



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 25, 2016**

**Present:** Carolyn B. Robinson, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Marion B. Robinson, Dan W. Ruff, 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

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 thirteen other individuals.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Smith to approve the agenda. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Council Member Kinley led in the Invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2016. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Jonathan Ross gave a presentation on the Fairfield Educational Complex - After School Program, Camp Owl and STEM Program.

**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.**

Mr. Moses Bell - Recreation

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

**8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

**A. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 660** - An Ordinance Authorizing The Acceptance Of The Transfer Of Authority For Conducting Municipal Elections In The Town Of Jenkinsville To The Fairfield County Voter Registration And Election Commission; To Define The Powers, Duties, And Responsibilities Assumed By The Fairfield County Voter Registration And Election Commission For The Conduct Of Municipal Elections In The Town Of Jenkinsville; To Provide For Reimbursement Of All Cost And Expenses Incurred By The Fairfield County Voter Registration And Election Commission In The Conduct Of Such Municipal Elections; And To Provide For Other Matters Relating Thereto. *It was moved by*

*Vice Chairman Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Smith to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 660. **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. Possible Change Of Meeting Venue For County Council Meeting Of February 8, 2016.** Chairman Robinson set forth that the consultants have scheduled Strategic Plan meetings the week of February 8, 2016, to which some members of Council had requested that Council make it possible for them to attend and not have to schedule the Council meeting that night. *It was moved by Council Member Ruff; seconded by Council Member Smith to change the February 8, 2016 Council Meeting to February 15, 2016. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**D. Strategic Plan Update.** Mr. Pope asked that, under his report, he would like to begin with Letter D. Mr. David Gjertson was present to give a public recap of where the County is with the Strategic Plan. In conclusion of his presentation, he set forth that the Strategic Plan community meetings will be held from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the following locations: February 8 - Fairfield Central High School; February 9 - McCrorey-Liston School of Technology; February 10 - White Oak Conference Center; February 11 - Geiger Elementary School, and that Elected Officials, members of the Delegation and the Intergovernmental groups will be invited to these meetings.

**A. Application For A State-Issued Certificate Of Franchise Authority.** This is a reoccurring franchise approval with TruVista. A 3% franchise fee is imposed and the County shares a government channel with the Town of Winnsboro. The information has to be returned by February. Unless there are some questions or opposition, Administration will be signing off on that to be sent back to the State.

**B. Ambassadors For Economic Development/SC Industry Appreciation Week.** This year, the event will be recognized March 28 - April 1, 2016. A deadline of February 12 is set to submit a name for the Ambassador for Economic Development. Administration will work through the Chairman and the Economic Development Committee to be able to submit a name.

**C. County Council Work Session Update**

(1) Animal Control Ordinance. Council looked at restructuring language in the County Ordinance regarding restraint of animals and to come with language that will be forwarded back to the Council to consider. Also, Council discussed redefining the sheltering of animals, adding an appropriate definition for that. The County is looking at another model from another local government to include that language.

(2) Economic Development Plan. Received an update from Ms. Crystal Morphis regarding the Economic Development Plan, not to be confused with the Strategic Plan because both of them are going on a parallel track. Ms. Morphis gave a good update on where they are and received information from Council. Probably within the next four weeks, that will be

completed and that information will be forwarded to David Gjertson and his group to be compiled and moved into the Strategic Plan. They have had conversations to make sure we were not duplicative of the two plans.

(3) Noise Ordinance. Deleted #8, one of the exemptions in the draft document, which reads: noise associated with or resulting from the normal operations of any animal shelter, animal adoption center, boarding facility, professional kennel, pet shop, dealer or business. Council agreed to delete that language. In exemption #10, which used to read: noise associated with the legal operation of any firearm, while hunting. That sentence will end at the word "firearm" and deleted "while hunting". Those two provisions will be amended and brought back to Council for a public vote.

(4) Community Enhancement Grant Program. The program, as it was previously constituted, has been dissolved or eliminated. Council discussed using the same budgetary amount of \$17,500.00, which is \$2,500.00 per district. Would continue to have an application process; however, instead of the application being reviewed by staff and then recommended to the Council, County Council members will receive those applications and bring those back to full Council for a vote. These will be awarded in up to \$500.00 increments. The grants would be reimbursement, so the entities that would receive approval will have to submit invoices for reimbursement with receipts. Council also included a hardship waiver, where if that entity could not pay those monies up front, they would have to submit a written waiver to be able to receive the funding. These provisions would be approved in the budget process and if Council desires, it could coincide on a parallel track so that by July 1, it could actually appropriate or award those applications.

**E. Local Government Fund Update.** Mr. Pope reported that he had forwarded communication from SCAC as it relates to a statement from Governor Haley about the Local Government Fund. The SCAC applauded the Governor's insight and commitment to local government, and more importantly, to the citizens of South Carolina. The Association is asking that, after thanking the Governor, to please contact your Senator and House Member and request they follow the Governor's lead in fully funding the Local Government Fund. Mr. Pope point out that, in the FY 2015-2016 budget for Fairfield County, what passed in the State's budget was \$905,078.00. Under the FY 2016-2017 formula, what Fairfield County is supposed to receive is \$1,338,989.00, a difference of \$443,911.00 of additional funds. What has been the eight year shortfall of the State providing to local governments, Fairfield County's due appropriation is \$1,894,884.00, which is a significant amount of revenue that could have been used for operations and tax reductions. Asked Council to not only ask for the Delegation's support but to also spend the time to send the Governor's Office an email.

#### **F. County Council Planning Session Recap**

(1) From the 2014 retreat, there were several matters mentioned in the goals, and the outcomes were reported. One of the goals was to **control spending**: (a) Council reduced millage and has for the past two budget years; (b) have reduced departmental spending and (c) the amount of County positions. Another goal was to **provide quality of life for citizens**: (a) Added new law enforcement positions in the Sheriff's Office; however, they were not new to the tax base, but recycled positions from other departments; (b) purchased major medical equipment for EMS, both in mobile equipment, heart related material and training manikins. **Grow and develop the County**: (a) planning construction has begun on fire, EMS and recreational facilities across the County through the passage by County Council; (b) completing a major water line in partnership with the Town of Winnsboro to the Commerce Park; (c) membership in I-77; (d) partnered in a regional I-77 Economic Development Plan; (e) working with the Department of Commerce to develop industrial sites along the I-77 corridor; (f) several significant improvements to

the areas of the County with other public safety improvements. The County also set various new goals, which will be published on the website.

**G. Fire Department Delegation Appropriation.** Through the Delegation, the County received \$100,000.00 to be used for fire suppression. The Fire Marshal and Mr. Anderson met with the fire chiefs across the County and each fire area submitting things that they needed. One of the things that was asked was there was not an appropriation for the Town of Winnsboro, because our fire services are separate. One of the request that the Town made through the Fire Service is that they had a \$5,000.00 request, and all of the fire chiefs agreed to provide them with \$5,000.00 of the \$100,000.00 for their needs. Will send an itemized list of all of those things.

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

None.

**15. 2<sup>ND</sup> 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.**

- Mr. Jeff Schaffer - K9 Units For The Sheriff's Office
- Mr. Jeff Morris - Noise Ordinance
- Mr. Jimmy Ray Douglas - Landfill
- Mrs. Kerry Matthews - Community Enhancement Grants

**16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

None.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*At 7:20 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chairman Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Smith and Council Member Kinley to go in executive session to discuss a contractual matter regarding Fairfield Memorial Hospital; a contractual matter regarding a water and sewer contract; a recreation update on two projects and an economic development project update. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*At 8:53 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Ruff; seconded by Vice Chairman Marcharia to come out of executive session and return to open session. **The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Robinson reported there was no action taken in executive session.

**18. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 P.M., upon the unanimous approval of Council.

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SHRYLL M. BROWN  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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CAROLYN B. ROBINSON  
CHAIRMAN