



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

**Present:** Billy Smith, Doug Pauley, Neil Robinson, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Dan W. Ruff, Mikel Trapp, Bertha Goins, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Tommy Morgan, County Attorney; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

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 twenty seven other individuals.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the Agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Council Member Pauley led the invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Council Member Pauley and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2017. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Fairfield Behavioral Health Services Marion C. Smith Partner of the Year Award Presentation** - By Executive Director Vernon Kennedy, Sr., on behalf of the Fairfield Behavioral Health Services Board. Mr. Kennedy thanked the Council for allowing him to present this award. Behavioral Health Services provides substance abuse services to adolescents and adults. Every September is recognized as Recovery Month with this being a national movement. About three years ago an award was begun in honor of the very first executive director, the Honorable Marion C. Smith. Because of his leadership, the organization wanted to start a new award. This has been done for the last three years, with each year yielding great honorees. The staff makes recommendations to Mr. Kennedy from their partners which include such entities as DSS, the hospital, mental health, the Council and many other services. Once Mr. Kennedy receives the recommendations, they are passed along to the Planning and Communications Community Relations Committee of the Board,

who then make the final decision as to the recipient of the award. This year Fairfield County Council was chosen for this award for many different reasons, some being the fact that there has been a continuous partnership with Fairfield County Council, administration and the maintenance department in not only providing a place to be housed, but also providing the upkeep of the facility, providing annual funding and certainly most recently the appropriation of capital improvement funds for the new facility. For these many reasons, the committee felt the award should be presented to Fairfield County Council. Mr. Kennedy thanked the Council for their support and partnership, which is vital to the working of Behavioral Health Services. The award reads "Fairfield Behavioral Health Services – Imagine the Difference – Presents the Marion C. Smith Partner of the Year Award to Fairfield County Council September 29, 2017. Chairman Smith stated he appreciates the job done at Behavioral Health Services. It was a long fought battle to get the funding, and he is glad they were able to accomplish this. He looks forward to seeing the operation in the new facility. Chairman Smith also appreciates the photos on the progress of the new facility. Vice Chair Goins also thanked Mr. Kennedy for the service they render and the labor of love. She is sure the community and the clients appreciate all they do.

- 6. 1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES):** 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.

- Randy Bright - Board Appointments

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

**8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

- A. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 689** - An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 404 and Subsequently Ordinance No. 529 to Reduce the Number of Members on the Fairfield County Council on Aging Board from Nine (9) Members to Seven (7) Members. It was moved by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approved First Reading of Ordinance No. 689. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- B. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 690** - An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase 14 Acres (Portion of Tax Map No. 134-02-00-036-000) for the Location of a Fire Station for \$60,000. It was moved by

Vice Chair Goins and seconded by Council Member Douglas to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 690. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Hospital Board and Disabilities and Special Needs Board.** It was moved by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Pauley to accept the minutes from the Hospital Board and Disabilities and Special Needs Board. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**A.** Public Works Department Overview and Update - By Director, Mr. Jake Gaston. Mr. Gaston was not present when initially called, however, arrived shortly after to give the following department overview:

- Public Works includes two departments: Road maintenance and solid waste/recycling. Employees include 28 full-time employees, 16 under road maintenance and 12 under solid waste, about 40 recycling attendants which are temporary employees, fully staffed for about 68 employees.
- Duties include: Maintenance of County dirt and paved roads, about 300 miles total, 82 miles of paved roads, 180 paved roads total with the rest being dirt. Maintenance of ditches, grass on the sides, drainage pipes, potholes and County bridges.
- County projects: Help is provided in-house with clearing land, building pads for projects and pipes on roadways. Work was just recently completed at the industrial park, and the department assists with other County projects when needed.
- County buildings: Driveway maintenance, fire, recreation, administration and EMS stations.
- Installation of drainage pipes for citizens including 24 feet of concrete pipes.
- Street signs.
- Assists emergency personnel, EMS, transit and 911.
- CTC: Partnership to obtain funds from the state every year to pave County dirt roads. Triple treatment is the process: Contractors will grind the soil 8-

10 inches deep, mix the soil with powdered cement and roll with water to give a hard base 8-10 inches deep, come through with a layer of tar and gravel and then come back around again with another layer of tar and gravel for the third treatment, the final resurface.

- Works with DOT including the snow and ice agreement for assistance in hazardous weather.
- The department is fortunate to have a good Council and good support staff, including Mr. Taylor and Mr. Anderson, to provide the needed equipment. This includes three motor graders, backhoe, two front end loaders, single axle dump trucks, pick-up trucks and trailers, patching machine and bulldozer.
- Solid waste has 12 FT employees, about 40 temporary attendants, 11 collection centers, one wood chipping and waste tire facility. Trash service and recycling is provided to all schools as well as all the County buildings.
- Salkehatchie Group: In this partnership, when the group comes in to work on houses, dumpsters are provided to work with them at no cost.
- Code enforcement: Will provide dumpsters in order to clean areas.
- Community clean-ups, such as Pig on the Ridge. Two or three dumpsters will be dropped off a few days before the event, gravel is put down if needed.
- There are 11 collection/drop-off sites open 7 to 7 every day except Wednesday which is 7 to 1 and Sunday 2-6. Mr. Gaston is proud of the fact that Fairfield County is the only county open every day to some degree. The County does not have a landfill but instead has a transfer station. Pretty much all material is accepted. It is hauled from the drop-off sites to the waste management transfer station located beside the Public Works building. This is then hauled to the landfill in Columbia. Recycling is growing more and more, so whenever possible, products are recycled, including the partnership with Midlands Biofuel for cooking oil. Also, other items recycled include electronics, glass, used motor oil, oil filters, plastics, scrap metal, appliances, tires and yard trimmings.
- Solid waste is also fortunate to have the equipment and personnel including 4 roll off trucks and a limb truck.
- Wood chipping, waste tire facility: Airport Road open Monday through Friday 7-7, Saturday 8-2. All debris coming in is ground into mulch and is free to County citizens.

Council Member Douglas asked if the triple treatment is done in only certain areas, particularly asking about Old Chester Road. Mr. Gaston stated this process is widely used. DOT does utilize this process as well; however, this being a state road, they can choose what process to use. Secondary roads are quite frequently patched. Council Member Douglas also asked concerning the cardboard boxes and other counties making people break the boxes down flat. Why does Fairfield County not require the boxes to be broken down. Mr. Gaston stated his department does try to get folks to break the boxes down. They are broken down when they get to the bailer site. This can obviously be enforced more in the future.

Council Member Ruff asked concerning the County dirt roads with the triple treatment, does someone go back and inspect the thickness to make sure it

is done properly. Mr. Gaston stated the CTC has an engineer who handles this with an inspector on site during and after the roads are completed before signing off and paying the final retainer. Mr. Gaston and the engineer, Mr. Coleman, ride the roads to make sure everything is done properly, so yes, they are inspected. There is one road in Ridgeway that Mr. Gaston is looking into.

Chairman Smith asked Mr. Gaston to explain how the roads are paved for the benefit of the citizens, as the Council members get a lot of questions concerning this procedure, and the CTC is comprised of members appointed by the House and Senate. Mr. Gaston stated the CTC has a formula depending on the width of the road, how many residents are on the road. It is on a point system by district. The information is calculated into a formula and this is how the points are determined. The CTC makes the decisions concerning this. Also, Chairman Smith recalls the incinerator for the wood chipping facility being approved in the budgeting process which was looked at as a cost saving measure and has this piece of equipment been purchased yet. This is in the permitting stage with DHEC at present and has not been purchased yet.

- B.** Update on Cambio Academy Concerns: Mr. Taylor reported there have been a number of calls to the Sheriff's Department with a number of complaints from citizens about Cambio Academy. At the last Council meeting, Council had asked Mr. Taylor to look into this matter to see what could possibly be done to improve the situation. A meeting was held with the Director of the facility, Ms. Wood, this morning and Ms. Wood is present in the audience to hear Council's concerns and any citizen concerns and to answer any questions. In looking into this, it was found that there are problems occurring and the hope is to be able to fix these problems. There are certain levels of care, depending on the situation, which determines what facility is appropriate for an individual. It appears that a number of children, and there are only girls at the facility now, that are inappropriate to the level of care that Cambio provides. Ms. Wood has identified at least 8-10 participants that probably do not need to be at that facility and need to be somewhere else at a higher level of care. DSS has a need to place some of their difficult clients and this is what has happened, some of the difficult ones have been inappropriately placed. She is going to attempt to address this first of all and hopefully get the ones who are consistently causing problems that are inappropriately placed and inappropriately accepted to be placed at another facility. Also, the facility was discussed concerning what can be done as far as security. Right now, the doors are not locked. Discussions concerning a fence (it was felt a barbed wire fence would not aesthetically be pleasing and send the wrong message) were had, and our interim Fire Marshall will be going out to review and see what can be done, either a lock system or an alarm system as suggested by the Sheriff who was also in the meeting. These are some of the things that were discussed, and this will be followed up with Ms. Wood with a list of the items and a time frame attached as to when it should be expected to see improvement. Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Wood for working toward a solution concerning this problem. She did receive an email yesterday



concerning the situation again, and somehow there should be a reasonable solution. Chairman Smith has also heard a lot of concerns about the facility and he does understand the mission and hopes it is done properly going forward. Thanks to Mr. Taylor for reaching out and having the meeting and including the Sheriff's Department and other folks who have been involved and Cambio Academy for being willing to meet. He hopes the concerns can be curtailed and corrected, otherwise, he is not sure how the County can allow the facility to operate in the community as it is right now. Mr. Taylor also reported there will be a community meeting this Wednesday, and he and Sheriff Montgomery will be in attendance to discuss some of the concerns. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., at Greenbriar Methodist Church.

- C.** Road Paving List: Per Mr. Taylor, the CTC each year chooses a group of roads to pave based on the point system. This year they have released the list of roads and anticipate spending roughly \$800,000 as they do most years. The road with the most priority points this year is Bluebird which should be the first paved. The longest and most expensive section of road will be Water Creek Valley which will be \$165,000. A full list will be provided to anyone interested.
- D.** Department Update - Concerning Airport, Recreation and Planning Departments: There are a number of department heads that will be hired by the County shortly, the Airport, Recreation and Planning Department. In addition, a notification has been received that the Fire Marshall, Mr. Tony Hill, will be retiring and this will be advertised as well. Also, by way of information to the Council concerning the Airport, in switching over from the FBO to in-house management, it was found that the gas tanks had never been permitted by DHEC. All past permitting fees will have to be paid totaling \$9,600. Chairman Smith asked if this could be charged to the previous fixed base operator, and Mr. Taylor will look into this. Also, not having the proper permits and inspections, the tanks will be shut down and will need to be replaced. A temporary solution must be found and hopefully this will be resolved by Wednesday with almost no interruption for gas services at the Airport.

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

None.

- 15. 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES):** 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.

- Randy Sisk - FMH
- Randy Bright - Whatever Happened To ?

**16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Goins: Concerning the Board and Commission appointments, flyers are being distributed and available at tonight's meeting along with the application. She asked for those who picked up flyers to please share this with someone else, pass out in the community so everyone will have an opportunity. On December 16, a community meeting will be held at the Jenkinsville Recreation Center from 11 to 1 p.m. Tentatively there will be a second community meeting on February 17, 2018, at the Greenbrier Fire Department. This will be to talk with the community to find out what the citizens are thinking, concerns, how to address issues or problems to work toward a solution. She intends to continue these meetings throughout the year.

Ruff: Concerning the Board and Commission vacancies in District 1, which includes Aeronautics Commission, Assessment and Appeals and Disability and Special Needs, anyone who is interested, please contact him. He is not opposed to the Council adapting as needed as it is difficult to find people who are willing to serve. He does appreciate all those who do serve. Also, Ridgeway recreation funds were reapproved several months ago, and there have been several meetings with Town Council in Ridgeway and Mr. Taylor. Nothing definite yet, but it is coming in the future. Hopefully, the area can get more for its money this time around.

Douglas: Town of Winnsboro and the hospital are working together and the hospital is paying their electric bills. An arrangement was worked out, and the bill is being paid monthly. The board recently had a work session and chose to close Blue Granite and Cardiac Rehab. If you want to learn how hard the board is working, attend a board meeting to find out what's going on.

Robinson: On November 19, he will be presenting Calvary Presbyterian Church with a 150 year anniversary Proclamation. All are invited to attend. Also, from February of 2017 to November 10 of this year, he and Mrs. Goins, along with Mr. Taylor, Ty Davenport and Julius Weathers have been attending the Economic Development Institute. With this program, the diploma must be earned with a percentage. This process has proven to him that Mr. Taylor, Mr. Weathers and Mr. Davenport have the willingness to learn. The Institute took them to many different cities, and the group is willing to put forth the effort to make Fairfield County what it needs to be.

**17. 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 6:55 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to go into executive session for (a) Contractual Matter - Update on Sewer Agreement with the Town of Great Falls. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

At 7:30 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Council Member Douglas to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

There was no action taken in executive session.

**18. ADJOURN**

At 7:31 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff, properly seconded by Council Member Trapp to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

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PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.  
CHAIRMAN