

**Kershaw County Planning and Zoning Commission**  
**Minutes - Regular Session**  
**December 10, 2009, 5:30 p.m.**  
**County Council Chambers, 515 Walnut Street**  
**Camden, SC 29020**

Members Present: Lewis Shaw, David Brown, Charles Cottingham, Karen Eckford, and George Gibson

Members Absent: Dan Matthews and Richard Simmons

Staff Present: Carolyn Hammond and John Newman

**Call to Order**

Lewis Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no comments from the public.

**Approval of Minutes**

George Gibson motioned that the minutes of the November 12, 2009 regular meeting be approved. Charles Cottingham seconded, and approval was unanimous.

**The FY 2009-2010 CIP**

Lewis Shaw started the discussion by stating he wanted to make sure he was expressing the opinion of the Commission with regards to his hard push for the Planning Commission's involvement in the CIP process. All those in attendance acknowledged they were in agreement with Mr. Shaw.

The Chairman said he had talked with County Council Chairman, Steve Kelly, and had expressed his concern about the Commission's CIP involvement. Mr. Shaw reported he had had a good meeting with Clay Young and James Absher where he expressed his concerns about the Commission's involvement and their level of involvement. He reported that Mr. Young and Mr. Absher said they support the Commission's involvement and are committed to giving the Commission the information they need. Shaw presented them with Robert Moody's proposed timeline, and after reviewing it, Mr. Young agreed that it did not allow sufficient Planning Commission involvement. Shaw said he made it clear that State law puts the burden of the CIP on the Planning Commission and that the Commission cannot give that responsibility away. Mr. Young said he would speak to Mr. Moody and that the Commission would soon be receiving some of the data Mr. Moody has gathered. Shaw said he has no reason to believe Administration will not follow through on what they said, but to make Commission involvement a reality, he stressed the importance of himself and the Commission continuing to push that they get early participation in this year's process.

David Brown reviewed the CIP history by stating that two years ago, it was the Planning Commission that developed the CIP. Last year, despite their great efforts, the CIP was developed with no input from the Commission. This year Robert Moody was hired to do the CIP.

John Newman reported that he had spoken with Clay Young prior to tonight's meeting and Mr. Young said Mr. Moody had planned to submit a draft of preliminary information at tonight's meeting, but was unable to attend. Mr. Newman explained that the process may work this year because, unlike last, the information the Commission receives will be complete. According to the timetable, Mr. Moody's first draft will be based on departmental data. That information will be taken to the CIP development team with the idea of Administration and Staff going over it and finding holes that need to be filled in. When the figures are brought to the development team, of which Newman is to be a member, he wants to see them validated. After that, he feels the data will be complete enough so, when given to the Planning Commission, they will not have questions about the figures. Newman said, because these are the Commission's recommendations on the CIP, they can comment on any project they wish to comment on. They can agree, disagree, or ask for more information. If the Commission's recommendations differ from what is on the list, it will be up to Administration to reconcile the difference. It is important that the Planning Commission, Administrator, and his Staff be on the same page. Newman suggested that work on the priority list be done at a work session with the County Administrator. As far as timing, Newman said next year's budget process will take place in March or April because of the uncertainty of the State's funding. While this will give the Commission more time, it is still possible that they will not be given enough time to ask questions, get input, and vote on projects they want in the CIP.

As reference, John Newman distributed documents from the 07-08 CIP which the Planning Commission developed, the 08-09 CIP which the Planning Commission was not given an opportunity to develop, and Mr. Moody's very preliminary list of departmental submittals for this year's CIP.

George Gibson asked how many trips Robert Moody had made to Kershaw County; if he interfaces; and who his point of contact is. Newman answered that his point of contact is James Absher, but that he was not aware of much contact. Mr. Gibson said a CIP consultant would work better if he were working with and flowing through the Planning Department and if the Planner were the point of contact. John Newman replied that that has not been the case and what little involvement he has had has been in an unofficial role. Gibson went on to ask Mr. Newman what he sees as the Planning Commission's role this year. Newman replied that he sees it as very similar to the first year except that the Planning Commission was involved all along, where this year the consultant is gathering the figures.

David Brown said it appears that the consultant has been paid to develop the CIP and that it is going to be given to the Commission to rubber stamp. Mr. Shaw replied that after his meeting, Mr. Young and Mr. Absher understood that the Commission was not going to let that happen because the Commission will only sign off on it if they get to have input.

It was noted that the cover page of last year's CIP project summary states that it was the Planning Commission's CIP. This occurred even though the Commission had already sent a letter notifying Council and the Administrator that they were not going to sign off on that CIP because they had had no involvement in it.

As a starting point for the current CIP, the Chairman suggested that the Commission look through the first CIP and Mr. Moody's raw data to start formulating what they think their priorities for this year should be. He also recommended that they jot down things not on Mr. Moody's list that they are aware of as being significant for the county. He said he felt it was appropriate, with the knowledge and support of the Administrator, for the Commission to hear from department heads. It was decided that Utilities Director, Russell Wright, would be invited to the next meeting to give an update on the sewer plant and get his thoughts on the need for an updated sewer master plan. Public Works Director, Dean Hendricks, will also be asked to attend and provide an update on the state of the County's roads and his recommendations for solutions.

In summation, Mr. Shaw said that if they are not given a serious opportunity to make the CIP the Planning Commission's own document, he will not vote to sign off on it. He said all the Commission can do is insist on involvement, and had the consultant been hired to work with the Planning staff, it would have been different.

The Commission decided to postpone setting a prioritization methodology until such time as further information is received.

#### **Staff Report on County Council Actions at their November 24 and December 8, 2009 Meetings**

County Council unanimously approved first and second readings on Lewis Clyburn's rezoning request for 1310 and 1310-A&B Field Street. The ZLDR public hearing will be held January 12, 2010, and a work session will be held on January 19, 2010.

#### **Other Items**

New officers need to be elected in January. Lewis Shaw said he would like to continue as Chairman unless someone else wanted the position.

#### **Adjournment**

At 6:40 p.m., the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. It was made by David Brown, seconded by George Gibson, and voted in favor by all.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn B. Hammond*

Carolyn B. Hammond  
Secretary