



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 25, 2022**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Cornelius Robinson, Tim Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Doug Pauley (Council Members); Malik Whitaker (County Administrator), Charles Boykin (County Attorney); Dr. Kimberly Roberts, Clerk to Council)

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 6:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

3. INVOCATION

Councilman Robinson led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve the minutes from the Budget Work Session II April 26, 2022 and Regular Meeting July 11, 2022. ***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.

Dr. Roberts read the following statement:

Fairfield County Government welcomes public input during appropriate times at County Council meetings. Such input will be allowed in the time, place and manner determined by the Chair of the County Council as the presiding officer. Persons wishing to speak must conduct themselves in the following manner:

Sign up at the appropriate time to speak, refrain from engaging in conduct or speech that seeks to disrupt or disturb the meeting, respect the time limit for the public comment, and refrain from personal attacks or personal statements about any individual(s). Such statements are disruptive because this part of our meeting is not conducive for such exchanges between individuals.

As stated, speakers were expected to express themselves within the time, place and manner previously described. Any violation will result in a warning from the Chair of County Council or the presiding officer. Any failure to heed the warning of the Chair or presiding officer will result in the violating speaker forfeiting their opportunity to finish speaking or to speak during the remainder of the meeting. Council welcomes the comments from members of the public and ask for the cooperation of everyone to allow for the orderly conduct of the people's business.

Dr. Roberts asked the citizens to be mindful of the three-minute timer displayed on the screens to the right and left of the dias.

- Ieshia Dupree – Item 8-A
- Sheniqua Cook – Item 8-A
- Randy Bright – Item 8-A

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 796: An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds Received by Fairfield County from the Second Tranche of Funding Received Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and to Appropriate Unused Funds Received from the Last Tranche of Funding Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Disabilities & Special Needs Board – April 22, 2022

Aeronautics Commission – May 17, 2022

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Economic Director Introduction – Mr. Whitaker quoted Jay Garner (a well-respected Economic Development and Site Location Consultant) from his book, "Economic Development Is Not For Amateurs". He said, "I have learned a universal truth. The common denominator of a community's success is always the quality of your private and public leadership. Excellent leadership drives economic development to your community poor leadership drives economic development out. It is as simple as that." With that, he was proud to announce that Margaret Ann Broadwater agreed to accept the Economic Development Director position for Fairfield County. Mrs. Broadwater had 25+ years of economic development experience – both in South Carolina and Virginia. She worked as a Senior Project Manager and Director of Public and Investor Relations for the Central South Carolina Alliance. Later she served as a Senior Development Manager and Economic Development Manager with the South Carolina Department of Commerce. In Virginia, she was a project leader and manager of global business development. She was also a 1994 graduate of the Economic Development Institute at Indiana University and earned her economic development certification from the International Economic Development Council. In 1991, she took the basic developer's course at Georgia's Institute of Technology. He said Fairfield County wanted to be a regional and State leader in attracting new business and retaining and expanding existing businesses. They were excited to add a new team member that would help reach their goals.

Mrs. Broadwater thanked them for having the vision to move forward. She was excited to be there and to work with their team. She was excited about some things they had already taken steps towards to allow companies to look in their area. She was also excited to work with her existing team member, Zechariah Willoughby. She said she had a passion and commitment for economic development. She served in various capacities at the State of South Carolina and Virginia regional economic development offices and she understood what it took to get companies to grow and

expand locally and internationally. She was ready to get started, to work with all of them and to meet all of them (public) and have results in Fairfield County. It was their time. Mr. Bell thanked her for accepting the offer and said they looked forward to working with her.

- B. Parcel 9 Mass Grading** – Mrs. Williams said she wanted to give an update in the anticipation of the construction of the spec building (they recently approved the contract). They put out for bid and LCI Lineberger was the lowest qualified bidder for the mass grading of parcel 9 at the Fairfield Commerce Center. Their bid was \$1,972,100. The project was entirely funded by the \$3.2 million allocated from the Dominion settlement for the mass grading at the commerce center. Even with the design and geotechnical fees, they estimated the project would remain under budget. If so, the goal was to reallocate those funds towards the mass grading of parcel 8. They originally hoped to do parcels 8 and 9 together but with the way the bids came in, they were focusing on parcel 9 because it was where the spec building was going. Once that project started, they would continue to give updates on the progress at the Commerce Center. Mr. Robinson asked if lowest was always best. Mrs. Williams said she says lowest responsible bidder because although the bids come in low they still have the engineering group review the bids to make sure they address everything in the bid package and met all of the requirements. If they leave something out, they move on to the next bidder. Mr. Robinson said thank you.
- C. JAG Grant Approval - (ACTION ITEM)** – Mr. Whitaker said Sheriff Montgomery and the Sheriff's office was applying for the 2022 JAG grant and was seeking Council approval. He said the Edward Burn Memorial Justice Assistance grant program was the leading source of federal funding to State and local jurisdictions. The JAG program provided State's, tribes and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, crime prevention and education. He received a letter from the Sheriff's department. They were asking for Council's approval to apply for the grant. Mr. Bell said Council had the documents pertaining to the grant. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Robinson to approve. ***The motion carried 7-0.***
- D. Website Update** – Mr. Whitaker said they had exciting news and referred to the screens. He said their local government played a major role in the future of Fairfield County. Their government website was an important tool for representing the true services and culture of their great county. Their goal with the update was to show two samples of what the website would look like. He said he would email the display to the Council. Another goal was to make the website easy to use for residents in supporting them in being more engaged in county government. As well, to offer a simplified

one-stop shop for residents, visitors, and businesses to get the information they needed and to cater to the demographic who wanted information to be readily and easily accessible on-line. They were working with their great vendor – new information hierarchy that organized the content in a more simplified way, making it easier for users to get what they needed faster. There was a fresh new color palate and logo (two examples), that strike a balance between the rural and modern characteristics of Fairfield County and a simple, clean, engaging user experience that presents the highlight reel of Fairfield County showing rich history and positive progressive culture and diversity. They were working with their team to make the updates and he believed the launch date was in November 2022. They were very proud of the way the website was shaping up (with news) – a much improved website. Mr. Bell said if any Council member had any thoughts to present them to Mr. Whitaker.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mr. Bell said he intended to present this last week and he apologized. He said it was a certificate of special Congressional recognition from Congressman Ralph Norman. It stated – certificate of special Congressional recognition presented to Fairfield County Council for the recognition their new Administration building and Council Chambers. Wishing you continued success. He thanked him for it.

Mr. Gilbert said he wanted to make sure that the situation with the appointment for the Disabilities & Special Needs board in District 4 was corrected. He did not see a new applicant on the agenda. He said the list for the American Rescue funds was good but was just a band-aid for the problems they had with equipping their essential departments. He suggested that the finance committee look into using some of the funds in their restrictive fund budget. Some of the items were extended out for seven years. They could use some of those funds to purchase equipment and man power for these departments now and replace the money at a later date.

Mr. Pauley said he wanted all of them to look at the Detention Center officers that were there that night. They owed them a better work environment and better pay. It was something that needed to be addressed immediately before they had an empty detention center with no officers. They needed to show them and every employee of Fairfield County that the Council cared about them. He asked Chairman Bell whose decision it was to divide up the bonus checks into four quarterly payments. He said the employees were upset that they were given the money in that way and not all at one time.

Mr. Bell thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He thanked the detention center staff for being there as well. He said everyone on the dais knew it was a personnel issue that they did not discuss. They regretted when any employee left – they did – but when an employee made that decision, they made it for themselves. They did not make it for them. They appreciated all of the work. When they tried to do the things that needed to be done to improve the county (for every situation that comes before the County and even some that sat on that Council) always tried to make a political statement when it was not. People left and he hated it when they left but they did leave. They had people leave county services for quite some time. He said he sent Mr. Pauley a letter about 2-3 months ago about a very valued employee that left and nothing was said on that Council because people leave. He would not sit there and talk about an employee who decided to leave the County. He received a letter from Richland County a few weeks ago and the person over their detention center left – things happened. He said regarding their finances, the Council did a good job of managing and being responsible stewards of county funds. They did that. Now they had money to be able to do some things – that was not a discussion before. The discussion before was how they would take care of the services they needed to provide with a lack of funds. That discussion was not necessary now because they were good fiscal stewards of their finances – that was the plus of them doing the things they did. He said the discussion of what could be done for the employees had already started. The financial report given earlier during the Administration and Finance Committee meeting was excellent and now they could talk about doing other things. They could not talk about it before because they were spending all the money. They could not even fund the budget without going into the fund balance. It appeared that they would be able to fund the budget without going into the fund balance – what a remarkable feat. That feat was done by that Council.

16. 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 6:32pm, motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items.
The motion carried unanimously 7-0.


- A.** Discussion of Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).

At 7:50pm, motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Bell said there was no action taken in executive session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

ADJOURN

At 7:51 p.m., motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

KIM W. ROBERTS, Ed. D.
CLERK TO COUNCIL


MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN