



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 23, 2015**

Present: Carolyn B. Robinson, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Billy Smith, Walter Larry Stewart, Council Members; J. Milton Pope, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Shryll M. Brown, Clerk to Council; Jack James, County Attorney

Absent: Marion B. Robinson; Dan W. Ruff

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 Herald-Independent, The State, and Winnsboro Cablevision, and one hundred ten other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*It was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Vice Chairman Marcharia to approve the agenda. **The motion carried unanimously.***

{Chairman Robinson announced that two members of Council had some personal matters and could not be present for the meeting}.

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Kinley led in the Invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*It was moved by Council Member Smith; seconded by Council Member Kinley and Vice Chairman Marcharia to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2015. **The motion carried unanimously.***

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.

- Ms. Beth Jenkins - Community Enhancement Grants
- Ms. Carol Turner - District 3 Community Center
- Mr. Randy Bright - Enhancement Grants

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 657 - Ordinance To Amend The Agreement For Designation Of The I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park Dated April 15, 2003 By And Between Fairfield And Richland Counties So As To Enlarge The Park (Seibels Services Group, Inc.). *It was moved by Council Member Smith; seconded by Vice Chairman Marcharia to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 657. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 658 - Authorizing An Amendment To The Master Agreement Governing The I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park By And Between Richland County, South Carolina, And Fairfield County, South Carolina, To Expand The Boundaries Of The Park To Include Certain Real Property Located In Richland County By Dominion Carolinas Gas Transmission, LLC; And Other Related Matters. *It was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Council Member Smith to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 658. The motion carried unanimously.*

C. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 659 - Authorizing An Amendment To The Master Agreement Governing The I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park By And Between Richland County, South Carolina, And Fairfield County, South Carolina, To Expand The Boundaries Of The Park To Include Certain Real Property Located In Richland County (CD/Park7 Columbia SC High Rise Owner LLC); And Other Related Matters. *It was moved by Vice Chairman Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Kinley to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 659. The motion carried unanimously.*

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Provided as information.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acknowledgment Of Passing Of Member Of Fairfield County School Board Of Trustees. Chairman Robinson acknowledged the passing of School Board Trustee, Ms. Andrea Teresa Harrison, this past week. She set forth that Ms. Harrison represented District 1 on the Fairfield County School Board, and proposed that Council adopt a Resolution to be sent to her family. *It was moved by Council Member Smith; seconded by Council Member Kinley that a Resolution in Memoriam be prepared by Council and sent to Ms. Harrison's family.* Members of Council expressed kind words about Ms. Harrison's life. **The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Appointment Of Chairman Of Fairfield County Strategic Plan Project Advisory Committee (PAC). Chairman Robinson set forth that it is Council's responsibility to appoint a chairman to the Strategic Plan Project Advisory Committee (PAC), and asked that ballots with all the names listed be distributed to Council for each member to vote for one (1) person to serve as chairman. After the ballots were distributed and tallied, Mr. Pope announced the results as follows: By majority vote, **Mr. Sam Arnette, Jr.** was voted chairman. Mr. Pope set forth that he has sent to Council the PAC committee's calendar, indicating they meet on the third Wednesday each month, and now that a chair is appointed, staff will be in contact with the committee and ask that the chairperson come and give regular updates, if the Council desires.

C. Request To Approve Purchase Or Lease Agreement For District 3 Recreation Plan (i.e., Mitford Community Club). Council Member Stewart voiced that he was not prepared to go forward with this tonight, and requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. At this time, he took the privilege of following up on Ms. Turner's comments. *It was moved by Council Member Stewart; seconded by Council Member Smith that the request to approve purchase or lease agreement for the District 3 recreation plan (i.e., Mitford Community Club) be moved to the next meeting, which will be December 15, 2015. **The motion carried unanimously.***

D. Community Enhancement Grants. *It was moved by Council Member Smith; seconded by Vice Chairman Marcharia and Council Member Kinley to postpone the consideration of the Community Enhancement Grants until the next regular meeting of Council.* During discussion, Council Member Smith cited the reason he would like to do this is since the other two Council Members are absent so that they can present whatever it is in their area, so as to have a full contingent hopefully for the next meeting.

Council Member Stewart expressed he was concerned about accountability--that some of the organizations that the grants are being given to if they are using them properly. He added that he is concerned that there is no follow up or nothing that closes the loop that said what they spent the money for.

Mr. Pope reported that a year ago, Council revamped the discretionary grant program to the community enhancement grant program, where new criteria and an application process was implemented. That process was evaluated internally and recommendations were passed on to Council for the final decision. Staff accumulates all the receipts from those items that are expended; however, it is always prudent that if the Council has questions about the program or may want to rev up the regulatory process of that, it can be done. The process is open and transparent for consideration and the applications from all of the districts were emailed to Council. Staff will be available at the next meeting to answer any questions that may arise. Council is encouraged to contact the Administrator on any of these applications and the responses can be made prior to the next meeting.

Council Member Smith made the observation that when this does come up at the next meeting, it would be a good idea that for in order for the organizations to receive the funds receipts would be submitted first to the County and the organization would receive reimbursement.

Vice Chairman Marcharia commented that, in looking at his particular district and some of the other districts, he saw requests he has never seen before and opined that he would leave that up to the individual Council Member to observe that in their district and bring it into check if they see something that is out of balance. He also cited a situation with one of the applications in his district, and asked Council to give them an opportunity to alter that application to do it properly before the final decision is made by Council. **The motion carried unanimously.**

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Strategic Plan Update. The committee has been working very well. Have spoken to the consultants, who are the liaison with the committee and try to attend those meetings as well. The consultants are collecting a huge volume of data throughout the county. They are interviewing focus groups, other local government entities and private individuals and community sessions are being set up so that the public involvement piece

is quite expansive. One of the things is a community calendar where information can be published.

B. Recreation And Public Safety Project Update. Have the contract documents for Mr. James to sign. Will have a pre-bid conference on the public safety and recreational projects that the Council has approved. That documentation has been reviewed and facilitated. As soon as those documents are finalized and the contractor signs off, will begin the process of work.

C. County Administrator Search Process. Mr. Pope introduced Ms. Sharon Klumpp of Waters and Company, who is a professional consultant as well as a local government manager colleague. Ms. Klumpp is meeting with individual Council Members to obtain their criteria for what they would like to see in a County Administrator for this community and will be working with Council to form the profile and the process. She has also been meeting with staff members.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

Reminded Council and the public of the Council meeting schedule for the remaining calendar year. At the last Council meeting, Council voted to move the December 14, 2015 meeting to December 15, 2015 and because the second meeting of the month falls on a holiday, Council voted to suspend that Council meeting and to call a special meeting if there is a need for a meeting anytime during the month. The Chairman, in consultation with Council and the Administrator, are working to establish a work session date for further discussion on the AEC Pellet plant. As soon as the date is finalized, it will be published on the County website as well as distribute the agenda to those persons who are on the agenda distribution list.

15. 2ND PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT CAN BE TO INTRODUCE AN ITEM NOT CURRENTLY UNDER COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OR BRING A CONCERN TO COUNCIL'S ATTENTION. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.

- Ms. Eljean Warren - Pellet Plant
- Ms. Beth Jenkins - Pellet Plant
- Mr. Virgil Porter - Response To Mr. Pope's Answers
- Mr. Randy Bright - Happy Thanksgiving

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mr. Pope commented that there are a lot of people who come and participate in the meetings and sometimes they may not know the context of certain things that are mentioned that the County is either involved in or may have some interest in. He spoke directly about the County's involvement and how it chose to structure its economic development process and stated it is important to get a holistic approach and viewpoint on why the County invests in certain projects.

Council Member Stewart voiced that when the people of District 3 elected him, he promised to stand up for what is right and stand up for all of District 3. He stated he is really concerned about the quality of life in that district as it relates to community facilities, EMS facilities or the quality of fire protection equipment.

Vice Chairman Marcharia asked the members of the Public Services and Development Committee to be aware that the issue of Plantation Pointe needs to be addressed by the next meeting.

- Council Member Smith thanked the Administrator for his presentation on economic development and the County's involvement in that with the Alliances and the Department of Commerce. He stated that he and Council Member Robinson have both completed the S. C. Economic Developers' Association Institute, and opined that the County looks pretty good in the world of economic development, as a plug for Fairfield County was actually made in one of the classes. He also asked Council to review all the Community Enhancement Grant applications again with a careful eye.
- Chairman Robinson stated there is one person in the Economic Development office in the County, and that when the County works with the Alliances, at least 3 or 4 times a year, they educate people around the world about what this area has to offer, and by doing that, all the County has to do is go with them to put Fairfield County out in the process. She also addressed the Central SC Alliance Mission conference that was held in Washington, D. C. and the partnership that was beneficial to this area.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*At 6:55 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Smith; seconded by Vice Chairman Marcharia to go in executive session to discuss a tax assessment appeal, which is for a pending threatened or potential claim and is attorney-client privileged; an economic development matter and a personnel matter in regard to the County Administrator search. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*At 8:40 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chairman Kinley; seconded by Council Member Smith to come out of executive session and return to open session. **The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Robinson reported that Council received information in executive session and has nothing to report out.

18. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M., upon the unanimous approval of Council.

SHRYLL M. BROWN
CLERK TO COUNCIL

CAROLYN B. ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN