

Charleston County News Release

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Public Now has Online Access to County Council Background Documents Prior to Meetings

Charleston County's new system of posting information online coincides with National Sunshine Week, an initiative on the importance of open government and freedom of information

Citizens can now go online and view the back-up information on all agenda items prior to County Council committee and regular meetings.

Staff from Charleston County's Technology Services Department worked closely with the Clerk of Council's office and the Administrator's office to develop a method of putting the background information online.

Previously, the public could see a list of Council's agenda items online, but was not able to see the supplemental information that County Council members receive in the mail prior to the meetings. Now, staff is scanning in all of the background information and placing it on the County's Web site.

To access the background information before each County Council committee or regular meeting, go to www.charlestoncounty.org and click on "Agenda" in the County Council box on the front page.

In addition to the materials being available online, County staff is now sending Council members their information through e-mail instead of in regular mail.

"We are very pleased to have the technology to put all of this information online so the public can have even more access to and understanding of Council's agenda items," said Tim Scott, County Council Chairman. "This system enhances public awareness and knowledge of the issues we're dealing with, and also saves printing and mailing costs now that Council members receive their packet by e-mail."

Incidentally, the timing of the new system coincides with National Sunshine Week, which is March 11-17. Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profit organizations, schools and others interested in the public's right to know. For more information on National Sunshine Week, visit <http://www.sunshineweek.org>.

- Written by Jennie Davis -