



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 10, 2023**

Present: Dan Ruff, Clarence Gilbert, Cornelius Robinson, Shirley Greene, Tim Roseborough, Doug Pauley, Peggy Swearingen, (Council Members); Laura Johnson (Interim County Administrator); Synithia Williams (Deputy County Administrator); Tommy Morgan (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 Pauley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Pauley called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Gilbert to amend the agenda to move the action of Item 13 (Discussion of Fairfield Joint Water & Sewer System's Final Draft of Technical Analysis of Options for Wastewater Treatment System and Recommendations) to be addressed after Item 18, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to approve the amendment to the agenda. ***The motion carried 7-0.*** Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Ruff to approve the agenda as amended. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

4. INVOCATION

Pastor Robert Scotland (Shiloh Presbyterian Church) led the invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Ruff to amend the minutes to include Councilman Robinson's name as it was not included in those present, seconded by Councilman Gilbert. ***The motion carried 7-0.*** The minutes were approved as amended from Regular Meeting June 26, 2023. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

7. **1st PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** All public comments made during this session must pertain to items on the agenda for which no Public Hearing is scheduled. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- Ruchelle Gee
- Phil Gee
- Landrum Johnson
- Robert Hartman
- Yvette Howard
- Jeff Schaffer
- Randy Bright

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

9. **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

- A. **First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 817:** An Ordinance by Fairfield County Council Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Sewer Infrastructure Agreement Between Fairfield County, the Town of Winnsboro, and the Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer System; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. ***The motion carried 7-0.***
- B. **First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 818:** An Ordinance by Fairfield County Council Authorizing the Execution of a Second Supplement to Agreement to Share Costs Between Fairfield County, the Town of Winnsboro, and the Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer System; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Ruff. ***The motion carried 7-0.***
- C. **First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 819:** An Ordinance by Fairfield County Council Authorizing the Execution of a Grant and Project Administration Agreement Between Fairfield County and the Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer System and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Ruff. ***The motion carried 7-0.***
- D. **First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 820:** An Ordinance By Fairfield County Council to Amend and Restate Ordinance No. 674 Roads,

Highways, and Bridges; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilman Gilbert. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES (For information only)

None.

11. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

12. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Animal Control Ordinance Update – Mrs. Johnson said she would be sending out a list of possible meeting dates to the Public Services & Development Committee to further discuss changes to the ordinance.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Fairfield Joint Water & Sewer System's Final Draft of Technical Analysis of Options for Wastewater Treatment System and Recommendations – **MOVED FOR DISCUSSION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Economic Development Strategic Plan Meeting – Mrs. Williams said as a follow to the email sent to full Council around the July 4th holiday, the Economic Development Strategic Plan session was scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2023 at Midlands Technical College Northeast Campus. It would begin at 9am until about 2pm. They would have a facilitator to help with the discussions so they could finalize the plan.
- B. Finance Report – Mrs. Johnson referred to the budget by organization finance report Council had in front of them. It was stamped preliminary because they kept the books opened an additional two months to take in revenue that related to June 30, 2023. She also clarified that the third line on their sheet (under County Attorney) did not only relate to Mr. Morgan but to all attorney's used by the County (HR attorney's, bond attorney's, joint water attorney's). She said if they had any questions, they could call/email her. They planned to update the report monthly.

15. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

- 16. 2nd PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** All public comments made during this session must pertain to items not on the agenda or under Council's consideration. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The

total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- John A. Jones
- Jamie Vaine
- Bill Nessegmie
- Valorie Clowney
- Michael Moore
- Jeff Schaffer
- Randy Bright

17. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mrs. Swearingen said last week she received several calls about Sheriff's cars being seen in places where taxpaying citizens did not think they should be. She contacted the Sheriff's office that day and was told they had 55 employees of which 19 lived out of the county – one in Lexington, one in Kershaw, one in Newberry and 16 one in Richland – that was a third of their workforce that lived out of the county. They took the county's cars (home) out of the county daily. She was asked how much it cost the county. She researched and found that in 2022, the cost of gas and maintenance was \$360,000. So far, in 2023, the cost was \$312,000. In a year and a half, they spent almost \$700,000 in gas and maintenance. She said 14.5% of the general fund went to the Sheriff's Office. She did not know how to fix it but they would probably spend \$1,000,000 by the end of the year on gas and maintenance. She knew all of that was not spent on the vehicles being driven out of the county but she felt that there was a way to cut back on those expenses. She said people were asking for ways to save money and she asked Administration to look into ways to save money in that area. Mrs. Johnson said yes ma'am.

Mrs. Greene said she received an invitation from Shady Grove Independent Church on Newberry Road. They would celebrate their church's 200th anniversary July 26-30, 2023. Their theme was "We have come this far by faith". She suggested the Council recognize the occasion with a proclamation. Mr. Pauley asked Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Williams if they could relocate the Strategic Plan meeting from Columbia to Fairfield County to make it easier for the citizens to attend. He said a request was made by the Farmer's Market committee to meet with Council. He did not feel as though Council was against the Farmer's Market and they wanted to do what they could to support it. He was in support of having a meeting.

18. 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.)

A. Receipt of Legal Advice and Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements with the Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer System Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(2).

At 7:00pm, Motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilman Gilbert to go into executive session. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

At 7:35pm, motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to come out of executive session. ***The motion carried 7-0.*** Chairman Pauley stated there was no action taken in executive session.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to authorize the County's representatives for the Fairfield County Water & Sewer System to encourage the system to accept the recommendations of the final draft of the technical analysis of the options for the wastewater treatment system. He further motioned to move forward with the site selection on the Broad River for the proposed treatment plant and make the site selection as soon as possible without any further delay. The motion was seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Ruff said he was originally in favor of a third party review to ensure everything was correct but when he discovered that the proposals by the engineer for both sites were very close he realized that was not necessary. Mrs. Greene said she thought the citizens of Fairfield County were better served by providing capacity for growth. She thought locating the wastewater treatment plant on the Broad River gave them the opportunity to grow and prosper. She also thought it gave them the opportunity to learn that dilution was the solution and the western side of the county had an opportunity to grow.

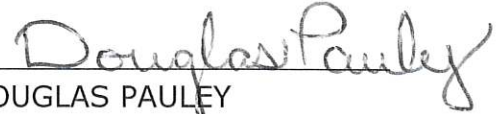
Mr. Robinson said historically he was not a fan of the Broad River – his first choice was Cedar Creek. During that time, they had a different plan. They had grown since Scout. He felt like it was the right decision and it would probably go down as the biggest one for Fairfield. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

19. ADJOURN

At 7:39pm, motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Ruff to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim W. Roberts', written over a horizontal line.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Pauley', written over a horizontal line.

DOUGLAS PAULEY
CHAIRMAN