

Motion by Aiken City Council
January 8, 2018

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE – RESOLUTION 01082018G

Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration
Plutonium Pit Production Mission

Mayor Osbon stated a resolution had been prepared for Council's consideration to support and encourage the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration to locate the Plutonium Pit Production Project at the Savannah River Site.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S CONSIDERATION OF THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE TO LOCATE THE PLUTONIUM PIT PRODUCTION MISSION.

Councilman Woltz moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council adopt a resolution to support and encourage the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration to locate the Plutonium Pit Production Project at the Savannah River Site.

Mayor Osbon stated the project is an economic development initiative and also a proposed future site for our largest employer, the Savannah River Site. Under the leadership of Aiken County Chairman Bunker, we have been working and encouraged to show support locally for future missions at the site. This is a NSA mission. It would provide roughly 800 long term jobs at the Site. It would initially be a multi-billion dollar investment to the Site and this mission. He said we want to show support to our Congressional delegation who will be moving to include this in the 2019 budget. Presently Pit Production is in New Mexico, and they are working very hard to keep it there although they have not produced anything since 2011. We think this is an opportunity for our Site. We have been serving the needs for National Security for over 6 decades, and we feel the Site is uniquely qualified for the project. Aiken County will have the same resolution on their agenda for support. The resolutions will be included in a package to the Congressional Delegation to show them local support and belief in the workforce that we have at the Site.

Mr. Charles Munns stated he was speaking as a citizen of Aiken. He said he would like to talk in favor of the resolution. He felt it is a forward thinking resolution, and it fits the needs of our area. He named three points for the project: 1. Jobs, 2. The need for the

Pits, and 3. Why the Savannah River Site. He pointed out that many had advocated jobs as a goal for this year. He said he could think of no better jobs than the jobs for this project. The jobs would be highly technical, high paying and clearly what we would want in this community. Second, the need. He said he is an advisor to the Secretary of Defense Advisory Board and there is a need for us to refurbish pits and manufacture pits. This goes to the heart of the credibility of our nuclear deterrent, and is key to national security for the next 50 years. Lastly, why choose the Savannah River Site. Mr. Munns stated this is the kind of business the Site does. We have the geology at the Site to support this kind of business. There is a large area at the Site that is perfect to be able to do this business. There are government structures who support this kind of work. There is safety and security at the Site, from a safety standpoint, the best in the nation. The Department of Energy Sites are 10 times better than their peers in industry. They have the safety and security at the Site. Lastly, the Site has the people and culture of the people to be able to do nuclear work. He said for those reasons mentioned, he supports and would advocate that the Aiken City Council pass the resolution supporting the project at SRS.

Councilwoman Price asked that Dr. Terry Michalske give Council a brief summary of the role of the National Lab at SRS with this project.

Dr. Michalske stated he would echo the comments that Council had already heard on the project. He said it is an extremely important mission for the security of our nation, probably one of the most important. He said one just has to read the headlines in the papers to understand how important it is. He noted the quality of the workforce at SRS. He pointed out that we must be successful at this mission, and in order to do that we need people who are highly trained and can operate these kinds of facilities in a safe and secure manner. He said there is no question that this Site over the 60+ years of its operation has demonstrated that capability. He felt this is an important opportunity for this Site and for our people to continue to display and accomplish the kind of work they have in the past, and going forward to help our nation be successful in addressing these challenges. From the point of view of the National Laboratory, there are highly technical requirements to be successful. What we have been able to demonstrate at the Site is a combination of the manufacturing workforce with the science and technology of the Lab and have provided an unprecedented capability that we now have the opportunity to apply to this very important mission going forward. It is a combination of the science technology that we have demonstrated. The heart is that we have the nuclear trained workforce, and this is an important opportunity to serve the nation in a continuing way.

Mayor Osbon pointed out that also present is Mr. Rick McLeod, of the SRS Community Reuse Organization, Mr. Jim Marra, of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology, and Teresa Haas in support of the Pit Production Mission.

Councilwoman Gregory stated she was in favor of the opportunity, the economic growth, the cultivation and the addressing of our waste products at the Savannah River Site. However, she would like to see in addition to the resolution a little more detailed safety plan for the community. She said there would be additional nuclear waste coming into our community, and she is aware that many citizens worry about that. She wondered if there could be a brief synopsis of a safety approach to the proposed new waste coming into the area, and how it would be handled.

Mr. Rick McLeod, President of the SRS Community Reuse Organization, pointed out that the resolution is just saying we would like to be considered to host this facility. Presently we are in the running with New Mexico, Idaho Falls, and Aiken, SC. No decision has been made that it would go anywhere yet. As Mr. Munns said the nation needs at least 50 to 80 pits production now to maintain the nuclear arsenal. He said we are looking at a national security need. After a decision is made there would be multiple volumes of safety plans to make sure this effort would come. This is also a fairly new skill set that we don't have at Savannah River Site in working with metallurgy. This is really a huge metallurgy project. SRS has the actinide chemistry at the Site which matches up with metallurgy and that is why SRS is being considered as a potential site. No decision has been made. The resolution is just saying we would like to be considered; we have been a safe site for 60 years. In New Mexico their Senators have come out

against moving it and have been against the analysis being performed. The resolution would just be making a stand to be considered for the Site. Safety measures will come later if we are selected. At this time it is premature to ask for a safety plan.

Mr. Jim Marra, Executive Director of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, stated he would like to make a comment on the waste issue. He pointed out that the project would not be generating or bringing in waste to our state. It would not be bringing in any new high level waste. Any waste that is generated would be transferred out. Any waste that is generated will be very minor and will be handled as transuranic waste which the Site has a clear disposition path now for going to the waste isolation pilot plan in New Mexico. From the waste perspective, and especially high level waste perspective, that will not be an issue with this.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Woltz, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve a resolution to support and encourage the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration to consider the Savannah River Site for the Plutonium Pit Production Project. The motion was unanimously approved.

UNITED WAY

City Employees

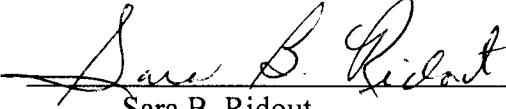
Mr. Klimm stated he wanted to say how proud he is of the men and women who are city employees. He noted that the employees participated in the United Way campaign, and the employees contributed \$12,262.

BASKETBALL

Mayor Osbon stated that on January 20, 2017, there will be a basketball game in town at USC-Aiken at 6:30 p.m.—the Battle of the Badges. He pointed out that he and Councilman Girardeau will be participating in the game. He said this is an opportunity for the community to support the effort to recognize our fallen officers and show honor to them. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the effort.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Woltz moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Diggs and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk