



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 8, 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 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 July 25, 2022. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

**A.** Proclamation Recognizing August 14-20, 2022 as South Carolina Aviation Week. Dr. Roberts read the proclamation in its entirety. Mr. Bell thanked Director Denise Bryan for her work.

**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.**

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.

- Darryl Huger – Ordinance 797
- Burnie Maybank – Ordinance 797
- Randy Bright – Ordinance 797

During the public comment section, Councilman Pauley asked if there was any kind of statutory law that prohibited first reading from any discussion on it. He asked if the County Attorney knew of a statutory law that prevented it. Mr. Bell said he did not but they were using the standard practice for Council for as long as he had been on Council. It was always their practice that first reading was by title only with no discussion but he was willing to discuss it with Council as to whether they wanted to change it. He said Mr. Pauley knew that because that was their practice but he would take it to Council. Mr. Pauley said thank you.

## **7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

**A. First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 797: An Ordinance Authorizing (1) the Execution and Delivery of a Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina (The "County") and Fairfield County School District Education Foundation (The "Company") to Provide for Special Source Revenue Credits with Respect to Certain Property Located in the County (TM#: 144-02-02-056-000); (2) the Benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park Designation to be Made Available to the Company and Such Property; and (3) Other Matters Relating Thereto. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. By show of hands – Greene, Robinson, Roseborough, Trapp and Bell voted yes; Pauley and Gilbert voted no. *The motion carried 5-2.***

**B. Second Reading 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. Mr. Bell said they had a work session to go over all items on the list. He asked Deputy Administrator Williams to read the list. Mrs. Williams said the recommendations for the use of the excess ARPA funds from the repair of the DSS roof were: replace two Sheriff's department vehicles @ \$71,700, equipment for the vehicles @ \$28,447, a vehicle for the Deputy Coroner @ \$16,000 (pre-owned), replace an animal control vehicle @ \$36,000 and replace a vehicle for the airport @ \$30,000. She said the other part of the recommendation was to take the second allotment of recovery act funding, which should be received at the end of the month or early September, to upgrade the Courthouse HVAC @ \$1,030,793, upgrade the Courthouse electrical @ \$492,008, replace the 35-year old tanker for fire services @ \$340,000 and replace an ambulance (Medic 1) for EMS @ \$300,000. *The motion carried 7-0.***

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

Library Commission – November 5, 2021 & February 28, 2022

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

None.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

- A. 17U Summer League Baseball Championship Recognition** – Mr. Whitaker introduced Lucas Vance, Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Vance said Fairfield County Parks and Recreation was proud to present the 2022 Junior Baseball Summer League Champions. Fairfield finished the season with a 10-2 record and won the championship game with a score of 7-3. The Fairfield team had won five of the past six Junior Baseball Summer League championships with their only miss being the 2020 COVID year when they did not compete. He referenced a photo of the team being displayed and he recognized the coaches and players. Mr. Bell asked if the members present could join him at the podium. He introduced Jonathan Warren, Ethan Gattis, Yohance Harrison, Joseph Gonzalez, Robert Ramsey, head coach Tyler Gregory, and athletic specialist Dunson Padget. He said a large portion of the team was not present due to after school activities but he would recognize the entire team – Landon Morgan (third and second baseman and pitcher), Jaylen Robinson (outfielder), Robert Ramsey (catcher & third baseman), Yohance Harrison (first baseman), Blake Gambrell (short stop), Ryan Woodard (outfielder & pitcher), Ethan Gattis (outfielder), Jayce Edmunds (third baseman & pitcher), Jonathan Warren (catcher, third baseman, pitcher), Joseph Gonzalez (outfielder), Brad Trapp (outfielder), Tyler Gregory (head coach), Nygel Woodard (short stop & second baseman), and not pictured in the team photo was George Sampson, Graeme Douglas and manager Larry Perry. He said it was their pleasure to present to Council the 2022 Junior Baseball Summer League Champions. Mr. Bell said they were very proud of all of them. He thanked them for playing and participating and said they were glad to have them there. He invited them to attend future Council meetings. Mr. Vance said if they got another championship team they would be back. Mr. Bell said they would expect that. Mr. Vance said they had championship shirts for them (Council) and he hoped they would wear them with pride. Mr. Bell said they would.
- B. Love Never Fails** – Mr. Reginald Boyd, President, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He said in 2020, they watched COVID change their world. Everyone was in isolation including the children. He watched his child change – he went through many different things and he said something had to be done. In 2021, members of Fairfield County got together and said they would try to make a change. That was when they started "Love Never Fails", which was a grassroots organization founded in Fairfield County specifically for Fairfield County. All members of the organization were products of the county. They loved the county and did not want to sit

back and watch it go to waste. They formed the non-profit with one goal in mind – to build a community of young leaders based on faith, love, diversity and support. They were doing everything they could to accomplish that. Their children suffered from mental health issues and they hosted many seminars with NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) and one of their biggest turnouts included over 100 participants. It was enriching and encouraging to see the people that wanted to help. They were established in Fairfield County to aid the youth by building character spiritually, physically and mentally by means of seminars and field trips. They took 25 children to see the Fireflies play and 25 children to Dave and Buster's. They were also planning to visit the State House for a tour. They gave six \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors and there was much more that they wanted to do – they were just getting started. They reached the October and December part of their upcoming events. They were looking forward to taking 25 children to an NFL Panthers game, a feeding outreach program in November and an adopting families program in December. They were also looking forward to taking 25 children to the White House for a tour. He said he was getting emotional because it was something that was near and dear to his heart. They were trying to be there for the children because they needed all of them. They could all see what was going on around them – the shootings. They were not asking the county to support all of their funding – they were going to do it anyway the best they could. They were asking the county to help in any way possible. They were asking for \$10,000, it could change a lot and he thought it was a wise investment. It was better than sitting by and watching them get shot for no reason. They could at least try to do something for them. His wife, Kimberly Boyd, asked Council to take time to think of their own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews – they all wanted the best for them. They wanted to give them a leg up and support them and "Love Never Fails" wanted to add support to their parents and the schools to add another outlet to learn – to learn critical thinking and make good decisions. They wanted to let them know that a mistake was a mistake but they needed to learn from those mistakes. They were trying to instill good values. A community was only as good as the people in it and they wanted to build their community and let them know that they could be anything they wanted to be. They also wanted them to come back to Fairfield County and give back. They wanted to show them that they were giving back to the county and they needed to do the same. Mr. Bell thanked them and said all members of Council could see the work they were doing. He said they (he and Mr. Boyd) talked and Council would not make a decision regarding funding that night but they would look for some funding sources to help them. They appreciated the work they were doing in the county and they felt his heart. He thanked



them for what they were trying to do for the children in the community because they belonged to them. He thanked him again for coming. Mr. Gilbert asked if they accepted personal donations and Mr. Boyd said yes sir. Mr. Gilbert asked if he would leave some information with them for those that may want to make personal donations. Mr. Bell said Mr. Gilbert made a good point and told Mr. Boyd he could give that information then – he believed they were a 501C3 and checks could be made payable to Love Never Fails. Mr. Boyd said that was correct and they made deposits at First Citizens Bank. Their cash app was 'loveneverfails2021' and they had PayPal also and his wife had some cards. Mr. Bell thanked them again.

- C. Fairfield County Transit System Title VI Plan - (ACTION ITEM)** – Mr. Whitaker said the information would be given by Deputy Administrator Williams. Mrs. Williams said the Transit Director, Diana White, was present if there were any questions. She said federal regulations required state recipients of federal funding must “promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color or national origin” through the creation of a Public Participation Plan. Fairfield County established its Public Participation Plan to ensure adequate inclusion of the public throughout the County in accordance with the content and consideration of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Fairfield County Transit System would use the plan to ensure adequate involvement of low-income, minority and limited English proficient (LEP) populations. Involving the public in Fairfield County Transit System’s practices and decision-making processes provided helpful information to improve the transit system and better meet the needs of the community. Fairfield County Transit System would make a concerted effort to involve all affected parties in its decision-making in compliance with the plan along with Federal regulations. Effective strategies for engaging low-income, minority and LEP populations included having flyers available, posting information on their website and requesting SCDOT to share information. It was an action item and they were asking Council to approve the creation of the Title VI Public Participation Plan for their transit system. Motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Trapp to approve. Mr. Bell thanked Ms. White for her work and said she was a great asset. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

#### **14. CLERK TO COUNCIL’S REPORT**

None.

#### **15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Mr. Pauley said this year when they were in a very tight budget and had to cut their own departments by 10%, they were electing to forgive taxes for the teacher village when \$2.2 million of taxpayer money was supposed to

fund the project. They all wanted great teachers in Fairfield County but they also had to make sure they took care of the citizens and the employees of Fairfield County. He asked if they contacted the Town of Winnsboro in the jurisdiction of where the teacher village would be located to see if it was approved. Had all of the qualifications been met? Had all of the engineering and other items been done? It seemed like they would work together to see if certain criteria was met before they voted on this. He contacted the Town himself and it was not. It was stated numerous times by departments and employees that they were not happy with that administration and some of Council on the decisions that were being made. They expressed dissatisfaction with salaries and working conditions and they (Council) continued to ignore their requests. They (employees) received a \$600 bonus in the budget to later learn that it would be given in quarterly payments of \$130 per check. They were not happy. The Sheriff received his third resignation letter that day in three weeks. The individual stated the main reason for leaving was financial. As of that day, he was seven people short – four of which were patrol deputies. Yesterday, off-duty deputies had to be called in for a dementia patient that wandered off. For four hours, these deputies were in the woods in the blazing heat but finally located the individual. It does not stop there. There many other departments that felt they were not appreciated.

Mr. Gilbert said to Mr. Bell that one of his supporters posted on Facebook about the application for the \$20 million for a grant for the proposed Ridgeway line was a joint effort between Ridgeway and the County. It stated the Town was standing in the way of the Ridgeway sewage line build. It was not true in any way, form or fashion. Ridgeway County Council officials said they did not know anything about being in a joint application for a \$20 million grant. In a public comment, Mrs. Williams said that the County proposed that the Town of Winnsboro pay a fee to the County for the lease of the line, assume all costs and maintenance and operations and the County would own the land. The County wanted the Town to bear the liability and the cost, which was both unknown. He believed the County engineer never gave the Town an estimate of the cost and liability. Why would the Town ever agree with anything like that? They would not get any customers out of it. The County actually did not meet the requirements for the \$20 million grant. The grant required the County to have customers, which they did not, and to have the proper permit and the County would have its own and operate the sewage plant, which they did not. The County was utterly and wholly depending on the Town and Ridgeway but primarily the Town was qualified for the grant. The County did not qualify and would not agree to partner with the Town. The County appeared to want to win by making the County lose.

That was not going to work. The County must accept being partners with the Town if they wanted to make this happen.

Mr. Bell said he was sorely disappointed with the statement made by Mr. Gilbert when he knew they were in negotiations. It was very disappointing. It was so disappointing that he would not comment. Mr. Gilbert said he just saw the comment on Facebook. Mr. Bell said so now they were going to Facebook for stuff – man come on. Wow. Since the last Council meeting, they attended the Fairfield Central High convocation with Dr. Green and the Association of Counties conference, which they thoroughly enjoyed due to the learning experience provided by both. It was very rewarding and they encouraged ongoing participation in both. They provided valuable training for the ongoing work of the council and provided networking opportunities for the work. Those conferences were supported by the State in providing subject matter experts for all counties for the issues they were facing whether small or large, rural or urban. That night they passed the second reading of the second allotment of the ARPA funding and the first reading of the special source revenue credit between Fairfield County School District. Both were important because of the value they brought to the county. They were forward-looking while meeting current needs. To discuss the last ordinance first, the special revenue allowed a tax credit to the teacher village, which enabled a significant recruiting tool for teachers for their great county. That should be enough said for them to appreciate – simply they care. The second ordinance regarding ARPA funding was important because they would meet some of the most significant public safety needs and funding for the courthouse renovations. As mentioned, both were forward-looking. To explain further, they requested funding for air packs for the fire service through the State and received it. The need was five to 15 years past due depending on whether you looked at the harness but they were able to get it done and now they could get a fire truck. A contract was signed for the courthouse renovations for \$5.3 million when there was only \$4.2 million left in the bond for the work. The last fire truck for the county was delivered in December 2019. The budget for fiscal year 2020 and 2021 was \$45.2 million and \$46.4 million respectively and neither budget included a fire engine or fire tanker nor the air packs mentioned earlier that were way past due plus the courthouse. There was a lot to be said but he could not get his arms around what just happened. He needed the public to understand that they were looking forward towards the future. Abraham Lincoln said, "Ahead to your purpose and you will soon feel as well as you ever did. On the contrary, as you falter and give up, you lose the power keeping any resolution and regret it all your life." The improvement of the county, their great county, was simply their commitment. That was what they were trying to do and until he was not there, he would work for the betterment of the county. They



would struggle and try to do the right thing. They would grow the county. They county needed to grow and prosper and they would not grow and prosper without infrastructure. They could not allow folks (anybody) to stand in the way and prevent them from doing that. They waited far too long, far too long, to have infrastructure. He asked for Mr. Whitaker's forgiveness and said they had people looking at property in Fairfield County. Every time they looked around, they were getting prospects and they were telling them that they (County) did not have the infrastructure in place. If they as a Council sat there and did not do what they needed to do for infrastructure, they did not need to be there.

**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.)**

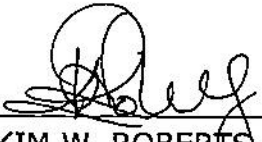
At 6:41pm, motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***


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

At 7:49pm, 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 7:49 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