County.

Mr. Sass asked if the \$12.4 million was for additional unplanned items that were not in the original renovation project. Ms. Craig stated yes, that was correct.

Ms. Johnson moved to authorize the acceptance of funds raised by the Project: Main fundraising effort to be used towards the following list of prioritized renovation projects at the Main Library:

- South Carolina Room
- Youth Area Space
- Business Innovation
- Gallery Space
- Friends of the Library Program Space

It is understood that this will delay the project by approximately one year.

Mr. Sass seconded the motion.

Mr. Schweers asked if staff is anticipating that there will be a zero balance at completion of all renovation projects. Ms. Craig stated yes. Mr. Smalls stated that they have \$9 million programmed for the Main Library. He stated that the additional funding would support the additional requests. Mr. Schweers asked what would happen if there was a surplus and how confident they were in their ability to raise money. Ms. Craig stated they know they have people that support the Charleston County Public Libraries and have been thoughtful in developing projects that would have support such as the South Carolina Room, the youth area space, the gallery space, and business innovation.

Ms. Johnson stated that at the time of the referendum, the evolution of the library system had not been known and therefore did not think about putting emphasis on the Main Library beforehand. She stated that increasing the renovations to the Main Library will bring it up to standard that the citizens have now come to expect of the libraries. Ms. Johnson stated that the South Carolina Room is vital and not every community has an asset like the South Carolina Room.

Ms. Honeycutt thanked Ms. Craig for presenting Council with a funding plan. She asked what would happen if they did not raise \$12.4 million. Mr. Smalls stated that they will not start design until they are close to the end of the fundraising phase. Ms. Craig stated that the projects listed are prioritized in order, and they will tackle them as they are prioritized.

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion, which carried.

The Chairman announced the next item on the agenda was the COVID-19 Response County Update.

COVID County Update Senior Emergency Management Specialist Lori Kidwell began her presentation by giving an update on the Charleston County current COVID-19 cases, deaths, and vaccination data as shown below:

	Incident Rate: -On 1/13 Charleston County has a high incidence rate of 2,921 citizens infected with Covid-19 per 10,000 with testing positive rate of 29%.
	Positive Cases: -On 1/13 there are 86,847 total cumulative positive cases in Charleston County and 7,958 weekly positive cases.
	County Employees: -55 Charleston County employees under the County Administrator have tested positive so far in the month of January that has been reported to Human Resources
	Vaccinations: -69.9% of the county population is fully vaccinated.
	Deaths: -Charleston County has 771 total cumulative deaths since March 2020.
•	Charleston County School District: -There are a total of 4,419 positive cases to not include quarantine cases this calendar school year with 437 positive cases this week not including Friday's data.

Ms. Kidwell broke down the Charleston County current hospital data as shown below:



Ms. Kidwell broke down the Charleston County COVID-19 case rated from January 4, 2022 to January 11, 2022 as shown below:



The Chairman announced the next item on the agenda was the Distribution of Testing Kits.

Distribution of
COVID Testing
KitsChairman Pryor asked Council for their support to buy and distribute COVID-19 testing
kits for those who do not want to or do not have the ability to wait in line for hours to get
tested at a doctor's office.

Report

Mrs. Honeycutt asked if the tests were PCR tests. Chairman Pryor stated they are athome test kits. Mrs. Honeycutt asked how the tests would be distributed. Chairman Pryor stated the County will distribute tests to local libraries, churches, and community resource centers for the public to pick up. Mrs. Honeycutt asked how many tests will be bought and the cost. Chairman Pryor stated 100,000 test kits cost \$900,000. Mrs. Honeycutt asked who the supplier would be. Mr. Tolbert stated that he contacted four firms and received prices. He stated that the prices ranged between \$7.40 to \$15.00 per kit. Mr. Tolbert stated that they contacted a firm that could deliver the tests within 7 to 14 days at a cost of \$7.40 per test, which he believes would be the best option for Charleston County. He stated those tests were FDA approved. Ms. Johnson asked if the delivery time of 7-14 days was from when the kits were ordered and if the firm was local. Mr. Tolbert stated yes.

Mr. Sass asked if the tests were FDA approved. Mr. Tolbert stated that the tests were FDA approved and would not have to be administered by a medical professional. Mr. Sass asked if the tests would be available to all citizens of Charleston County. Chairman Pryor stated yes, but they would be first come, first served.

Deputy County Administrator for Public Safety Eric Watson stated they planned to partner with local towns, churches, libraries to distribute the test kits.

Mr. Wehrman asked if there are measures in place to keep people from hoarding tests kits. Mr. Watson stated that will be evaluated among staff to figure out a way to monitor that issue. Mr. Wehrman asked what the shelf life of the tests were. Mr. Watson stated 12 months.

Mr. Schweers stated that he thinks Council is getting out of its lane because the County is not a hospital or a medical provider. He stated that the virus is rampant right now, but reputable organizations like the CDC say that this peak is going to go away as quickly as it started. Mr. Schweers stated that it will be too late by the time the test kits get delivered and distributed. He asked what strings were attached with using Federal funding to purchase the test kits. Deputy County Administrator for Finance Corine Altenhein stated that they could use lost revenues from the ARPA funds and have more flexibility, but if they used ARPA funds not from lost revenues, there would be Federal rules to spend the funds that would have to be followed. Mr. Schweers asked if the funds are available immediately. Ms. Altenhein stated yes.

Mr. Middleton stated that he is concerned about the lack of a plan. He stated this is spending a lot of money when the need may not be there.

Mrs. Honeycutt asked if any analysis had been done on the need for testing. Chairman Pryor stated that doctors and hospitals are being overrun and asking for help. He stated that Washington waited too late to help.

Mr. Middleton stated that when testing events were taken to the community, people had to be pulled out of their homes. He stated that availability does not mean they will be taken and used. Mr. Middleton stated that it is not a plan if Council and staff are not strategic about it.

Mr. Schweers stated that that was a major vaccination drive in the rural areas and there were only a few people who got vaccinated.

Ms. Johnson stated that the President is getting ready to push out 500 million test kits. She said that the advantage to providing test kits is to help people who may have COVID, but still go to work. Now they can get tested at home and stay home if they are positive.

Ms. Honeycutt stated that schools are also going virtual, and she would rather the tests be available when needed. Mrs. Honeycutt stated that the Biden Administration is providing over 500 million tests for free. She stated she could support this Council

purchasing less than 100,000 kits, but she is not sure the there is a need for them and if the County would get them out in time to make a difference.

Mr. Schweers moved that Council not purchase the test kits. He stated that there is not a practical solution offered for buying test kits. Mr. Middleton seconded the motion.

Mr. Darby asked if there could be a compromise to purchase 25,000 kits instead of 100,000 kits. Mr. Schweers stated that he would compromise by setting a budget at spending no more than \$150,000 for kits.

Chairman Pryor stated that if it is not done the right way then he rather Council not do it at all.

Mr. Schweers stated then he would keep his motion as is.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The roll was called and votes recorded as follows:

Darby	- nay
•	- nay
Honeycutt	- aye
Johnson	- nay
Middleton	- aye
Moody	 absent
Sass	- aye
Schweers	- aye
Wehrman	- nay
Pryor	- nay

The vote being four (4) ayes, four (4) nays, and one (1) absent, the Chairman declared the motion tied and would move forward to County Council with no recommendation.

*Mr. Darby originally abstained, but recanted his abstention by voting nay.

The Chairman announced the next item on the agenda was the Redistricting Map Options.

Redistricting Map	Pursuant to South Carolina law requiring County Council redistricting every ten years, and
Options	in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and U.S. Supreme Court rulings, the physical boundaries of Charleston County Council's existing districts must be redrawn this year.
Request to	
Consider	The Constitutional principle of "one person, one vote" is paramount, and requires that each district ideally reflect a roughly equal number of citizens. South Carolina law sets a maximum deviation of ten percent between districts; in practice and in accord with Constitutional principles, a much lower figure is preferred.

Following receipt of the new 2020 census data in late 2021, the current population and demographic figures for existing districts were determined. These figures are referred to as the "benchmark" figures and determine the extent of redrawing necessary to comply with state and federal law. It is these new 2020 figures, not the 2010 figures, that guide the redistricting process.

Charleston County's population changed significantly from 2010 to 2020. The table below presents a summary of the 2020 census statistics as applied to our existing districts, and represents the *benchmark figures*:

Dist	Total	Deviation*	NH_Wht	NH_Wht%	NH_Blk	NH_Blk %	AllOth	AllOth%
1	51,356	13.22%	44,137	85.94%	2,723	5.30%	4,496	8.75%
2	45,868	1.12%	37,801	82.41%	4,845	10.56%	3,222	7.02%
3	44,845	-1.13%	26,669	59.47%	10,008	22.32%	8,168	18.21%
4	37,219	-17.95%	11,737	31.53%	18,221	48.96%	7,261	19.51%
5	36,958	-18.52%	15,520	41.99%	17,318	46.86%	4,120	11.15%
6	56,445	24.44%	31,060	55.03%	16,005	28.36%	9,380	16.62%
7	40,418	-10.89%	27,979	69.22%	7,933	19.63%	4,506	11.15%
8	51,009	12.46%	30,002	58.82%	15,239	29.88%	5,768	11.31%
9	44,117	-2.74%	38,655	87.62%	2,312	5.24%	3,150	7.14%
Total	408,235		263,560	64.56%	94,604	23.17%	50,071	12.27%

*Zero percent deviation would be 45,359 per district.

The following is a summary of population changes from 2010 to 2020 (percentages rounded):

- Total population increased by 58,026, or 17%
- NH Wht population increased by 46,300 or 21%
- NH Blk population decreased by 10,380 or -10%
- AllOth population increased by 22,106 or 79%

The most significant population changes were seen in Districts 1, 2, 6, and 8. The District 1 population increased by 12,937, District 2 by 7,401, District 6 by 17,331, and District 8 by 12,312.

The NH_Blk population decreased in all districts, with the most significant decreases in Districts 5 and 8.

Summary of the three options presented to Council:

- District lines were adjusted to account for population changes
- Overall deviation is under 5%
- No incumbent conflicts are created
- Precinct lines are respected as much as possible and improved from 2010

All options include the following:

- District 3 is much more compact than currently drawn
- District 5 is more compact and redrawn to remain in the North Area (no longer on the Peninsula or in West Ashley)
- District 6 is primarily comprised of West Ashley population, while keeping portions of the North Area

Significant differences between each option:

Option 1: *Tip of the Peninsula (three precincts) remains in District 2 (as drawn in 2003 and maintained in 2010) *District 9 gains populous areas between Maybank Hwy and Murraywood Rd on Johns Island

- Option 2: *Tip of Peninsula (three precincts) moves to District 9, enabling District 3 to be more compact with smaller East Cooper population (Districts 1 and 2 are entirely East of the Cooper, becoming more compact)
- Option 3: *A variation of Option 2, with the Ponderosa community remaining in District 8 as it currently is, and slightly expanding the District 6 North Area population.

Redistricting Criteria

- Adhere to the Constitutional requirement of one person, one vote and do so by adhering to a state law population deviation of less than 10%
- 2. Adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act and relevant court decisions
- 3. Ensure that districts are contiguous and compact
- 4. Maintain, to the extent possible, boundaries of existing districts
- 5. Respect Communities of Interest
- 6. Minimize splitting voting precincts
- 7. Avoid incumbent conflicts, if possible
- 8. Solicit public input

Adopted by Council action on December 16, 2021.

The redistricting map options are as shown below:





Mr. Schweers moved to adopt Redistricting Map option 1. Mr. Middleton seconded the motion.

Mr. Schweers stated that option number 1 maintains his current district. He stated that he is not running for re-election so this has nothing to do with him campaigning for re-election. Mr. Schweers stated that option 1 preserves his district. This includes south of Broad Street, which fits well within his district because of communities of interests. He stated that his district and Mrs. Honeycutt's districts do not need to be changed because of population shifts.

Mr. Wehrman stated that he cannot support option 1 because there will be a radical change to district 3 with that option.

Mrs. Honeycutt stated that she is concerned that option 1 dividing her district and Ms. Johnson's district, which divides neighbors on either side of the road in some parts. She stated that she cannot support option 1.

Ms. Johnson stated that she agrees with Mrs. Honeycutt and cannot support option 1.

Mr. Sass stated that he is not in favor of option 1.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The roll was called and votes recorded as follows:

Darby	- nay
Honeycutt	- nay
Johnson	- nay
Middleton	- aye
Moody	- absent
Sass	- nay
Schweers	- aye
Wehrman	- nay
Pryor	- nay

The vote being six (6) nays, two (2) ayes, and one (1) absent, the Chairman declared the motion to have failed.

Ms. Johnson moved to adopt Redistricting Map option 3. Mr. Darby seconded the motion.

Chairman Pryor asked Ms. Johnson if she would like to amend her motion to amend up to 3rd reading. Ms. Johnson stated yes. Mr. Darby agreed with the amendment.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The roll was called and votes recorded as follows:

Darby	- aye
Honeycutt	- aye
Johnson	- aye
Middleton	- nay

Moody	- absent
Sass	- aye
Schweers	- nay
Wehrman	- aye
Pryor	- aye

The vote being six (6) ayes, two (2) nays, and one (1) absent, the Chairman declared the motion to have passed.

The Chairman announced the next item on the agenda was the Administrator's Evaluation Form.

Administrator's The Finance Committee provided a report regarding the Performance Appraisal Form for the County Administrator developed by the Human Resources Department.

Request to
ConsiderDepartment Head recommended that Council approve the Performance Appraisal Form
as presented for the County Administrator.

Mr. Schweers moved for approval of the Committee recommendation. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried.

*Mr. Darby stated regarding his abstention for the distribution of Covid-19 testing kits, he asked what happens with that item. Chairman Pryor stated that since the motion failed, it could not be put back on another agenda. Mr. Darby stated that there is a need for the tests, and he would like to change his abstention to nay.

Mr. Schweers asked if the agenda item moves to the County Council meeting regardless of Mr. Darby's vote. Mrs. Ham stated if the motion fails, it would not move forward, but if it ties, if can move forward without a recommendation. Council rules allows members to change their votes prior to the conclusion of the meeting and therefore Mr. Darby changed his vote to nay on the topic of COVID testing kits.

There being no further business to come before the Body, the Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned.

Kristen L. Salisbury Clerk of Council