



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 9, 2013**

**Present:** David L. Ferguson, R. David Brown, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Dwayne Perry, Carolyn B. Robinson, Council Members; J. Milton Pope, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Jack James, County Attorney; Shryll Brown, Clerk to Council

**Absent:** 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 ninety-six other individuals.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**3. INVOCATION**

Prior to Council Member Kinley leading in the Invocation, Council Member Marcharia expressed that he was honored to have met Mr. Nelson Mandela, and that Mr. Mandela was a great inspiration to many.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*It was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 25, 2013. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Walter Collins, III made a presentation to Council on the following topics: (1) update of Fall 2013 enrollment and Fairfield County students at USC Lancaster; (2) points of pride at USC Lancaster; (3) Palmetto College.

{At this point, Mr. Pope asked for Council's unanimous consent to add, under the County Administrator's Report, two (2) items to the agenda as follows: (1) a time sensitive matter that was sent to Council after the agenda was published, which is a Request of Action regarding a UHF Repeater addition on the Winnsboro Water Tank and in Ambulances; (2) response information to a citizen request that had been forwarded to the County}.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, FOR WHICH NO PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED OR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED**

The following individuals signed to speak to Council during public comment:

Ms. Beth Jenkins – Ordinance No. 621; Resolution

Mr. Billy Smith – Project Compact

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

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

**A. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 621 - An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of An Incentive And Conveyance Of Property Agreement Among Fairfield County, Project Compact And Certain Other Parties Thereto; A Fee In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement Between Fairfield County And Project Compact; The Transfer Of Real Property Located In Fairfield County To Project Compact And The Provision Of Other Incentives For Project Compact; The Inclusion Of Real Property Located In Fairfield County In The I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park; The Execution And Delivery Of Documents Necessary To Effect The Intent Of This Ordinance; And Other Related Matters.**

Mr. Pope was asked to address this ordinance, which he did as follows: "It is very common in the State of South Carolina in dealing with economic development incentives that Council, in the process of negotiating economic development deals, to have on their agenda, an ordinance, in title only, for these incentives. All of the information has not yet been negotiated nor vetted at this particular point. On second reading, the full ordinance will be in the packet and there will be more information in there that we can respond to at that time. On third reading, that is the final information to be voted on, so that information will be in the packet as well, so there is a process because the Council has not even decided or finalized everything on this economic development deal and information that we have heard thus far. Secondly, as it relates to the successful project that we had, I think, Mr. Smith...and one of the things we really need to be very careful about is one of the statements he made which is accurate, when I had a reporter from The Nerve to contact me to ask about the project in general—there being some competition between this community and the Sumter community regarding the project. Fairfield County had no knowledge of that at any time. Most economic development prospects are brought to the County. Usually they are brought because they have been vetted by the State of South Carolina and through the Department of Commerce by Secretary Hitt and/or his staff, and that was the case here. All of those things that actually were reported in The Nerve, and I don't know if those are factual or not, but things that were reported were clearly not a part of any discussions that went on with this Council. If there are questions related to that, it has to be forwarded on to that reporter, to the State or to the Department of Commerce, because the County did not get into that vetting process. I also mentioned to the reporter that I thanked the Governor, her office, her staff, and also Secretary Hitt at Commerce—him, and his staff for them working with the County of Fairfield to bring economic development prospects here and for the jobs that we are actually now going to be realizing. I certainly would want that to accompany the comments that I had, because clearly those two offices have benefited this County, and I certainly wouldn't want any of my comments to go without that gratitude and their hard work for helping economic development in this County."

*It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Kinley to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 621. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**B. Resolution:** Identifying A Project To Satisfy The Requirements Of South Carolina Code Section 12-44-40, So As To Allow Investment Expenditures Incurred By Project Compact To Qualify As Economic Development Property; Committing To Take Action And Enter Necessary Agreements With Project Compact To Effectuate The Intent Of This Resolution And The Described Incentives; And Other Related Matters. *It was moved by Council Member Brown and Vice Chairman Perry; seconded by Council Member Kinley to approve the Resolution as posted above. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**9. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MINUTES**

Provided as information.

**10. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

**a. County Spotlight: Planning, Building and Zoning** - Mr. Ron Stowers, Director/Mr. Tim Roseborough, Deputy Director

Questions:

- What do you do when you find a mobile home has been moved with approval?
- Have all code officers been through the academy training? Is that complete at this time?

**b. Request of Action: UHF Repeater Addition On Winnsboro Water Tank And In Ambulances.**

Purpose: (1) To add a UHF radio system repeater to the top of the Cook Road water tank owned by The Town of Winnsboro, to match the current system configuration. This will enhance and improve the radio communications in the area for emergency response; (2) Add mobile repeaters to all ambulances and emergency response vehicles of FCEMS so as to improve upon the safety of the crews and increase the ability to call for additional resources as needed when away from the vehicle.

Financial Impact: Total cost of the project is \$71,739.69, with grants paying \$42,642.82 leaving a balance of \$29,096.87 to be paid out of budget. Do not have to go into fund balance for this. There are operational dollars within the department to handle this. The bulk of the \$29,096.87 is labor for climbing up onto the water tank, welding the antenna, etc. The match for the grant is 5.5%.

*Respectfully requesting Council's approval of this item and to move forward. This is a public safety matter; most of which is being covered by grants.*

Questions:

- Do we have the Town of Winnsboro's permission to establish this antenna at this time? We have it signed?
- This will improve our service throughout the eastern part of the County and in the ambulances themselves? Will this affect out at Lake Wateree, or is it too far away?

*It was moved by Vice Chairman Perry; seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve and proceed with the acquisition of the UHF Repeater on Winnsboro Water Tank and in ambulances. **The motion carried unanimously.***

Mr. Pope asked that the full Request of Action document be incorporated in the minutes in the event citizens have any questions about what staff has reviewed. {The full Request of Action document is attached hereto as Exhibit A}.

**c. Responses To Various Questions That Citizen Requested At Previous Meeting.**

Mr. Pope read each question that was presented by the citizen and gave the response to each one.

**d.** Mr. Anderson reported that he contacted SCDOT and received their criteria for providing signs in small communities.

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

**a.** Reported information concerning contributions to the United Way campaign.

**b.** Chairman Ferguson mentioned the invitation to the breakfast with the Superintendent, Tuesday, December 10, 8:30 a.m.

**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 following individuals signed to speak to Council during public comment:

Mr. Tim Schroll – Ethics; Attendance

Ms. Betty Gutschlag – Recreation

Ms. Beth Jenkins – Recap of Hilton Head vs. Government

Mr. Randy Bright – Economic Development

Mr. Bill Smith – Attendance; District Funds

**16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Ferguson:

1. Commented on the timber industry.
2. Commented on adverse publicity.

Robinson:

1. Commented that there are families in businesses that cruise, mark and replant timber.
2. Suggested to Mr. Schroll, who made the ethics comment, that he contact his House Member and find out the truth to his accusation.

Marcharia:

1. Commented on the Patriot Act and the Ethics Commission.
2. Commented on the accommodations at Hilton Head for the SCAC annual conference.
3. Thanked the community for prayers as he traveled to El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rico.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*At 7:41 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry; to go in executive session to discuss a contractual matter. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*At 8:28 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Council Member Kinley to come out of executive session and return to open session. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*In open session, Chairman Ferguson reported no votes were taken in executive session.*

*Mr. Pope was given instructions to have the County Attorney to follow through with the contractual agreement that was discussed in executive session.*

**17. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 P.M., upon unanimous approval of Council.

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SHRYLL M. BROWN  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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DAVID L. FERGUSON, SR.  
CHAIRMAN

## Fairfield County Council Request of Action

### Subject:

#### **UHF Repeater Addition on Winnsboro Water Tank and in Ambulances**

##### **A. Purpose**

- 1) To add A UHF radio system repeater to the top of the Cook Rd water tank owned by The Town of Winnsboro, to match the current system configuration. This will enhance and improve the radio communications in the area for emergency response.
- 2) Add mobile repeaters to all ambulances and emergency response vehicles of FCEMS so as to improve upon the safety of the crews and increase the ability to call for additional resources as needed when away from the vehicle.

##### **B. Background/Discussion**

- 1) There is currently a definitive lack of ability to communicate with the current system, especially in the "southern" region. The current system is antiquated and needs replacing and/or major upgrades. This will be a solid fix for the situation leading to the implementation of the county wide interoperability infrastructure build-out.
- 2) The mobile repeaters will allow the crews to use a handheld radio (4 watts power) while away (>/= 100 yds) from the vehicle and transmit back to dispatch using the units mobile (45 watts) radio as a relay point. Giving the ability to call for help or additional resources, and be heard.

##### **C. Financial Impact**

By using grant (3) monies to help pay for this project, the cost is reduced as the grants will cover all tangible items and the balance is a 5.5% match and labor/install/taxes/shipping, which is not covered by any grant monies.

Total cost of the project is \$71,739.69 with grants paying \$42,642.82 leaving a balance of \$29,096.87 to be paid out of budget.

The bulk of the \$29,096.87 is labor for climbing up onto the water tank (200 ft), welding the antenna holding system in place, running the cabling down the side of the tower (securing it to the tower leg) and running it into the communications building below.

**D. Alternatives**

- 1) Proceed with the acquisition
- 2) Refuse the grant monies, returning it to the issuing agencies and lose the ability to secure future funding for the Interoperability Project.

**E. Recommendation**

It is recommended that council approve and proceed with the acquisition. Improvement of our current system is paramount as we look forward to a county wide communications system which could be 2 or more years away.

**F. Reviews**

(Please replace the appropriate box with a ✓ and then support your recommendation in the Comments section before routing on. Thank you!)

Please be specific in your recommendation. While "Council Discretion" may be appropriate at times, it is recommended that Staff provide Council with a professional recommendation of approval or denial, and justification for that recommendation, as often as possible.

**Finance**

Reviewed by (Finance Director): 

Recommend Council approval

Comments regarding recommendation:

Date: 12/4/13

Recommend Council denial

**Procurement**

Reviewed by: 

Recommend Council approval

Comments regarding recommendation:

Date: Dec 4, 2013

Recommend Council denial

**Grants**

Reviewed by: 

Recommend Council approval

Comments regarding recommendation:

Date: 12/4/13

Recommend Council denial

**Legal**

Reviewed by:

Recommend Council approval

Comments regarding recommendation:

Date:

Recommend Council denial

**Administration**

Reviewed by: 

Recommend Council approval

Comments regarding recommendation:

Date: 12-6-13

Recommend Council denial