

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

**Present:** Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Timothy Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Douglas Pauley, Council Members; Brad Caulder, Interim County Administrator; Charles Boykin, County Attorney.

**Absent:** Cornelius Robinson

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 Vice Chair Greene, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 6-0.*** Chairman Bell announced that Councilman Robinson was not able to attend the meeting.

**3. INVOCATION**

Council Member Gilbert led the invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2021. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**6. 1<sup>ST</sup> 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.**

- Randy Bright – Ordinance 779

## 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

An Ordinance Modifying the Installment Plan of Finance; Authorizing the Execution of Certain Documents with the Fairfield Facilities Corporation; and Other Related Matters. Chairman Bell opened the public hearing at 6:05 pm. The following persons signed to speak:

- Randy Bright

Chairman Bell closed the public hearing at 6:08 pm.

## 8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A.** Second 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. **The motion carried 4-2.** Mr. Bell stated let the record show 4-2 approving the refinancing of the \$7.5 million and receiving \$10.5 million from it.
- B.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 778: An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds Received by Fairfield County from the American Rescue Plan. Motion was made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. **The motion carried 6-0.**
- 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 Vice Chair Greene. **The motion carried 6-0.**
- D.** Resolution No. 2021-09: A Resolution Adopting the All Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan for the Central Midlands Region of South Carolina. Motion was made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Councilman Trapp. Mr. Bell asked Mr. Caulder if he would read part of the resolution so the public would be informed. Mr. Caulder asked Mr. Douglas to give a brief summary of the resolution. Mr. Douglas stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan was something that was updated every 5 years. We were in the Central Midlands Region which includes Fairfield, Newberry, Lexington and Richland counties and the municipalities therein. The Council of Governments puts this plan together and it addresses natural hazards only. They compile information regarding tornados, hail, and any severe weather we had to include the possibility of earthquakes, drought and those types of things. They compile data our grant writers can draw upon regarding any mitigation grants they may want to apply for. This is very close to

the same thing we had 5 years ago. This one has been updated with different data and ranks certain hazards that may be more probable than others. **The motion carried 6-0.**

- E.** Resolution No. 2012-10: A Resolution of Fairfield County to Enter Into Easement Agreement/Easement Modification Agreement with Fairfield Memorial Hospital. Motion was made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Gilbert. **The motion carried 6-0.**

## **9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES**

Aeronautics Commission

## **10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- A.** SC Uplift Community Outreach – Mr. Caulder introduced Kevin Wimberly and he introduced his partnering organizations (I-58 and Sweet 65 LLC). He announced that SC Uplift has been awarded \$1 million to make modifications to homes of elderly adults for residents in Chester, Fairfield and Union Counties. These funds were awarded through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) via their OAHMP (Older Adult Home Modification Program). They were only one of 2 organizations to receive this award in South Carolina – 32 across the country. This will allow them to assist with low cost home modifications up to \$5,000, which would include grab bars, railings, lever handled door knobs and faucets as well as adaptive equipment such as non-slip strips for tubs and showers or stairs. To be eligible, one must be the owner of the home and provide a recorded copy of the deed, must be their primary residence, age 62+, and total household income cannot be above 80% of the area immediate income for those 3 counties. Mr. Wimberly stated the information had been provided to Council and the partnering organizations, I-58 and Sweet 65, have provided their email addresses and phone numbers. Negotiations were ongoing with HUD but they were hopeful to start assessments within the next 60-90 days. Mr. Bell thanked him for this information to help our seniors and low-income population and asked for contact information. Mr. Wimberly stated I-58 could be reached at [information@I58helps.org](mailto:information@I58helps.org) or 803-209-5553. Mr. Bell

asked for the number to be repeated and Mr. Wimberly did so (803-209-5553).

- B.** Communities in Schools – Mr. Caulder introduced Latasha Taste, with Communities in Schools, and she announced their drop-out prevention program has expanded into Fairfield County. Communities in Schools has been a local provider of integrated student supports, which is a holistic program that serves rural area populations and vulnerable youth in local schools. Our program operates in schools but we are not a part of the school district. We do have partnerships with school districts in Richland, Lexington, Charleston, Hampton, Greenville and now Fairfield County. A lot of the work operates inside of the school with students over a period of the day. She acknowledged the previous CEO, Tamika Epps, who is now the Vice President, managing operations in Richland and Lexington County. She also acknowledged Rep. McDaniels, Superintendent Green and Principal Brunson. She stated there will be a press release next week that will give more information regarding their partners that have invested in piloting their services in Fairfield County, including AT&T, United Way of the Midlands, and the One SC Fund, which is part of the Central Carolina Community Foundation. She offered their website for more information – [cisofsc.org](http://cisofsc.org). She stated many of their programs are designed to support the social and emotional health of youth. COVID has been an extreme measure on parents and teachers and their programs provide an on-site Site Coordinator that serves as a liaison and mandated reporter who provides critical services support such as food, housing, healthcare, and counseling. For those students that may have to be quarantined at home, the Site Coordinator is hands-on working beside parents and teachers to ensure they have the support needed to stay in school, maintain attendance, academics and behavior. She introduced her colleague, Tamika Epps. Ms. Epps recognized, Rep. McDaniels, Dr. Green, Principal Brunson and Fairfield County for the opportunity to create a partnership. She stated the conversation started about one year ago when she spoke to Dr. Green regarding how Communities in Schools could come into Fairfield County and the supports they would be able to provide to the students and families. She was happy that they were able to move forward with the partnership. She was looking forward to growing throughout Fairfield and becoming a part of the Fairfield family. This year, 50 students will be case managed at Fairfield Middle School. In addition, they will still provide support to all students and families within the school. Ms. Taste asked if Rep. McDaniels, Dr. Green or Principal Brunson had any remarks. They declined. She also shared that their program is funded by self-initiated fundraising and they

- have partners in Richland County that assist as well. They are underfunded by \$19,000. Most of the funds received are thru their partners and throughout the year they have costs that have to be allocated (clothing closets and staff wages). They look forward to learning of any fund allocations for non-profits. She was aware that the Fairfield budget is already processed but would like to continue the conversation and welcome the continued support for the program here in Fairfield County. Ms. Greene stated she was happy to have the organization in Fairfield County. Mr. Bell reiterated the same and acknowledged Dr. Green as the best Superintendent of schools in the State of South Carolina. Ms. Taste stated they would share the press release within the next week or two to expand communication and having you all involved over the next school year.
- C.** Transit Rodeo Update – Mr. Caulder stated he wanted to inform Council that Fairfield County had 3 transit employees who participated in a bus rodeo on September 18, 2021 at the COMET facility in Columbia – Mr. Charles Turner, Mr. Collin Feaster and Mr. Eddie Harmon. Mr. Harmon placed third in Cutaway Division, which included completing an obstacle course, pre-trip inspection and wheelchair operations. Mr. Bell asked if he was present at the meeting and he was not. Mr. Bell stated he appreciated the work they do and congratulated Mr. Harmon.
- D.** Request of Action – Mr. Caulder stated this request was to prequalify professional civil engineering services. Council’s approval is being requested for the engineering firm selected by our reviewing committee for engineering services. This prequalifies selected firms to submit bids on projects over \$50,000. Motion was made by Ms. Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**14. CLERK TO COUNCIL’S REPORT**

None.

**15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Gilbert: Mr. Gilbert stated he had something that was concerning to him. Over the past week, he received several phone calls regarding a situation where our Chairman is going behind Council and trying to negotiate and broker deals and representing the County as a whole and we know nothing about it. From what he has gathered, the Interim Administrator does not know anything about it either. Mr. Gilbert stated he felt this was something that had to stop. If there

is a deal the full board needs to know about it. He said it was very concerning because eventually it could get the County sued and he (the Chairman) could get himself into some serious trouble as well.

Greene: Ms. Greene stated there were 3 items she wanted to mention. First, she asked the Interim County Administrator to give them a copy of the County's Abandoned Property Ordinance. She thought we could do more to address the blight that we see in our communities and we need to start by reviewing and strengthening our ordinances and enforcement. Second, she thanked the members of Hoof and Paw for inviting her to volunteer at the Sheriff's Community Day at Drawdy Park last Saturday. In conjunction with Fairfield County Animal Control, approximately 80 dogs and cats received rabies vaccinations and food. It was a wonderful event and to see the vet work so nicely with our citizens was certainly enlightening and uplifting. Next, she mentioned the Martin Primary Healthcare Center has a community garden. She attended their opening on September 18<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to see that 9 of the 10 garden plots that were available were taken. It is wonderful to speak to the community about what can be done with sharing our gardens and to work together to make everything successful. They are working with Fairfield County school district and it's good to see their technology center working with the Martin Primary Healthcare Center to make that community garden a success. She thanked them for all of the work they were doing for our community.

Bell: Mr. Bell thanked everyone for being at the meeting. He also acknowledged his 4-year old granddaughter's birthday and wished her a happy birthday.

**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 6:30 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Greene, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

- A.** Receipt of Legal Advice – Proposed Contractual Matter – Discussion Regarding Property Purchase Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- B.** Legal Update - Regarding the Status of Pending Hospital Debt Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).

- C. Legal Update – Regarding Hospital Easement Releases Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- D. Legal Update – Regarding Response to Escrow Inquiry Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- E. Legal Update – Regarding the Proposed Hospital Property Sale Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).

At 7:41 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. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

Councilman Trapp made a motion that we sell the property that we met about to Eau Cooperative Cooperative Health Center, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Bell stated that it was moved to second that the former hospital property be sold to Eau Claire Incorporated. He asked for the correct name and it was given as Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center. Mr. Pauley stated he did not feel that Prisma had a fair shot coming in to do their presentation. He felt the votes were already against them before they came and he wanted to put that on the record. ***The motion carried 5-1.***

**16. ADJOURN**

At 7:44 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

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KIM W. ROBERTS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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MOSES BELL  
CHAIRMAN