



**MINUTES
WORKSESSION
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 24, 2012**

Present: David L. Ferguson, R. David Brown, Mary Lynn Kinley, Carolyn B. Robinson, Dwayne Perry, Council Members; Philip L. Hinely, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Shryll M. Brown, Clerk to Council

Absent: Kamau Marcharia, Mikel R. Trapp

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 fifty-five other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:50 P.M.

2. INVOCATION

Council Member Robinson led in the invocation.

Chairman Ferguson asked Council's consideration to amend the agenda to reflect the items of discussion in the following order:

- A. Capital Sales Tax
- B. Riparian Buffer
- C. Fairfield Memorial Hospital Finances

So moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry, and unanimously approved by Council.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Capital Sales Tax

- Where would Council like to see this project go? Do you think we would have enough funds to do what is needed? What kind of project could be secured that everybody would buy into a referendum?
- Money has to be spent on capital and approved County-wide.
- Have to appoint a six-person committee. No one from the any one of the towns or from the County can sit on the board.
- Board comes up with the slate of projects in the County would vote for. Closest thing was broadband, which may not be embraced in town. The other thing is if the County would have to bear the financial responsibility of what is not being collected.
- Two projects that will be County-wide and a plan would have to be in place. WiFi and community centers touches everyone. These projects could actually be put in over a period of time, based on the amount of money that could be collected on an annual basis.

- For the most part, the citizens on the lake already have WiFi. The only one project that is going to touch the entire County is water; however, \$750,000 is not going to touch it. It is not even going to finish paying the Corps of Engineers study. In the long run, it has a merit, but with people not having a job and having a hard time paying their taxes, to think the County is going to assess another penny. Am opposed to the sales tax at this time.
- Consider drilling a couple of wells to add water to the reservoir. That will affect everyone except Lake Wateree.
- As far as County-wide water, there are some people who have invested in wells and do not want to take advantage of public water.
- Have to staff the community centers.
- Did Council receive a recommended site for a recreation center?
- Hinely: Attempted to contact Mr. Wood. Would also like to contact the Columbia City Manager.

It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Kinley to end the discussion tonight and say no in the interim.

Chairman Ferguson asked that Council not take a vote tonight, but be prepared to take a vote at the next regular Council meeting.

B. Riparian Buffer

The Clerk of Council was asked to set forth the latest recommended changes by the Planning Commission and Mr. Vismor relating to the Riparian Right Ordinance, which she did as follows:

We received a minor revision to the Riparian Rights Ordinance from Mr. Jerry Nealy, delineating a possible conflicting statement in the buffer proposal. After discussing this revision with Mr. Vismor, he made a slight change in the document. The revision is listed on page 2, second and third line: the crossing out of the words "*or existing setback area, whichever is less*". The new language to read: Additional building or use activity of developed lots shall not expand or infringe into the required 50' buffer area setback, except in accord with subsections a and d above. After Mr. Hinely converses with Mr. Vismor about some administrative matters, the clean version will be posted on the website for the public to view.

Comments from Council:

- The majority of the people at the lake are satisfied with the suggestion. There is still a group out there who would have loved for Council to pick up Kershaw and implemented it. Don't have the manpower to handle Kershaw's kind of riparian rights. Another thing is, it is so restrictive that the majority of it has accepted what the County has. Am concerned about the people at the reservoir who probably still does not know about it, and what it is going to do to them out there. There are homes being built out there.

{Council recessed at 7:45 P.M., and returned from recess at 7:55 P.M}.

C. Fairfield Memorial Hospital Finances

{Council Member Kinley recused herself from discussion, and removed herself from the dais}.

The Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer would like to request the following accounts be considered for payment by the County Council:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| State Retirement Systems | \$549,752.77 |
| State Health Plan | \$364,337.31 |
| Town of Winnsboro | |
| Loan | \$174,072.97 |
| Utilities > 30 days | 27,488.11 |
| Supplemental PT Contract | 60,002.82 |
| SleepLab | <u>24,346.10</u> |
| Total | \$1,200,000.00 |

Council's Concerns and Comments:

- We were here not quite a year ago. They said they were not that bad in debt; just needed a little bit of money. What was put up for the mortgage taken out at Provident Bank?
- Is the rest of the hospital mortgaged?
- How much is owed?
- The Town of Winnsboro is listed. Is that the balance of what they owe on the three hundred? If you take this total and the total of all the next sheets (culminated on page 11); subtract the pre-paid from that figure; take the loans and what they owe the County, it will be four times the figure shown.
- Are here to discuss what the arrearage is. Are going to have to do something if the hospital is to stay over there.
- Would have like to have seen the income side and what surgery and nursing care is making.
- Don't have surgery over there anymore. Some that were coming from Columbia are not coming anymore, because the hospital was having to pay them more than what was being recouped from insurance.
- Don't want anything to happen to the hospital. What have we done to cut any costs?
- They have cut about everything they can cut.
- Over the years, they went from ultrasound to colonoscopies. Every surgery that they have offered is not offered by the physicians--in direct competition. Those services were taken from the hospital and that revenue has been drained away.
- Emergency room pretty much running the hospital.
- It is expensive to keep the hospital going because it is an old hospital.
- What is the total income of the hospital (within a million dollars)?
- Think the County should come up with a plan to keep the hospital open.
- Hospital is putting in a grant to refurbish the operating suite and put a new roof on that part of the hospital.
- Asked question about the retirement money last time. The response then was that it was being caught up; in fact, it has not been caught up. At the last discussion with the hospital, the question was asked what is being done to cut thirty percent of overhead? Don't know if anything has been done, and it is escalating.
- The hospital board is concerned about the retirement arrearage and other matters.
- Also concerned that since these debts have been outstanding 30, 60 or 90 days, the companies will start saying pay up or services will start to shut down.
- The board signed off on the mortgage?

- Need a better game plan than just giving \$1.2 million and think this is going to fix the situation. Need to have a sit down with the hospital administrator and the hospital board.
- The hospital is trying to ascertain how they can get new revenue in.
- At a point where decisions have to be made. Need a concrete plan to bring revenue in.
- There are other sides of the coin that have caused people to not avail themselves to the services that the hospital offers.
- Is there an agreement with an outside source, other than our EMS, to transport patients?
- Mr. Hinely was asked to set up a meeting with the hospital at the QuickJobs Center and to ask Mr. Williams to enlighten the Council on what he was sharing with the hospital board. At the same time, it is important to get a meeting set up with the Eau Claire group to see how this matter can be collaborated.
- At the next Council meeting, the Council will be asked to vote on a proposal.
- This is good information, but is part of the picture. Would like to see income and their budget; not to piece mill this matter, but to see everything once and for all.
- The hospital belongs to the County and may have to be responsible for it being there.
- What is \$1.2 million going to do to the County? Where does the County stand?
- Vice Chairman Perry was asked to call the hospital administrator and request a complete package of information, to include, but not inclusive of the following: complete income, capital outlay, budgetary information, yearly budget plan.
- Need to have positive letters to the editor appear in the paper.

4. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M., upon unanimous approval of County Council.

SHRYLL M. BROWN
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DAVID L. FERGUSON, SR.
CHAIRMAN