



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 26, 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 Ruff 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 February 12, 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.

- Wendy Bracewell - Rezoning
- Tony Bracewell - Rezoning
- Tiffany Taylor - Rezoning
- John Gleason - Rezoning
- Alice McLaurin - Rezoning
- Chris Stone - Rezoning

- Jeff Schaffer - New Hospital
- Randy Bright - Hospital

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A.** To Authorize 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. Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 6:18 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Third and Final 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 Trapp and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Third Reading of Ordinance No. 692. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

B. Third and Final 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 Trapp and seconded by Council Member Ruff to approve Third Reading of Ordinance No. 693. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

C. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 691 - An Ordinance by Fairfield County Establishing Procedures to Expend Funds Appropriated by Fairfield County in its Annual Fiscal Budget for Collaborative Capital Public Works Projects. It was moved by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance No. 691. ***The motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Chamber of Commerce and Behavioral Health. It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the minutes as presented. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of Beverly Mozie, Grants Coordinator. Per Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Mozie was not able to attend the meeting tonight. He will plan to introduce her at the next Council meeting. Mrs. Mozie is replacing Steven Gaither, and she previously worked in the Transit Department. Also, Mr. Taylor introduced Guerry Hensley as the new Fairfield County Assessor. Mr. Hensley was previously the Deputy Assessor.

B. Tonya Jones, Transit Director - Department Overview: Mr. Taylor introduced Ms. Tonya Jones, and reminded everyone that Transit is also in line with healthcare in that it is one of our first lines of defense in keeping people healthy by transporting citizens back and forth to doctor's appointments. Ms. Jones stated the mission of Transit is to provide efficient and effective transit service to Fairfield County citizens with the secondary mission being to provide transportation to Medicaid passengers in a safe and timely manner. Ms. Jones further reported on the following:

- Transit Staff: Consists of the Director, a Dispatcher, Operation Supervisor, Program Accountant, two maintenance workers, eight full-time drivers and two temporary drivers.
- Fleet Inventory: Consists of one State fleet leased vehicle, three transit vans, one van and eight cutaways. On February 8, two vehicles were received through the Vehicle Replacement Initiative Program by DOT.
- Ridership – From July 2017 through January 2018:
 - Medicaid Riders (Duke Medical, Charleston {MUSC}, Orangeburg, Sumter, Lancaster, Rock Hill, etc.):
 - July 2017 - \$5,717.27
 - August 2017 - \$5,279.15
 - September 2017 - \$5,662.27
 - October 2017 - \$5,438.33
 - November 2017 - \$5,261.41
 - Local riders covering Town of Winnsboro with 2 mile deviation from this route.
 - Fairs include 0.75, 1.00 and 1.50 (instituted in 1985).
 - Columbia 1X days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) with hours of 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Riders are taken locally to grocery stores, doctor's appointments, school, detention center, etc.
 - Transportation provided for Adult Ed. Students with Fairfield County School District paying these fares for students.

- Total Medicaid Riders July 2017 to January 2018 totaling 7,571:
 - July – 1028
 - August – 1219
 - September – 994
 - October – 1285
 - November – 943
 - December – 945
 - January – 1157
- Local riders total 2698 and Columbia 1X riders total 252.

In closing, Ms. Jones stated the future of transit is to establish a fixed route and expand demand services to all citizens of Fairfield County. A proposal is projected for the upcoming year to purchase two minivans and hire additional drivers to meet this need. Transit will also need to develop a fee which would be determined by miles travelled and identifying pick-up and drop-off locations. Vice Chair Goins thanked Ms. Jones for her efforts and asked if she feels the new ER will have a positive impact on transit. Ms. Jones believes this will result in a positive impact. Chairman Smith inquired of possible grants the County could obtain, and Ms. Jones stated she will research this further and report her findings.

- C. Request of Action: Revision to Alcohol and Drug Policy - Public Affairs & Policy Committee Recommends Approval.** Per Mr. Taylor, periodically the state performs an audit, and when a program is grant funded, the grant requirements must be met. This matter has been taken to committee in that the alcohol and drug policy needs to be revised in relation to transit. This policy change is grant driven, and the audit is requiring that the County comply. It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the revision to the alcohol and drug policy for the Transit Department. Council Member Pauley asked Mr. Taylor to explain why this policy is different from other County employee policies. Per Mr. Taylor, this is grant driven. The rules and regulations from the State must be followed if the grant is accepted. There are policies for other agencies that are not grant driven. Chairman Smith inquired if this could be standardized across the board. Per Mr. Anderson, transit is covered under S.C. DOT rules. They are safety sensitive employees and are different from other employees. By law, only safety sensitive employees can be drug tested because the County is a public entity. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- D. Announcement of Four EMT's Obtaining Paramedic Certification.** Mr. Taylor reported that EMS has had a tough time keeping the paramedic positions filled. At this time, four EMT's (Jeremy Munn, Rossukhon Derrick, Jonathan Evans and Melvin Simpton, Jr.) have obtained their paramedic certification.
- E. Request of Action: Fairfield County Emergency Medical Services (FCEMS) Salary Market Adjustment - Administration and Finance Committee Recommends Approval.** Per Mr. Taylor, this item has been on prior agendas. It has been through the Administration and Finance Committee with recommendation for approval; however, there were further questions concerning the request. Mr. Mike Tanner is available tonight to answer any questions and do a clarification of the request. Per Mr. Tanner, in addition to the four newly certified paramedics,

Fairfield County EMS recently participated in a World EMS Symposium in Charlotte, NC. The County team competed in two different competitions. There were teams from across the world competing in the hands-on challenge, and Team Fairfield, consisting of Paramedic crew Anna Beth Rhodes, Nicole Simonson and Jennifer Fitch, came in first place. Mr. Tanner stated the County has the best in the world. In the other competition, Fairfield scored ahead of New York Fire Department and other major services from the New York area and came in 7th in this competition. Council Member Robinson feels that due diligence has been done and made a motion to approve the EMS salary adjustment with motion being seconded by Council Member Douglas. Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Tanner and she appreciates his passion for his job. She feels the issue needs to be revisited in the future on how raises are put into place. Council Member Pauley received a citizen inquiry concerning the EMS work schedules and if a different schedule could be done to eliminate overtime. Per Mr. Tanner, the amount of coverage is maximized compared to the number of employees. The schedule worked is 48/96, working 48 hours and off 96 hours. This eliminates the need for a fourth shift which thereby eliminates 1/3 of a payroll that would be needed. Council Member Pauley wanted this explained for the benefit of the citizens. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

- F. Funding Request from Fairfield Memorial Hospital Board Presented by FMH CEO, Suzie Doscher. Ms. Doscher recognized seven Hospital Board members, leadership team and some Foundation members present in the audience. The hospital opened its doors over 60 years ago. Many changes have occurred in Fairfield and in healthcare in general, including decline in reimbursement, increasing charity care, increasing bad debt and increasing out migration. On the positive side, mergers, consolidations and collaborations have helped the situation in some instances. Also, there has been ongoing consistent help from the County government. The Hospital Board and the County have worked over two years to entice Providence Health to expand in our community. Providence Health and LifePoint are "for profit" healthcare, but their caring mission is stronger. The new facility is expected to open in 2018. The challenge now is to continue to offer critically needed 24 hour emergency services until the new facility is open. Around 73% of emergency room patients are either uninsured or Medicaid/Medicare; therefore, the majority of people are unwilling or unable to pay for the care they receive. There is a federal law (EMTALA) requiring a screening for everyone who enters the emergency room; however, funding is not guaranteed for this screening or subsequent treatment. This problem is not unique to Fairfield County. Many hospitals have closed in the last few years due to the above problems with others faring much better by merging with larger hospitals. About 2-1/2 years ago, a consulting firm was hired by the State to evaluate the sustainability of Fairfield Memorial. This report stated the hospital would close by April 2016 and included many improvement opportunities, but there was no path for the hospital to survive without some form of partnership. Despite the financial struggles, Ms. Doscher feels the hospital continues to have a positive impact on the community with over 1,000 residents utilizing the hospital each month. Evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and possible transfer are available to the citizens. The hospital cares for minor illnesses/injuries but also cares for more serious illnesses/injuries with last year saving the lives of 28 residents who had suffered heart attacks. The emergency room satisfaction rate

is consistently over 96%. The average wait time is 2 hours and 8 minutes, which includes the time of arrival through the time the patient leaves. To keep the emergency room open until the new facility is available, Ms. Doscher anticipates the need for financial assistance and feels this short term commitment will impact the community long term. In addition to this financial assistance, it is in conjunction with past, present and future evaluations of expenses at the hospital. About two years ago, a contract was put into place with Envision for services in the emergency room resulting in an annual savings of over \$400,000.00. Ms. Doscher feels the general public was not aware of the compensation being paid for emergency room physician coverage and also gaps in coverage being filled, when needed, by family physicians in the community. Numerous contracts have been evaluated and staffing has also been evaluated; however, with the complexity of a hospital, expertise in certain areas is needed whether there is one patient or 1000 patients. Ms. Doscher stated they are continually searching for additional cost cutting measures. Ms. Doscher then asked Mr. Tim Mitchell to present the financial report. Mr. Mitchell stated the funding request for budget year 2018-2019 is \$4,801,000 which includes the contractual service with the County of \$1,043,000 to defray the cost of physician staffing in the emergency room. This number is included in the \$4m figure. In addition, there are some capital needs including the chiller (responsible for cooling the majority of the building) of \$154,430. Last year in excess of \$15,000 was spent on repairs of the chiller. A painting project is also planned for most of the exterior buildings for which quotes have been obtained in the amount of \$50,000. The remainder of the information presented tonight is directly related to the cash shortfalls over the remaining period that the hospital will remain open. Cash losses are projected at around \$177,000 per month. For February through September, which is the end of the hospital's fiscal year, plus the additional three months through the end of this year, a cash shortfall of \$1,414,000 is projected plus the three months totaling \$1,944,000. Current cash balances are deducted from this estimated shortfall, which was \$429,000 at the end of January, resulting in a cash request of \$1,515,180 to deal with the cash shortfall from February through the end of the year. The hospital has been aging its payables and managing cash very carefully. Approximately \$1,188,000 was owed to vendors at the end of December which were 60 days or more past due. Another project cost is digitizing many paper records currently housed on campus. The records must be archived in a searchable form for future retrieval. The above stated items bring the total request to \$4,801,000. Ms. Doscher returned to the podium to receive questions. Council Member Ruff requested confirmation of the amount requested. Per Ms. Doscher, the budget number sent to the County was in the amount of \$4,801,000. Council Member Trapp inquired as to the amount of money collected yearly from the line item on the tax bills. Mr. Taylor would need to research this in order to provide the exact number. Council Member Trapp inquired because he believes there should be a surplus each year. He further stated he doesn't have a problem with this request in order to assure service to the citizens of Fairfield County until the new ER has opened. Per Mr. Taylor, he was advised that the surplus is about \$122,000. Council Member Trapp requested the numbers for the last five or 10 years of amounts taken in through taxes. Council Member Pauley thanked Ms. Doscher for attending the Council meeting tonight and all her efforts for the hospital. He asked if part of the building, in particular the old surgery area, is

locked due to black mold. Per Ms. Doscher, she is not aware of any black mold; however, the surgery unit is closed off. Council Member Pauley further asked if the building usually floods during rainy weather and towels have to be placed. Ms. Doscher agreed there are parts of the hospital that do take on water. Council Member Pauley inquired how often EMS is called to the hospital to perform services. Ms. Doscher would have to research this. In closing, Council Member Pauley asked for confirmation of the hospital having a CEO, a COO, a CNO, a CFO, a revenue cycle company, an accountant and a financial law firm currently being paid. Ms. Doscher stated that would be correct and the accountant is paid to do the audit. Council Member Douglas inquired concerning the original amount given to the hospital yearly and that this money was to be used solely for the emergency room; however, he understands that this funding has been used for things other than the emergency room. Ms. Doscher is not aware of a specific designation of this funding, but they do spend more than \$1m in charity care, bad debt and write-offs in the ER. The funding from the County is not put directly toward the charity care. Chairman Smith appreciates Ms. Doscher presenting the information tonight. A meeting was held with the County Administrator, Ms. Doscher and FMH Board Chairman Mrs. Fantry concerning getting this request on the agenda. Meetings such as this are oftentimes held before an item goes on the agenda so the team knows what the request is about. One thing that came up in the discussion is that, if the County is to provide additional funding to something that is in a transitioning process such as the hospital, the citizens must receive something tangible in return. What came up in this discussion was the potential of purchasing the hospital property. One positive aspect of this possibility would be to protect the ownership of the property. This will be discussed further in executive session tonight.

- G.** Groundbreaking Ceremony for Broad River Water Project. Per Mr. Taylor, this is the project being undertaken by the Town and will be held on February 28, 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Jackson Creek Road and Corona Drive. He encouraged all Council members and the public to attend. This is a large project the Town has undertaken to provide a good steady supply of water, which hopefully will have a long term benefit for the County.
- H.** Barbara Wilder and Garry Wilder, Perfect Provisions, Inc.: The Mobile Soup Kitchen. Mr. Taylor introduced Mrs. Barbara Wilder and Mr. Garry Wilder of Perfect Provisions. They are looking to serve the citizens in the County. Mrs. Wilder stated she and her husband are ordained evangelists. She served 22 years in the Army, retiring in 2003. She started working for Novant Health as a surgical tech for 10 years. In 2016 she began her present mission. Mr. Wilder worked at Pet Dairy for 27 years and also retired in 2016. Perfect Provisions is a mobile soup kitchen, currently consisting of two food trucks located in Charlotte and Winnsboro. Charlotte is served three times a month near such areas as men's and women's shelters. A hot meal is provided to the homeless including meats and vegetables, hot chocolate, coffee, drinks, etc. They have also been present at Finley Park in Columbia, and last week they were located at the Food Bank in Winnsboro. There was not a big response because the public is not aware of this outreach yet. Two dates are set for Winnsboro to include March 16 and March 30 located in the Roses' parking lot on 321. Mr. and Mrs. Wilder

started Perfect Provisions in 2011. About 400 people are fed in North Carolina and around 120 in South Carolina. Personal hygiene bags are also handed out to the homeless. Duke Power has contributed to the hygiene bags in the past. Word-of-mouth is needed in order to let everyone know this ministry is available. They are also in need of donations including men's clothing items, shoes, comforters, sheets, toys, etc. Mr. Wilder further explained they are hoping to expand their ministry in Winnsboro and other South Carolina locations. They are also searching for a commercial kitchen to aid in this endeavor. This is a non-profit organization and all funding goes toward the ministry. Council Member Robinson thanked the Wilders for their efforts. Vice Chair Goins also thanked the Wilders for sharing their ministry with Fairfield County. She will pass their information along and encourage the community to get involved in order to help one another.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

A. Updated Boards and Commissions Information. The Clerk referred to the updated Board and Commission Vacancies Report which had been given to the Council members. In speaking with the various board and commission directors, any assistance the Council could provide in filling the vacancies would be greatly appreciated.

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.

- Alissa Smith - County Road Issue
- Nathan Smith - County Road Issue
- Jeff Godby - County Road Issue
- Shirley Greene - County
- Jeff Schaffer - Comments
- Randy Bright - PASS

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Ruff: He supports attempting to keep the hospital open until the new ER is operational. He struggles with the money issues, but the citizens should have an ER. If this can be worked out, he would like to see monthly financial reports from the hospital. Also, he has spoken with Mr. Anderson concerning complaints from citizens about litter. He was surprised at the amount of litter that is currently being picked up on a daily basis. He would like to try to put together added volunteer days or have a citizen volunteer pickup. Having a clean County would improve the possibility of new industry and new citizens. He asked Mr. Anderson to elaborate further. Per Mr. Anderson, the County has a litter supervisor who works with the state in-mates and, during the winter months, the grass cutters also assist in the

litter pickup. About 120-140 bags are being picked up daily. A citizen can report litter problems to (803)815-6331.

Goins: She would like to see signs being posted in the County, cameras in heavily littered areas and fines implemented and enforced. She also congratulated the Bracewells, and she is excited for this upcoming project. She also thanked the Council and administration team for supporting this proposal. She also thanked the members of the team who came out for the Community Meeting, including the Clerk to Council, Administrator Jason Taylor, Deputy Administrator Davis Anderson, Chief Rick Gibson representing the Sheriff's Department, EMS Director Mike Tanner, Fire Services Director Jason Pope and 9-1-1 Director Phyllis Watkins. Information was given on these departments and questions were answered. In the future, more advertisement will be done in an attempt to reach more citizens to inform them of these meetings. The next meeting will be in three months at the Jenkinsville Recreation Center. Vice Chair Goins would like for organizations such as Perfect Provisions to come to these meetings and inform the community about their organization. She also thanked Chairman Smith for being a great team leader. Vice Chair Goins also commented how excited she is about the water project with Town of Winnsboro.

Smith: Chairman Smith inquired if any of the staff could report on the issue on North Springs Road. Mr. Taylor is aware of this issue and several road issues have arisen lately. He has met with Mr. Morgan, Phyllis Watkins, Jake Gaston and Chris Clauson and will be looking at this road as well as others concerning the common drive policy. Some situations have arisen that are possibly detrimental to the citizens and to the County, including some situations where the County is forced to take care of roads without full legal right-of-way and access. This is the situation with this particular road. The County has maintained the road but does not have the right-of-way. Chairman Smith asked how the other homes on the road obtained power. Mr. Taylor will research this as well as other issues pertaining to this matter, and this will be discussed in the future along with roads in general with a more comprehensive policy proposal. The road in question is a gravel road. Chairman Smith feels the County should definitely explore this further as there are a number of roads the County has been maintaining that probably should not be County maintained as the citizens should not be paying for the upkeep of these roads. He asked the Administrative staff to work with the citizens who spoke before Council tonight in order to find a resolution to their problem.

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 7:25 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Douglas 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) Proposed Contractual Matter - Discussion Regarding the Potential Purchase of Real Property Identified as Fairfield County TMS #126-03-01-001-000 and (c) Legal Matter - Receive Information Regarding Pending Litigation from Former Employee. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

At 8:50 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Council Member Trapp and Council Member Pauley did not return after Executive session).***

No action was taken in Executive Session.

18. ADJOURN

At 8:51 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Robinson, properly seconded by Vice Chair Goins to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.
CHAIRMAN