

**Committee Members:**

*Al Allen, Chairman*  
*Johnny Shelley, Vice Chairman*  
*Johnny Vaught*  
*Danny Hardee*  
*Mark Causey*  
*Johnny Gardner*  
*David Gilreath*  
*Paul McCulloch*  
*Ashley Cowen*  
*Ronald Floyd*  
*Danny Shelley*  
*Blake Lanford*  
*Benjie Andrew*



**I & R Subcommittee on Rural Civic Center**  
**Friday, February 26, 2021**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Public Input**
- IV. Approval of Agenda**
- V. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. October 9, 2020
- VI. Discussion Items**
- VII. Council Member Comments**
- VIII. Executive Session:** Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property.

Approved 2/19/2021

David Gilreath, P.E., Asst. County Administrator/I&R Division

Approved 2/19/2021

The Honorable Al Allen, Infrastructure & Regulation Chairman

Approved 2/19/2021

Steven S. Gosnell, P.E., Horry County Administrator





Mr. J. Shelley stated that he didn't know how much they could talk about the properties. Some had been discussed with the owners and some were conceptual.

Mr. Gilreath said they were just presenting the sites in open forum.

**SCDOR Comfort Letter (Barry Spivey):** Mr. Spivey said he wanted to share with the committee, based on conversations they had had at the previous meetings and other discussions with the administration at Horry Electric, with the commitment of the funding from the credit from the Rural Infrastructure Act they, as well as Horry Electric, wanted to have assurance that these monies could be used for the purpose of a capital construction or acquisition, those type costs associated with a rural civic center. They cooperatively worked with Horry Electric to draft and submit a Comfort Letter request to the Department of Revenue for the State of South Carolina. They had in their packet the response that they received back. They did concur that those funds would be appropriately qualifying for the credit if they were used for the capital construction acquisition, those type costs, for a facility of this nature. They had given them a Comfort Letter that it was permissible to use the funds in that manner.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:** Mr. Vaught said Horry Electric had provided a lot of the foundation for this. They were seeing a lot of progress and were starting to look at properties, feasibilities, and everything. He thought they were making good progress. If Covid-19 hadn't come along the county would be on much better footing as far as being able to move forward faster as far as funding and that kind of thing was concerned. That was something they were currently dealing with. They would not know until probably 1 – 2 years from now what this whole impact would do to the County. So far they had been able to survive it with their reserves. They hadn't laid anyone off or cancelled any services or anything like that. They hadn't been able to do anything extra either. They had to postpone a lot of the capital projects and that kind of thing. He asked the committee to bear with them as they worked their way through as a county and Council coming up with financing and ways to do this. They had some ideas and he thought they could make it happen. He asked that they understand that that was one of the current major constraints and it probably wouldn't have been nearly the major constraint a year ago that it was currently because of Covid-19. He asked that they keep that in mind. They would work just as hard and fast as they could. They just had a lot of unknowns out there.

Mr. J. Shelley said they had a lot of things to work through but they had been so fortunate that the county and Horry Electric had done as well as they had under the conditions they had to work with. He thought everything was very positive and they would all be patient. They had been patient for several years and would work together. It was good for all the constituents. He was surprised it had gotten so far in the last 8 – 9 months. He thanked the staff for putting it together.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Vaught moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Andrew. The motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Vaught moved to exit executive session, seconded by Mr. D. Shelley. The motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Haldi stated that while in executive session the committee engaged in the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements of proposed sale or purchase of property or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege. While in executive session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, Mr. Vaught moved to adjourn at approximately 11:31 a.m. and it was seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.