



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 6, 2014**

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

Absent: Kamau Marcharia

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

At 5:00 P.M., Chairman Ferguson called the County Council meeting to order.

2. INVOCATION

Council Member Kinley led in the invocation.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Emergency Ordinance No. 625 - To Authorize A Loan To Fairfield Memorial Hospital In The Amount Of \$500,000.00.

Mr. Pope prefaced the discussion saying Council held a work session with the Hospital last week, and out of that meeting, Council tasked him to come up with potential options whereby Council could possibly fulfill the request of the Hospital regarding a loan. Mr. Pope set out that after research and working with our County Attorney, the recommendation for the Council is found in the S. C. Code of Laws §4-9-130 regarding having an Emergency Ordinance. Mr. Pope also delineated that in preparation for this, out of further transparency, although not required by law, notices were sent to the media outlets and to the citizens. He recommended to Council, based upon the information received at the work session from the Hospital, that they do have an emergency situation at the Hospital that does potentially affect the life, health and safety of the citizens of Fairfield County; therefore, this Ordinance appears to be in line.

Two letters from the Hospital, one dated February 28, 2014 and one dated March 3, 2014, the Emergency Ordinance and, if Council decides to proceed with this, a copy of the Loan Note, are all contained in the Council packages.

Questions:

- What does the next 12 months look like (for the Council and for the Hospital)?
- Explain the Stroudwater Consultant flow chart.
- After meeting the other night, how is the Hospital addressing those concerns?
- The last two items on the page—knowing what we are losing every month, if we go two months before the G.E.A.R. and DSH payment comes in, most of that money is gone.
- The bills that are over 90 days old, are they charging 1 ½ or 2 percent a month or 18 percent or 20 percent a year? So, that is costing us an additional \$600,000.00 a year?

- Give me the exact definition of what the Stroudwater is? So, Stroudwater is not somebody who is coming in to help advise you all how to put a {marketing} package together? How long have they been on board? When do they project to have a finished product?
- Looking at the description of some of these departments, i.e., pharmacy, is there no way to farm that out locally?
- We were talking the other night, as far as one of the options, to at least have an Emergency Room. If you have a Hospital, what is the least definition of a Hospital? So, we are at the lowest level of being a Hospital, and able to run an Emergency Room in addition to the Hospital? What is the situation of the Emergency Room? Is Dr. Canty retiring?
- What is Pee Dee's time to walk from the Hospital? Sixty or ninety days?
- You are going to try to have Did Pee Dee here until June 1st? And you have somebody in line to possibly come in after that? Did Pee Dee carry the malpractice for the Emergency Room, or is the Hospital? So, they were covered under that? How would be deal with that with another company? It's a different kind of coverage than the standard doctor has to have for Emergency Rooms.
- Concerned about you having doctors in that Emergency Room around the clock, because many years ago, that is what the citizens voted to have.
- Have you started putting together a list of assets for us?
- Since we went to buying doctors for the ER, all of those have always been, with the exception of sometimes one, they have always carried their own malpractice insurance, right?
- It was a tremendous challenge talking to our delegation in Washington. If you look at this \$500,000.00 line of credit, and we are losing \$250,000.00 per month. Give me your best-case scenario over the next three to six months. Where are we going to be with this \$500,000.00 loan? What do you anticipate? What would be the worse-case scenario over the next three months?
- Knowing the situation we are in financially, how are you paying Stroudwater to come up with this proposal?
- Briefly tell the audience the definition of the Stroudwater Study as to why we are doing that? One component that was not discussed was the new 600 jobs that will be coming in this County with paid insurance for their employees. That is going to be additional revenue in the future.

*It was moved by Vice Chairman Perry; seconded by Council Member Trapp that Council approve the Ordinance that was read earlier regarding the Hospital, and also that the motion include the Note for \$500,000.00 for thirty-six (36) months. **The motion carried unanimously.***

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 P.M., upon unanimous approval of Council.