

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 11, 2021**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Cornelius Robinson, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Douglas Pauley (Council Members); Ann Bass, Finance Director, Charles Boykin, County Attorney.

Absent: None

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and one hundred forty two other individuals.

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the meeting is being live-streamed through the County's YouTube page in order to keep citizens informed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bell called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Robinson led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2021. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. 1ST PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, FOR WHICH NO PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED OR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.

- Yvette Howard – Ordinance 775
- Randy Bright – Ordinance 777

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 777: Modifying the Installment Plan of Finance; Authorizing the Execution of Certain Documents with the Fairfield Facilities Corporation; and Other Related Matters. Motion was made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. Mr. Bell asked Ms. Bass if she had any comments and she declined. ***The motion carried 5-2.***

B. Second Reading Ordinance No. 775: To Approve the Sale of Certain Parcels of Land Known as the Hospital Property and Other Related Matters. Motion was made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. ***The motion carried 6-1.***

C. First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 779: An Ordinance to Make Supplemental Appropriations from the Fund Balance to Purchase Compactor Receivers for the Mack and Ridgeway Recycling Sites. Motion was made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Fairfield Chamber of Commerce (9/20/21).

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Zoning Board of Appeals – Motion made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Councilman Trapp. Mr. Bell stated the person for this appointment was Roger A. Gaddy at 213 West High Street Winnsboro, SC. He confirmed that Mr. Gaddy was in Councilman Robinson’s district. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

A. Mt. Zion Update – Ms. Bass stated Mr. Edward Driggers would be speaking to this item as well as Item B. Mr. Driggers stated we were well moving into the final stages of work at the Mt. Zion site. We are at the point where we feel comfortable that the general contractor is on the prescribe schedule

for substantial completion. It is happening in phases relative to the different facilities that are there. A couple of examples would be the annex building, which many refer to as the cafeteria, it already has a temporary certificate of occupancy – substantially complete, ready to do the punch list. We are moving well relative to the auditorium, the gymnasium. The gym annexed the rear of the gymnasium. Each of those will have substantial completion around mid-November and then we will move over to what we call the classroom space, which will be your administrative offices and other operations of the County. The third floor is substantially complete. There are still some things to do relative to painting and some technology issues. The second floor is a little bit behind that and the third floor a little bit behind that. The teacherage is the last piece of that project that we are looking to complete and we believe we will see final areas of construction relative to those last components around December 21st. We will be doing punch lists prior to that and so many of the things we would see during the walk thru of the property we will be able to address those and the general contractor would then have the opportunity to go in and make many of the final repairs/adjustments. Typically those would be cosmetic items. It is very unusual that you find anything at that stage other than paint, trim, floor, maybe some ceiling tiles that need to be adjusted. They become very small at that point. We try, at this point in mid-October, knowing that we are about 60 days out on final substantial completion. We are now just monitoring what's going on. It's a big piece of what needs to happen out there. Mr. Driggers displayed the general contractor's construction schedule that they receive every couple of weeks. They monitor that on a day-to-day basis so as they have indicated certain trades coming in, we are monitoring that those trades are actually there on-site when they are scheduled to be there. If they are behind, we are monitoring the reason. We are not seeing anything on the schedule today that gives us any substantial concern. There are a couple of items that are a little behind schedule but it is days not weeks and so the schedule is moving along very, very well for the entire site. We are anticipating certificates of occupancy issued by year end and that then enables us to start making plans for relocation into that facility starting in January 2022. We have determined because of limited resources that it will be best to do the relocation in a sequential manner based on different types of operations. What he originally hoped was that we would be able to do a weekend move into the facility but it is clear that we will not be prepared to do that, primarily from having all of our systems ready to be utilized by our various departments and our employees - to be able to allow our IT department to be able to make sure we are getting computers, monitors, printers and all of those things in place, we will literally be doing that on a department by

department basis after the first of the year. Some of that will depend on the receipt of furniture, fixtures and equipment. One of the primary areas is the 911 Center. We have consoles, radios and that type of equipment that has to be installed and antennas that have to be affixed to the building and so everything is in that sequencing order as we continue to move forward. Mr. Driggers stated that some of the things that have required a considerable amount of time relates to technology and making sure that all of the facilities can communicate through our data center that will be on-site. We have to make sure that the classroom building has communication and that there is communication with the auditorium where Council Chambers will be located. We also need to ensure that we have communication capability in the gymnasium, the gymnasium annex, the cafeteria building, and the activities center. In the original scope of services all of those connections weren't there. As we discovered that those were not in place, it was very critical for us to identify that work that needed to be accomplished and start planning for that. We recognize that we cannot occupy the facility without the full capability to run everything through our communications system and through our IT system as well. An enormous amount of time and effort has been getting us to the point where we feel comfortable that there are not gaps – where everything will communicate where it's necessary and appropriate and that staff is informed about what those needs are. Those are a couple of the larger things that we are having to identify. One of the things that has been questioned repeatedly and rightly so, is parking which is a major issue and concern. Parking was reduced from the original scope of work because the civil engineers calculated the amount of storm water that would need to run off of the site and it needed to meet DHEC requirements. The storm water has to be slowed down before it goes into creeks and areas so retention ponds needed to be constructed on site. The only alternative was to build underground retention, which is a very, very expensive alternative so earlier on decisions were made that parking would be reduced at the site to allow for the retention ponds. There are two – one right behind the teacherage and one behind the activities center. They are necessary – storm water run-off has to be managed and maintained on a site like this. Permits are issued by DHEC and the County is obligated because you do not have your own MS4 or your own storm water management system. As such, you fall under the guidelines and overview of DHEC. Those were requirements that were placed on the County to be able to get proper storm water. He and Mr. Caulder discussed alternatives regarding the loss of parking, recognizing that budget was a primary concern. They discussed on-street parking on Walnut Street, which already had a bit more width than a typical city municipal street. It was already under the County's

jurisdiction and the County had responsibility for it. The idea was to go to the Town of Winnsboro and request either through a fee simple deed or rite of way or encroachment, to allow the County to expand that road area to include perpendicular parking. They were able to get 31 parking spaces along the street that we did not have before and were able to get the numbers up very close to what we had anticipated in the original site plans. We were able to do this at a very, very good price. Typically, a single car surface space would cost between \$8,000 - \$12,000/space and the variance depends on the topography in the area. If we needed to construct a surface parking lot, we would have been on the upper end of that estimate. The Town of Winnsboro was very cooperative and allowed us either by rite of way or encroachment (whatever that need may be) to move forward. If you go by the site today, you will see that the curb and gutter is already poured along Walnut Street to allow us to get 31 additional parking spaces directly in front of the building. That was a major accomplishment and we were able to do it for about \$1,500/parking space – a substantial savings to the County considering what you would have paid if a surface parking lot was built. In addition, the Town also allowed us to expand the gravel lot that is already in place that services the walking trail system. The County has resources to put in crusher run and wheel stops in that area. It is really inexpensive, particularly using the County's labor and resources. It is a very economical alternative for us. We will be able to triple the number of vehicles simply by organizing the lot. We were able to add additional handicap parking that will serve the Mt. Zion site and the activities center. Those spaces can be used by those using the walking trail when the main building is closed. Mr. Driggers stated he called it a "win-win" and a great opportunity for an intergovernmental agreement between the Town of Winnsboro and Fairfield County, where there were advantages for both parties and we were able to accomplish that at a much lower cost. We continue to look for those types of opportunities, whether it's sidewalks in the area or anything else that may need to happen. We know that as we prepare to move into the facility, it has to be 100% ready for all utilities and technologies that are needed. We are honing in at this point, making sure the fiber, wifi, connections and access control are where they need to be because originally, that included only the classroom building. We have to provide access control in the gym and the activities center because there will be children in there and we cannot have people just walking in those doors. We are now planning to ensure and we are completely evaluating what your FF&E (furniture, fixture and equipment) needs are. We know there will be a need for equipment in the gymnasium and desks, chairs and those types of things in the activities center. For the most part, the office areas are well taken care of. There is very little equipment needed to

purchase for individuals to move into offices. What we have discovered in measuring every single space in the new building against measuring the space being used in the current building and then measuring the furniture, we will be able to use our current equipment in many of those places – not everywhere but in many of the places. We have communicated with County staff that the furniture they have today may not be the furniture they have in their space in the new building because we may have to put it in a room that it best fits. By doing this, we feel we are being really good stewards of our resources so we are absolutely minimizing what any of those new purchases will need to be. We will need to make purchases and we are working on that piece now. The last piece to pull together is the plan for the physical relocation in January. We will need outside resources to help us physically move people and equipment to the site, as well as what types of equipment and technology that we have in this facility that may be relocated over there. It is moving well at this point and moving on schedule. That is where we are relative to Mt. Zion. Ms. Greene stated the question most asked is related to the cost and asked for an update on the cost factor. Mr. Driggers stated the escrow funds were completely depleted that were available for this project. Most of those funds were primarily used in two areas – one was the up-fit for the space for the 911 Center. The construction costs to allow for the up-fit that was changed in the project was a large, large piece as well as a large part of the reason for delays in the project. General conditions needed to be adjusted for that. Mr. Bell asked how much was in the escrow that he said was depleted. Mr. Driggers stated he did not know exactly but right at a million. The last draw made against the escrow account was \$820,000 of that million. Within the \$820,000 was the audio visual costs for the auditorium and the Chamber. That was about \$191,000 just on the equipment side of it and the remaining part of that \$820,000 was almost exclusively for the 911 Center. We have about \$110,000 that we are making payment on now. Those change orders have been mostly relevant to the change with the teacherage from an office to an assembly area. That was about \$40,000 and so as we put together change orders that have been necessary in the last three months or so it has gotten us to a point where we have depleted those funds. Now when I say depleted, the account today isn't zero but we have invoices that will take it to zero and then there will be some deficits there. You still have expenses that will be associated with the physical move - technology issues that we have discovered where we did not have connectivity throughout the site and the access issues and any outstanding furniture, fixtures and equipment that will be required for the activities, gymnasium, gym annex, and a very small amount needed for office furniture. He gave an example – the plans always included the Council Chambers to have a dias that could

be disassembled and moved to the wings of the stage so the stage could be a multi-purpose area. Mr. Driggers stated somewhere (he didn't know where) the County did not proceed with getting that constructed. Mr. Bell asked what did he mean by the County did not proceed. Mr. Driggers stated no one issued a purchase order to build modular Council desks so in order for you to meet there, we have to provide equipment for you to meet there so you can use the technology in that space. He did not think it would be one of the larger expenses – he guesstimated \$120,000 - \$130,000 on what he called "technology misses" that will have to be done in order for the building to be able to communicate with itself and with other people to do the business of the County. He thought where the question was going was where we are in total and he did not know. They were trying to figure out if there are reimbursements that can be made to the County relative to any of the 911 costs. He thought there may be some relative to the equipment – consoles, radios but the up-fit for the building to house 911 is not a reimbursable expense (as he has been advised). We have these areas (I say we because I am on your team and am speaking on behalf of Fairfield County) that are dedicated resources for 911. We may need to use those 911 resources to accommodate getting 911 in this facility. We are looking at all of those pieces right now holistically. What is critical from his perspective in the services that he is providing to Brad is looking at the bigger picture. Mt. Zion, the Courthouse and other projects are all priorities. They are projects that you have commitments for, you are under contracts and you have contractual obligations to finish these projects and you will be able to do that. But he believed that we have to look at an even larger picture of that and that is something that he and Ann have been working very closely on - looking at the complete overall financial position of the County. We are looking at the fund balance, all special funds, any reserve funds, any allocations, any commitments that have not gone to contract yet – he called them "buckets". We need to look at everything that is out there that we have committed to do or have indicated a desire to do. We are allocating costs to those and working really hard to be realistic that the cost we use in that evaluation are actual doable costs. Mr. Bell stated that an earlier conversation with Mr. Driggers revealed a lot of things that were missed. With that, he asked what the expected cost (because \$1 million came from the County's pocket), minus the payments, that we are expecting to spend to get into Mt. Zion. Mr. Driggers stated he did not have that exact number and he would be very reluctant to give a number because it would be hypothetical. He would much rather have accuracy and he committed to advise them of what he knew either by direct communication with Council or have that information to you at the next Council meeting. We need to itemize everything that we now know that we

did not account for prior so we definitely know what those costs are. One of those things to consider is do we have resources available, like 911. Do we have resources that are restricted for 911's use that we can indeed use to reimburse the escrow fund. When I say reimburse, we won't literally take an empty account and put money back in it but we will be able to use that money for allowed uses. It then opens the door to the possibility of sufficient resources that will allow us to do those things that were not in the original scope that are now necessary to complete the building. That is a best case scenario so as not to request to dip further into the fund balance but using restricted or allocated resources and other funds because they are allowed for use out of those funds. The evaluation is not just for Mt. Zion or the Courthouse projects but you have contractual obligations to those projects with general contractors so you have a responsibility to fulfill those commitments. What he is looking for is a financial strategy that allows you to look past where you are right now and look at other things like a fire station, possible equipment needed going forward, recreation facilities – whatever those things may be. To be able to do those, you need to be able to clearly identify and agree on where these resources are going to come from. Part of that is understanding your cash flow. So he is working very close with Ann looking at fund balance relative to cash flow and are there things you can do going into 2021-2022 that gives you greater flexibility than you may have had if you don't do some of those things. That is what he is preparing and would like to do in a workshop with Council so we can exclusively look at the long term financial picture of the County of where we are today, what commitments there are today for use of funds going forward so that there is a clear, clear financial picture of where you are now and where you are going. That can be done and we are compiling the data. Ms. Greene stated she knew how important it was to get all of the information and to look at our financial health and what our expenditures may be and how that relates to the fund balance. At this particular point and time, she thought what they were trying to do is to make sure we have the correct characterization of expenses that we are going to have moving forward for Mt. Zion itself. We need to know what our responsibilities are going to be. As you said, we have contractual agreements for these things. She thought whether it's a work session with Council or some other avenue that we really have to get together and look at the figures. At this particular point and time, we have gone back and forth in saying what was covered under 911 and now we are learning that what we were told was covered under 911 is not necessarily covered. She thought when we take a look at these kinds of things, what we need from Mr. Driggers are some firm numbers going forward to take a look at how we end up in Mt. Zion in January with furniture and all of those kinds of

things and what it is going to cost to get us there. Mr. Driggers stated he wanted to be as accurate as possible with that number. He would rather over project than under project because he didn't think they were in a position to want any more surprises. We are trying to look at, whether it's the museum, the teacherage, the gymnasium, the annex, the activities center or the spaces, the bulk of our future expenses are for the operations of the County. We are past the point of change orders relative to construction. We have that pre-nailed down and we are finalizing that and feel like that is very minimal at this point going forward. It is now the operation side that isn't related to the general contractor or the developer. It is those things that are needed to run your business from that facility. We are getting those numbers now. Even today, we were looking at the cost to get a scoreboard, basketball goals, do we want to put bleachers in the gymnasium – those type of things we are identifying. Mr. Bell asked if there were no bleachers or goals in the project at all. Mr. Driggers replied nope – no sir they were not. He stated they were not identified in the scope of work for the developer or the general contractor. Mr. Roseborough asked then how can you call it a gym. Mr. Driggers stated he could not defend it. We would have assumed that that type of equipment is necessary to operate a gymnasium but it was not in the scope of work with your developer or your general contractor. The general contractor is not the County's general contractor. He works exclusively for the developer and the County has a relationship with the developer. The general contractor does not report to the County. Mr. Bell stated the Sheriff's Department came to them a few weeks ago and talked to them about his safety concerns about not going to the Mt. Zion campus. One of the things I asked Mr. Caulder to do was to make sure we look at the cost before we make that decision. We looked at the report and it looked like it would be about \$5.2 million (Mr. Driggers nodded in agreement) to do something with the building we are currently in. It appeared to me, and he talked to Mr. Driggers earlier, that that ship has already sailed. He referenced some numbers he had written down. He said he could not understand how we got in this position but if you look at the numbers, you will see that our finances are in terrible shape. In 2016, our budget was \$33 million and we had a fund balance of \$21 million. But in 2017, the budget was \$38 million – it jumped \$5 million. In 2018, the budget went to \$40 million. In 2019, the budget went to \$45 million. In June 2020, the fund balance was \$13 million. He realized they put \$4 million for the hospital escrow. In 2020, the budget was \$46 million and we appropriated from the fund balance \$5.2 million. So in June of this year, when the last budget year ended, we only had \$10 million. He asked for everyone to look at that – we went from a \$21 million fund balance to a \$10 million fund balance. Prior to January,

we had a spend rate of about \$2.7 million, which would have left us only about 3.7 months to operate. We cut the budget from the \$46 million that we had the previous year down to \$42 million. Because we cut the spend rate and we got some money from the settlement, it's going to take us over into probably the end of November or December when we start getting funds. There is so much that happened and he could not understand how we went from a \$21 million fund balance down to a \$10 million fund balance. Over the years, just spending money, and when we appropriated the \$5.2 million from the fund balance to make the \$46 million budget, we slid another \$1 million in escrow for Mt. Zion without Council knowledge. According to Ms. Bass, she has told people that the expenses were going up while the revenues were going down. We are now in a situation where the Sheriff brings to us safety concerns regarding Mt. Zion and we as a County cannot do anything to help that situation because in just about 4.5 years the County has gone from very prosperous to broke. That's the kind of situation that we are up against. The citizens need to understand what happened. In the middle of that, we spent another \$6 million from the bond during 2017-2020 - another \$6 million out of the bond. Now we got a contract on the Courthouse and we allocated \$1.8 million for the Courthouse. They got the bond in 2013-2014 and the Courthouse was one of the things to be done. They did not do it and now we only have \$4.2 million in the bond. Who would sign a contract for \$5.3 million for the Courthouse and only have \$10 million at the end of the budget year to operate until we start collecting taxes? Mr. Bell stated it was absolutely ludicrous that we have taken this County from being very prosperous to almost broke and the people who did this were the brilliant ones. We always talk about how brilliant they were, how they did this, how they did that and see the shape we are in now. He told Mr. Driggers he was not upset with him. Mr. Driggers stated he took no offense. Mr. Bell thanked him for bringing this information to them because the more we dig, the worse we see what has happened to us. We are now left with situations that we have to deal with and, yes sir, one of the things we will be dealing with is looking at financial strategies and we will not do anything without understanding the cost of it. One of the things you (Mr. Driggers) told me about the Courthouse was even with the \$5.3 million, the Courthouse situation is that we have to spend money to remove the utilities. Mr. Driggers stated as well there were no arrangements for technology at the Courthouse. Mr. Bell stated he could not understand what people were thinking about, what they were doing and you see Ms. Ball - he then stopped and said he was not supposed to do that. Mr. Driggers asked if there were any more questions and said relative to the Courthouse, they were trying to work out the issue about the utilities - it's a pretty major issue for us. We had a gas line and

an electrical line at the rear of the parking lot where the new building is going to sit. The building would actually encroach onto that right of way. We have been able to work it out with the Town of Winnsboro to relocate the electrical and disconnect the gas line. It can be serviced from another area. Our holdup at this point is relative to telephone and cable services. We have the pleasure of working with two utility companies – Truvista and Frontier. Getting those types of utilities to get issues resolved for relocation is not always an easy task and we are trying to get an initial meeting with them so we can discuss what it means to us but for your knowledge, there is no allocation of resources in the scope of work with your general contractor on the Courthouse project for the relocation of utilities nor is there any allocation in that contract for technology in that building. We know that will have to be addressed. The good news is that the Courthouse is a guaranteed maximum price project. Mr. Bell asked did it not include utilities. Mr. Driggers answered it does not include utilities but we will not be getting change orders unless you change the scope. You will not get change orders from the contractor, say for example material costs went up 30%, that is them, not us. Mr. Bell asked if we would have to pay for that utility move. Mr. Driggers stated if there was a cost related to the utility relocation, it will be the County's responsibility to do that because the utility was already in place and we are dislocating it from where it currently is. We are taking the overhead infrastructure that is in that parking lot behind the Courthouse out and burying it underground. We have to get it off of the footprint of the building where it exists today. We have not attempted to put together numbers there because until we know from Frontier and Truvista what those costs will be - we don't know. We are trying to get them to the table to help us with that. Mr. Bell stated one of the things he did was to present to Council a decision making framework and he would like to have his (Driggers) views while he is still with us to talk about how we make decisions for Council and how we develop projects going forward. Mr. Driggers stated the point he (Bell) made earlier was spot on – the evaluation of any project that has a financial implication needs to have a clear identification of what the funding source will be for that. Policy issues, as he has talked to staff on multiple occasions, are understanding that staff has a role in assisting you to make sure you have accurate data and your role is to be policy makers and to set the agenda and the policy of how this County moves forward. The Council is not to be involved with day-to-day operations of the management of the County nor is the staff to be involved in the policy making of the Council. Those are two very separate responsibilities. You have a fiduciary responsibility defined by State law. That fiduciary responsibility means that you need to have all the information that you need to make decisions and then the process works

the way it's supposed to work. You have a 7 member Council and the majority of Council determines how the Council moves forward and that's how the system works. I may personally disagree with the decision made, some members of the staff may, some members of the public may but you are a duly elected body of Fairfield County and that responsibility rests with the Council. My role, that Brad has asked me to assist with, is to make sure you have up to date, accurate, usable information and to set a plan forward so you can do that strategically versus on a case by case basis. So that you are not looking at any one project, you are looking at all of your projects. And that allows you to look at your timing – so it could be that you do everything that you say you want to do but you have to consider what the timing will be because of cash flow purposes and reserves and those types of things. It can be done but it has to be intentional. Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Driggers.

- B.** Request of Action –2021-2022 Millage and Local Sales Tax. Ms. Bass stated that the ordinance had already been passed for the millage but it is the time at which Peggy will release the bills. She said the Council needed to vote to accept that and the final local option sales tax money does not all come in until the end of August so we have been able to actually calculate that credit that will go on the tax bills as well. Mr. Bell stated that Mr. Caulder sent all of you (Council) a letter and he (Mr. Bell) has signed it indicating that the millage is what we said it was. Ms. Greene asked if a formal vote was needed. Ms. Bass stated she thought it was. Motion was made by Ms. Greene, seconded by Councilman Trapp. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

Mr. Bell stated that everyone had the package that included the old update and the new update regarding the costs to up fit the current building. He said he believed based on the costs of where we are and the money we have, it appears that ship has already sailed. Since everything remains the same there is no need to vote. It appears the Sheriff will be going to the new complex.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Pauley: Mr. Pauley stated for the record that Mr. Bell seemed very frustrated and stated a lot of numbers about the recent years and the fund balance and the problems that we are going through but keep in mind that one month into the fiscal year, \$1 million was taken out of the fund balance for playground

equipment, a mini park and a new roof. All three could have waited. He wasn't complaining when he was spending that \$1 million.

Mr. Bell asked Ms. Bass to let Mr. Pauley know that no money had been spent. Ms. Bass stated no, we have not yet done the roof or the parks. Mr. Bell stated he would answer the question so the citizens would understand. We looked at the rescue money and you cannot put the rescue money in a fund balance - so what has to be done is taking a look at how to spend the money. We have a DHHS roof that is almost falling in and we do not have the money to pay for it because of how the money has been spent so we will use rescue money to do that. The parks are part of the rescue money that we could use. He talked to Mr. Caulder and Ms. Bass to see if some of the rescue money could be used to give County employees sort of a bonus type pay because they did not get a raise and we are currently working on that (he addressed to Mr. Pauley).

Mr. Bell announced that the County was awarded \$2.5 million from the South Carolina Department of Commerce to go towards a spec building. It will add to the money we received from the Dominion settlement so now we have \$4.5 million to go towards a spec building which is really good news.

Mr. Bell stated that when we looked at the census and the County (Mr. Gregory Sprouse talked to us about that) from 2000-2010, we gained in population by 2.56% but from 2010-2020 we lost 3,000 people. The steepest decline was in people of color. In talking with some State officials, one of the questions that we must ask ourselves is why did they leave - why did the people leave Fairfield County. In addition to that, Mr. Pauley said that I was talking about the fund balance and the budget. Again, when you look at in 2017 having a fund balance of \$21 million and look at June 30, 2021 you only have \$10 million and then you spent another \$6 million from the bond, people need to ask where did the money go because we still have people leaving our County. We have to think about how we look at this. One of the things we will be doing is developing strategies - how we look at our finances in such a way that we only purchase and do the things that we can afford to do. We will be meeting and talking about identifying a new County Administrator hopefully by November 1st - not knowing when he/she can be in place but hoping to have the identification by November 1st. Mr. Bell stated it was very important that we go forward and try to do those things that we know we can do to help take care of this County and we are going to do that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)

At 7:05 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

- A.** Personnel Matter – Regarding County Administrator Search Update Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(1).

At 7:32 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Bell stated no action was taken in Executive Session. Attorney Boykin stated for the record that he did not believe any action was taken in executive session. Mr. Bell said he stated that. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

16. ADJOURN

At 7:32 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

KIM W. ROBERTS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN