



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

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 Trapp and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the Agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Robinson led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2018, and the Special Meeting of January 29, 2018. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. 1ST 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.

- Peggy Swearingen - EMS Salaries
- Shirley Greene - COG & more
- Angela Young - Bishop Squirewell Property

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A.** To Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance, Ordinance No. 599, to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from RD-1 (Rural Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District) of 18.22 Acres Owned by Wendy Bracewell, Tax Map No. 138-00-02-045-000, Property is Located at 5264 State Hwy 215 South, Jenkinsville, SC 29065. Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 6:09 p.m. Ms. Wendy Bracewell signed to speak and came to the podium. Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. by motion of Vice Chair Goins and properly seconded by Council Member Pauley. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- B.** To Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance, Ordinance No. 599, to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to RD-1 (Rural Residential District) of 0.036 Acres Owned by Angela Young, Tax Map No. 186-02-04-007-000, Property is Located at 229 Bishop Squirewell, Ridgeway, SC 29130. Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 6:14 by motion of Council Member Douglas properly seconded by Council Member Robinson. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 692 - An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance, Ordinance No. 599, to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from RD-1 (Rural Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District) of 18.22 Acres Owned by Wendy Bracewell, Tax Map No. 138-00-02-045-000, Property is Located at 5264 State Hwy 215 South, Jenkinsville, SC 29065. It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 692. Council Member Pauley inquired if the property is currently for sale. Mr. Taylor deferred to the owner who stated the property is not for sale. Mr. Pauley is concerned about the precedent this would set if rezoning is approved for limited business use. He feels the current zoning will already allow the uses proposed for the property. Also, giving B-1 zoning could allow a strip mall type structure in the future. Chairman Smith asked the staff to address this matter. Mr. Taylor directed Mr. Tim Roseborough to comment on the conditional business use of the property and that it would not be just a blanket allowance, as well as the concerns of R1 allowances. Mr. Roseborough commented if the property is rezoned to B1, a strip mall or similar structure would not be able to be developed without going back through the Planning Commission, which is the safeguard. Once it goes back through the Planning Commission, a public hearing must be held and all surrounding property owners must be notified. Council Member Douglas stated several allowances contained in B1 and RD1 in addition to those things required for an event center such as is proposed. He feels the western side of Fairfield County needs this business opportunity. Council Member Ruff inquired concerning the zoning of The Farm in Ridgeway. Per Mr. Roseborough,

The Farm is zoned RD1. Vice Chair Goins stated, for clarification, that there is a protective cover and any future owners would have to go through the same process. Per Mr. Roseborough, this is correct up to, but not including, returning to County Council because it is land development. Mrs. Goins is in agreement that western Fairfield is in need of development, and she is excited for this type of venue. Chairman Smith inquired of Mr. Roseborough if someone did seek to locate a retail establishment within the B1 classification of zoning, what would be required for approval. Per Mr. Roseborough, a development site plan must be submitted to the building department. Once the plans are submitted, the zoning administrator would then present it to the Planning Commission. Prior to this being done, a public hearing and notification to surrounding residents by posting of the property would be required. Chairman Smith further inquired if such a request went to the Planning Commission, what would be the specific question at that time since it would already be permitted with B1 classification. Per Mr. Roseborough, the Planning Commission would vote up or down on the actual development. If enough property owners came out and voiced an opinion, the Planning Commission would have the authority to vote it down. Chairman Smith further asked if the Planning Commission would legally be able to look upon that with prejudice based on the fact that it was a retail establishment when a retail establishment is already allowed within that zoning classification. Mr. Roseborough believes it would be the Planning Commission's prerogative to vote it up or down. Chairman Smith asked Mr. Morgan to verify legally the process by which this would work. Specifically, if someone brought forward a retail establishment which is allowed in B1, would that present a problem in that the Planning Commission looked upon this with prejudice since it is already allowed. Per Mr. Morgan, the site plan would be brought before the Planning Commission and it would be the determination of the plans and whether or not they are compatible with the overall comprehensive plan at that point in time. Once it has been zoned, the use has been established; therefore, the question before the Planning Commission at that point would be whether or not the site plans as to the specific instillation or business itself fits and comports. To reiterate, Chairman Smith stated the Planning Commission would not, at that time, be able to turn down any retail establishment because it is already allowed within that zoning classification. Per Mr. Morgan, this is correct, as long as it falls under the table of uses. Chairman Smith commented that he would love to see the use that has been discussed being put in this location, but other things, including the precedence, worries him. Other options are being explored, and he appreciates Ms. Bracewell's cooperation and staff cooperation. Council Member Ruff also feels this opportunity would be awesome for this part of the County and wonders if there could be a covenant attached concerning possible future use. Per Mr. Taylor, this and other avenues are being explored. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

B. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 693 - An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance, Ordinance No. 599, to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to RD-1 (Rural Residential District) of 0.036 Acres Owned by Angela Young, Tax Map No. 186-02-04-007-000, Property is Located at 229 Bishop Squirewell, Ridgeway, SC 29130. It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 693. Chairman Smith is concerned about the lengthy process Ms. Young was required to follow concerning this matter. Mr. Taylor was concerned about this also and asked Mr. Roseborough to comment. Per Mr. Roseborough, Ms. Young came to the office and inquired about a moving permit for her mobile home. She was sent to the Tax Assessor for the moving permit. When she presented back, she was told the title would need to be in her name. She did this by going to DMV. She returned and was informed that the parcel had been rezoned to R1 instead of RD1 and she would have to apply for a rezone in order to place the mobile home; however, she had already placed the home on the property. Council Member Ruff spoke with Ms. Young several times and she jumped through a lot of hoops during this process. In addition, the Planning and Zoning Board has passed this zoning request, and he is also in favor of this request. Council Member Pauley welcomed Ms. Young back to Fairfield County. Vice Chair Goins regrets Ms. Young had to go through so much with this process. Chairman Smith stated the Council has heard similar situations in the past resulting in favorable as well as non-favorable outcomes based on the zoning and type of area that would be created. Generally, he would look upon this not in a favorable way; however, there are extenuating circumstances in that the property was rezoned and the property owner did not know and also, when the citizens come into the Planning and Zoning office, facts need to be checked on the first visit so as not to create a more lengthy process than is necessary. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

C. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 694 - An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Convey All or a Portion of County Owned Real Property Located at 355 Commerce Boulevard, Ridgeway, South Carolina, 29130, with TMS #184-00-00-071-000 to CS Industrial, LLC. It was moved by Council Member Pauley and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 694. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Disabilities and Special Needs Board and Hospital Board. It was moved by Vice Chair Goins and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the minutes as presented. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- A.** Aeronautics Commission - Donna J. Minor, District 4. It was moved by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the appointment of Ms. Donna Minor representing District 4 to the Aeronautics Commission. Vice Chair Goins inquired if Ms. Minor was in the audience. Ms. Minor was not present; however, according to Council Member Douglas, Ms. Minor has always been interested in flying and is looking forward to serving. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- B.** Aeronautics Commission - Benjamin Proveaux, District 2. It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the appointment of Mr. Benjamin Proveaux to the Aeronautics Commission representing District 2. Per Council Member Douglas, Mr. Proveaux owns an airplane and feels he would be good for the Commission. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- C.** Central Midlands Council of Government: Wanda Carnes. Chairman Smith stated at this time he would be leaving the room to *recuse himself from the discussion pertaining to this appointment as he has a conflict of interest in that he rents property from the person the Council is considering appointing. He has filed a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement with the Clerk, which will be made a part of the minutes. Chairman Smith then exited the room turning the meeting over to Vice Chair Goins. Vice Chair Goins announced the proposed appointment. It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the appointment of Ms. Wanda Carnes to the Central Midlands COG. The motion carried 5-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay and Chairman Smith recused.* Chairman Smith returned to the dais and Vice Chair Goins turned the remainder of the meeting back to Chairman Smith.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Presentation of FY 2016-2017 Audit. Mr. Brian D'Amico of Elliott Davis Decosimo provided the Council with a handout. The difference this year is that this is more of an update on the audit process due to some pending legal issues awaiting clarification. Due to this, the audit is not finalized. However, Mr. D'Amico gave the following overall update of the process:
- Statement of Net Position: The overall net position (\$39,396,039 up from \$33,232,385) includes an over \$6m positive change. Given the infrastructure and capital improvements, this is a very positive financial result.
 - Fund Balance: The negative change (\$3,829,051 up from \$2,258,730) is primarily related to the capital assets/additions made out of the facilities corporation. The fund statements show inflows and outflows. Several

years ago an extremely large amount was shown due to the bonds. However, over the years, a consistent negative change will be shown.

- Major funds in the financial statement are: General Fund (general operations with positive change of \$21,949,096 up from \$19,901,805), Road Improvement Program (\$315,421 up from \$293,226), Fairfield Facilities Corporation (left-over bond proceeds \$10,442.871 down from \$17,187,320), Economic Development Fund (\$1,955,169 up from \$1,137,836) and Non-major Fund (\$5,096,647 up from \$5,068,078). The Economic Development Fund was carved out and made major for 2017. The audit is performed on each fund, giving an opinion on each funds' activities.
- General Fund: It is desirable to see a large amount in the unassigned position, which the County has with \$17,305,557 (up from \$15,014,567). Unassigned can be spent. With the non-spendable (\$37,571) or committed (\$4,605,968) position, an action must be performed to tap into these funds.
- Financial Indicator: GFOA recommendation is a minimum of two months, and the County has 7.87 months of available spending.
- Net Pension Liability - GASB 68. The number went up approximately \$2.5m from 2016. This is the proportional share of the S.C. Retirement System/Police Officer's Retirement System unfunded liability.
- GASB 77. For the County, tax abatements include fee-in-lieu agreements (\$1.2m) and special source revenue credits (\$290,000). Current year only must be disclosed.
- GASB 75 will come next year and mirrors the standards related to pensions/post-employment benefits. The County controls these benefits. Under the new standards that will be applicable for next year, the same benefits from 2017 of \$2m are projected to be closer to \$5m for 2018.
- Yellowbook Report. Internal controls over financial reporting. The two findings from last year are repeat findings for this year and one additional finding. This includes IT which is over halfway solved. The County recognized the audit findings and is handling these as quickly as possible to mitigate risk. Chairman Smith asked for the specifics. There is a formal plan on how the IT environment is managed. Specifically, two additional issues are passwords and in having a lock-out feature for logging into the server. Also, some user ID's have administrator all-access, which is not recommended. Continued problems are being encountered with timely review of bank reconciliations through the Treasurer's office. This is considered one of the most important internal controls for any company and must be done timely. If it is not done in a timely manner, it lowers the merit. The new issue is related to the capital assets area. The County is spending more in capital assets. Currently, there is one person performing all the functions related to any capital asset activity being posted and tracked into the general ledger. At least two people must touch something posted to the general ledger, which is proper segregation of duties. The recommendation is to have someone added to the process. The person performing this now would be the reviewer and have someone else doing the more administrative tasks.
- Single Audit Report: Once the threshold is met of \$750,000 or more in federal spending, a single audit is required. The County is just over this

threshold for the past year. The single audit was performed testing two programs that have been tested in the past, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Cluster and the Airport Improvement Program. No findings were noted related to either of these grants dealing with compliance or any internal controls.

Mr. D'Amico closed by stating the opportunity to work with the County is much appreciated and the relationship is valued tremendously. The Finance Department, Administration and Treasurer's office do a great job in supplying the needed information and are extremely helpful. Council Member Douglas asked the time frame that Elliott Davis has been handling the audit for the County and is it advisable to change every few years to get fresh perspective. Per Mr. D'Amico, it has been several years and the perspective of changing varies. The SEC actually has a partner rotation that is recommended for public clients. The firm stays in place for the benefit of not having to train brand new auditors, but the shareholder is changed, thereby getting the fresh set of eyes through this partner rotation. Mr. D'Amico is the third partner on this rotation. Chairman Smith inquired concerning the finding of the approval process after being posted to the general ledger and has this been identified as occurring over a period of time. Per Mr. D'Amico, no errors were found related to capital assets, but because the activity has grown so substantially, it is more complex now and rises to the level of being mentioned in the audit report.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Quarterly Report. Mr. Taylor reported that Council was provided with a copy of the quarterly report January 12, and he has not received any questions from Council. There were no outstanding issues with the quarterly report.

B. Denise Bryan, Airport Director - Department Overview. Mr. Taylor introduced Ms. Bryan once again. Ms. Bryan feels the airport is a "jewel" of the County. She is attempting to make the airport professional with a small county feel. Report was given on the following:

- The private residence on the property was removed at the request of the FAA in order to maintain the federal and state funding.
- Several safety issues were dealt with, including the following:
 - Grass height – The grass height should be between 6 and 10 inches. It was being cut extremely low which was attracting birds to the airfield. Grass was also growing up through the pavement which has been addressed. Attempts are being made to get the pavement updated, but this would fall to next year.
 - Wildlife – This includes coyotes and fox which are taken care of somewhat by the perimeter fence and trapping with the help of Animal Control Services. The geese and birds are being managed with bird bangers, which has been successful. The perimeter fence has been repaired which is helping with the deer.
 - Lighting – Most of the lighting is very old and damaged, and a new project is about to occur to replace lighting and signage on the airfield by contracting with Walker & Whiteside, who will then be maintaining the

airfield lighting. Chairman Smith inquired which lighting Ms. Bryan was referring to as it was not very long ago that lighting was addressed by Council. This is referring to the airfield lighting, which is extremely old. The improvement in the past could have been for the PAPI's (precision approach path indicator) which are lighting boxes to guide the planes or new lighting when the runway was extended. The new lighting will be LED and the beacon and windsock will be replaced during the upcoming project. In addition, this project was initially going to require the facility to be closed 30-45 days. This was renegotiated and, rather than being closed 30-45 days 7 days a week, closing will only be required 30-45 days Monday through Friday. Most of the flyers are weekend flyers, so now there will be no need for relocation of tenants.

- New tie down ropes were installed.
- Emergency fuel shut-off was painted with new stickers. This will be replaced with the new fuel pumps, but it is much more visible now.
- Director's office: The office can be secured, and there is now a locked key box to all the hangars in the Director's office.
- The general aesthetics of the airport have been improved with painting of the interior of the terminal, improvements to the bathrooms and new blinds and computer in the pilot's lounge. This is all geared toward the professional appeal.
- New hangar lease for all tenants. The leases were very old and needed to be updated. There were a lot of questions from the tenants, which were handled, and everyone signed and became compliant.
- Obtaining more success with attaining members for the Aeronautics Commission. Also, the By-Laws will be updated in the near future.
- New weather information display in the terminal.
- Hangar door cables were inspected and replaced. The company is now paid \$400 per year to inspect the doors and perform any repairs.
- Gates repaired and equipped to protect key pads.
- NDB (non-directional beacon) was decommissioned on 1/1/2018. This was an old piece of equipment and currently not used as much. This will result in a savings of \$2,100 per year for maintenance in addition to the unnecessary FCC license. Council Member Douglas asked for examples of the new equipment that replaced the NDB. According to Mrs. Bryan, GPS approaches and other methods are now used.
- South Carolina Breakfast Club. This is a group of pilots who have breakfast once a month at different airports in the state to promote general aviation. Every year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, the club comes to Fairfield. Brian with S&S Aviation prepares the facility for the breakfast, and it was a success this year with approximately 48 airplanes and 80-90 people present. This also helped to sell fuel from the tanks that needed to be emptied.
- The airport receives 1-2 jets per month (slide shown of a Gulfstream IV).
- Currently using a 1000 gallon fuel truck to provide temporary fuel until new fuel tanks are installed. Approximately \$10,000 will be saved by utilizing County Public Works assistance. Chairman Smith inquired of Mr. Taylor concerning the penalty fees and length of time this situation has occurred. Per Mr. Taylor, this would go beyond the last FBO.

Ms. Bryan provided the Council with a pamphlet prepared specifically for Fairfield County Airport by the S.C. Aeronautics Commission. It contains information concerning the economic impact of general aviation airports. Ms. Bryan feels the numbers are low and the economic impact could be quite larger. Vice Chair Goins thanked Ms. Bryan and feels the collaboration is great to improve the airport, which is much needed in order to move forward. Council Member Ruff also thanked Ms. Bryan and feels it is a great turnaround for the airport. This is very important for the economic growth of our County. Chairman Smith also thanked Ms. Bryan and stated she is doing a wonderful job along with administration staff with our airport.

- C. Barbara Wilder and Garry Wilder, Perfect Provisions, Inc. Per Mr. Taylor, the Wilders were not able to attend tonight and hopefully can reschedule in the near future.
- D. Request of Action: Fairfield County Emergency Medical Services (FCEMS) Salary Market Adjustment - Administration and Finance Committee Recommends Approval. Per Mr. Taylor, the County finds itself with reduced EMS staff and this is caused in part by surrounding counties increasing salaries and recruiting. EMS is currently down 9 paramedics, and what is being proposed is the EMT salary to increase from \$8.65 an hour to \$9.85, the base paramedic to increase from \$13.42 to \$15.81, sergeant to increase from \$14.77 to \$17.60, lieutenant to increase from \$16.11 to \$18.50 and captain to increase from \$17.45 to \$19.39. Overall, the budget impact will be \$357,000. This has been presented to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve. Mr. Mike Tanner, Director of EMS, gave the following presentation:

This situation initially began with the reports of Richland County EMS being severely understaffed, underfunded, long response times and management issues all resulting in deaths. The changes that were made included a 10% raise, 8 new positions now, 48 new positions in the next budget year and \$2.5m budget increase for equipment and supplies. According to Mr. Tanner, the state does not currently have 48 new paramedics, so they will be pulling these employees from other counties. There is a state-wide task force put in place because of this critical shortage. The impact to Fairfield County includes the critical shortage of EMS personnel in the state, 75% of the current employees being out-of-County employees, Richland County hiring 48 positions within the next year and Richland starting new paramedics 19% higher than Fairfield with the new increase. Comparisons were made with counties the size of Fairfield, but Fairfield actually competes with Richland, Lexington, Lancaster, Chester and Newberry. As a result of these circumstances, substations have been forced to shut down and response times increased which negatively impact patient care, loss of advanced level care certification (DHEC EMS Regulation 61-7) and loss of the only fully manned extrication unit and medical incident commander. Mr. Tanner went through the differences from BLS (Basic Life Support) and ALS (Advanced Life Support) by describing the services included in several different medical situations, which bears out the fact that the ALS provider is much more equipped to handle emergencies and decrease mortality. Council Member Pauley pointed out that ALS is a paramedic on the truck. Chairman Smith inquired if there is any effort in the legislature to revise some of the

requirements, and Mr. Tanner stated these are the new requirements that were put into place last year. The intent is to have that higher level of care because it makes a difference. Mr. Tanner went over the coverage area in the County and the impact the loss of employees has made. Council Member Robinson inquired if the lower ranking staff shortage is the reason for the station shut downs. According to Mr. Tanner, this is directly related to the shortage. Council Member Pauley inquired concerning the percentage of calls that go outside of the County. This percentage is about 55-58%. Several factors are involved with this decision, including patient request and some medical conditions mandated by protocols (STEMI or stroke protocols, etc.). If the patient is stable, they will be given a choice of the closest appropriate medical facility within 50 square miles.

Some preventive measures being taken for recruitment and retention are as follows:

- Reinstatement of Explorer Post. The program has already enlisted over 20 youth. It takes 3 years after the individual turns 18 to get to a paramedic level, but by doing so, an individual can then have a solid career. An Open House is being held on 2/22/18 at 6:30 p.m. This is also tied in with the Boy Scouts Program.
- Mentoring program with the school system.
- More home grown employees.
- Active recruiting.
- Best equipment and stations. The County has afforded EMS with the best equipment and stations which is a huge recruiting tool. This is why so many people work here from other counties.
- Work schedule and benefits. The County has some of the best schedules and benefits.

With the above steps being taken, the County must also keep up with the competitive pay market. Mr. Tanner also listed the differences in Fairfield EMS as compared to other counties. There is no tertiary care facility such as a trauma center, stroke center, STEMI center. Fairfield County EMS does twice as much as paramedics in Richland or Lexington, which includes technical rescue, rope rescue, extrication or remote rescue, and the other counties have less transport times and treatment modalities. Fairfield does not have the manpower and backups as other counties. In addition, they must carry specialized equipment and do emergent inter facility transports.

Mr. Tanner demonstrated the pay differences from Lexington and Richland and Lancaster County:

Example 1: A new paramedic last year made \$65,000 with Richland County, which is before the 10% raise. The 10% brought the salary to \$23.92 and the employee is eligible for 5% after 3 months and another 5% once he attains senior paramedic.

Example 2: Two former Fairfield County employees who are now with Lancaster County. They left Fairfield making under \$40,000 and both made over \$70,000 last year.

Example 3: A Fairfield County employee and Lexington employee who happen to be husband and wife and are both new EMT's started the same week. She works for Fairfield County making \$8.96/hr and he is making \$17/hr. She is making \$29,000/year and he is making \$39,000/year. However, she is working 720 hours more per year.

Mr. Tanner also stated EMS is a unique County department because the department generated \$1,072,000 in revenue, which is 1/3 of their budget, with the majority of the revenue coming from Medicare and private insurance. Council Member Pauley commented that if the salaries were made competitive last year resulting in employees still searching for the highest paying job, if this request is granted, will the County be in the same situation a year from now. Per Mr. Tanner, there is no guarantee. He is a firm believer that you get what you pay for and every citizen in this County deserves the best shot at life by getting the best paramedic to save them in their medical or trauma crisis. Mr. Pauley agrees but has a concern regarding dedication to the County. He asked if sign-on bonuses are done or longevity for remaining in the County to offset the cost of increasing salaries. Mr. Tanner stated not only is the County competing with Richland and Lexington, but also private companies are offering a \$20,000 sign-on bonus for a paramedic and \$10,000 for an EMT. This is why focus is also being put toward getting more home grown people who will be dedicated to Fairfield County. The long term solution is in place, but the County has to bridge the gap before the long term solution will be feasible. Council Member Robinson made a motion to postpone this matter until more information can be gathered. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ruff. Council Member Douglas asked Mr. Taylor to state what was decided at the committee meeting. The committee meeting action minutes can be printed by the Clerk if needed. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Tanner to report on what was discussed in the committee meeting. It was broken down into two categories, one number representing the cost initially and the other number representing the contingency for new hires which would be added. That has not changed from what was approved in the Finance Committee, \$272,939.86 plus an additional \$83,988. Council Member Robinson is not quite comfortable and feels it needs to be revisited. Chairman Smith inquired if the concern is not with the EMTs and paramedics, but the other leadership positions in the department. Council Member Robinson agreed. He feels that we are just plugging holes, and if we have to throw money, let's start where we need it the most. Council Member Pauley also stated he made a personal call to Lexington County and received salary information. Their figures were substantially less than the figures coming from the Finance Committee. He also feels it should be held for further information. Chairman Smith inquired of Mr. Tanner if the proper procedures have been done to vet salaries for the higher positions as well. Mr. Tanner made a call yesterday to Lexington County EMS and he was told no paramedics make less than \$60,000 per year. Mr. Tanner maintains there needs to be a separation between a paramedic in the field to the people with the most responsibility. The amount of increase for Mr. Tanner is less than half of an increase compared to the field paramedic and EMTs. The numbers presented took this into consideration. The Richland County Director makes \$37,000 more per year. Chairman Smith restated the motion on the floor to postpone this matter to the next Council meeting pending further information. **The**

motion carried 4-3 with Council Member Douglas, Council Member Trapp and Chairman Smith voting nay.

- E.** Request of Action: Revision to Procurement Manual - Administration and Finance Committee Recommends Approval. Per Mr. Taylor, this request is from the Transit Department as a result of an on-site review/audit by DOT. This will bring the County Procurement Code with our Transit System in line with the Federal Procurement Code. Motion made by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the Request of Action as stated. Chairman Smith stated this was explained in the Admin and Finance Committee meeting as something that had been recommended and required of the County. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- F.** Request of Action: To Obtain Deed for Garden Street Park from the Town of Winnsboro - Administration and Finance Committee Recommends Approval. Per Mr. Taylor, this is a request from our Parks and Recreation Department to accept a deed from the Town of Winnsboro for the Garden Street Park. This is being used as a baseball field presently with some wooded property toward the back. Request is that Council allow Mr. Taylor to accept and sign a deed on this contingent upon a survey and title search. Motion made by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the Request of Action as stated. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- G.** Mr. Taylor reported that Providence is moving forward and expecting to break ground shortly on the new Emergency Medical Facility.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

- 15. 2ND 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.

- Peggy Swearingen - Firefighters
- Yvette Howard - Economic Development/Community Development
- Jeff Shaffer - Common Sense

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Goins: She heard a lot tonight on economic and community development, and she commends Ms. Bracewell for her vision. Western Fairfield is undeveloped because of the problems in western Fairfield. The water company is one of the major problems. Developers have tried to come in on many occasions for possible restaurants, stores, shops, jobs, etc. The water company is very mismanaged with

service problems. Mrs. Goins wants the citizens of western Fairfield and the water company to have a meeting to discuss change.

Robinson: Mr. Garry and Barbara Wilder with Perfect Provisions, which is actually a mobile soup kitchen, are new to the area. They feed the needy and help children and are currently looking to serve this community. Friday, 2-16, at 5 p.m. they will be at the Food Bank located at 100 US 321 By Pass.

Smith: Announced the Annual Fairfield County Sheriff's Department Polar Plunge, this Saturday, 2-17, at Lake Wateree State Park with benefits going to the Special Olympics. Registration is at 10 a.m., costume contest at 11, the plunge at 11:30 and lunch at 12.

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 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to go into executive session for (a) Legal Matter - Update on Litigation Against SCANA/SCE&G in Reference to the Abandoned V.C. Summer New Nuclear Project, (b) Legal Matter - Receive Legal Advice Regarding Potential Opioid Litigation on Behalf of Fairfield County and (c) Proposed Contractual Arrangement - Discussion of a Proposed Contractual Arrangement in Association with Rezoning Request for Property Identified as Tax Map No. 138-00-02-045-111. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

At 9:02 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Goins and seconded by Council Member Trapp to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

Motion made by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Council Member Douglas to authorize the Administrator to enter into a special counsel representation agreement with the law firm of Savage, Royall & Sheheen to initiate litigation on behalf of Fairfield County against opioid manufacturers because of the crisis the prescription drug makers have created and its impact on the citizens of Fairfield County. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

18. ADJOURN

At 9:03 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff, properly seconded by Council Member Douglas to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.
CHAIRMAN