



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 27, 2015**

Present: Carolyn B. Robinson, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia (arrived @ 6:01 PM), 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 other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carolyn Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

*It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Smith, that Council move Item #8, Second Reading of Ordinance No. 649, to the Council Meeting of May 11, 2015; and move Third Reading to the Council Meeting of May 26, 2015. {Council Member Kinley inquired if that would fit in the deadlines as needed}. **The motion carried 6-1. {Vice Chairman Marcharia voted nay}.***

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to approval of the agenda, Council Member Smith inquired about the recreation issue that he brought up at the last Council meeting, which he said he asked to be placed on the agenda tonight, but it is not. Further, he said he is okay with it, as he as Chairman Robinson have spoken on this matter. Council Member Smith also asked Chairman Robinson if she intends to set a work session date tonight to be able to bring back any ideas or items that Council may want to address at the next meeting of Council.

Chairman Robinson responded that it is not on the agenda tonight, and that she will not set a special time tonight for that meeting; however, a work session, for information only, will be set in the near future.

It was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the agenda. The motion carried 6-1. {Council Member Smith voted nay}.

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Stewart led in the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*It was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Council Member Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2015. **The motion carried unanimously.***



5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Margaret Doty, 4-H Agent, Clemson Extension, gave an update to the Council.

6. 1ST 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.

The following individual signed to speak:

- Ms. Dorothy Brandenburg - Intent To Mine
- Mr. Jeff Schaffer - Budget
- Mr. Randy Bright - Economic Development

7. PUBLIC HEARING

To Establish Operating And Capital Budgets For The Operation Of The County Government Of Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2015 To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2015; To Provide For The Expenditure Of Tax Revenues And Other County Funds; To Provide For Other County Purposes; To Provide For Certain Fiscal And Other Matters Relating To County Government; And Other Matters Related Thereto. *Chairman Robinson opened public hearing at 6:17 P.M.* The following individuals signed to speak during public comment: Mr. Jeff Schaffer and Mr. Randy Bright. *Hearing no further comments from the public, Chairman Robinson closed public hearing at 6:26 P.M.*

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 649 - To Establish Operating And Capital Budgets For The Operation Of The County Government Of Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2015 To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2015; To Provide For The Expenditure Of Tax Revenues And Other County Funds; To Provide For Other County Purposes; To Provide For Certain Fiscal And Other Matters Relating To County Government; And Other Matters Related Thereto. ***This matter was deferred to May 11, 2015.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Provided as information.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

A. Board of Assessment Appeals

*It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Kinley to approve the Re-Appointment Ratification as presented for the Board of Assessment Appeals. **The motion carried unanimously.***

{Vice Chairman Marcharia expressed that he thought when Council appointed people to boards and commissions that Council would have an opportunity to look at their application; see what their qualifications or how they have been involved before publicly in these matters. He opined that if he appointed someone from his district, he would like for Council to know some background on the individual. He stated that some of that information is currently listed on the application. Chairman Robinson confirmed that the district and interest information is listed on the application, and perhaps Council needs to consider having that application out to Council in advance; however, this Council, until they change the policy, has been doing it this way. Further, she noted that Council has not brought a nominee before the Council without the nominee having completed an application}. The Clerk announced the following re-appointment: Mr. Scott Malone.

11. OLD BUSINESS**A. County Council Bylaws (Recommended Changes From Administration & Finance Committee)**

Chairman Robinson set forth that Council has had these proposed changes, as well as them having been posted on the website for the public to review. She set forth the proposed changes as follows: Section 13, #15 - Input will be for items not currently on Council's agenda or under Council's consideration. The subject matter shall be related to and limited to items, issues and topics regarding Fairfield County; Section 14, b(2) - The second public comment segment will be for items not currently on Council's agenda or under Council's consideration. The subject matter shall be related to and limited to items, issues and topics regarding Fairfield County. Speakers shall use language that is civil, factual and diplomatic. *It was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Council Member Robinson to accept the changes as recommended. {During discussion, Vice Chairman Marcharia expressed that he thought Council had the language in there to not only be civil, but attacks (calling names or personal attacks) on people would not occur}.* Chairman Robinson pointed out that is part of the Chairman's responsibility to control that during that time. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Robinson set forth additional proposed changes in Section 14, b(7) as follows: The Clerk to Council shall also announce that "all electronic devices shall be switched to a silent mode." *It was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Council Member Robinson to accept the change as recommended.* ***The motion carried unanimously.***

12. NEW BUSINESS**A. Change Budget Work Session Date From: May 5, 2015 To: April 30, 2015**

It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Kinley to move the Budget Work Session scheduled for May 5, 2015 to April 30, 2015. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Noise Ordinance Update. Had two committee meetings on this matter. At the last meeting, the committee agreed upon a singular draft, which was posted on the County website. At the next committee meeting, the committee hopes to make its final recommendations to full Council.

B. Economic Development Phase II Commerce Park. This deals with the future and further development of the Commerce Park. Asked that Council receive a contractual update in Executive Session.

C. Intent To Mine Applications. Received notification from DHEC that the Air Permit had been published and approved, which is a State process. Received notification that the Intent to Mine portion of this has been approved by DHEC as well. This information was shared with Council, the press and to Ms. Brandenburg. No information thus far has been provided to the County regarding a site development plan, which has to be consistent with Planning and Zoning regulations of the County.

D. Budget Update. Gave Council and the public an update of the budget process and how that process works.

E. Meeting With Congressional Delegation. Chairman Robinson has scheduled a meeting on May 6, 2015 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with our Congressional Delegation regarding major projects going on in the County. By consensus, Council had agreed to the following major projects that the County needs assistance with. Staff will be compiling a packet for them.

F. County Code Of Ordinances. In 2014, the Clerk to Council was already working on this project, where she has worked with Municipal Corporation to incorporate and codify all of the County Codes on line. The ordinances that are codified in the Code can be accessed online, as well as those separate, stand-alone ordinances are also online. The Clerk has scanned and transmitted over 647 Ordinances, and everything is current and up to date. The County IT Department was helpful in this process.

G. Local Government Fund. The parent organization that advocates for the 46 counties in the State of South Carolina regarding local government funding had tried to propose legislation that reinstate lost dollars of the counties. The Finance Committee version mirrors the House version remaining at \$212,000,000.00, with \$12.5 million of the total being non-reoccurring. Have been communicating with our Delegation to ensure we get as much support as possible to fully fund the local government fund.

H. Motion Period Process. None.

Chairman Robinson addressed the following matters:

1. Unfunded Mandates for Fairfield County. A 2012 report shows a total of \$3,000,000.00 and out of that, the State sent the County less than a million dollars. Therefore, over \$2,000,000.00 of the County budget goes to take care of what the State mandates the County to do.

2. Millage. Almost two-thirds of that budget goes to the School system. The County gets about one-third to spend. Don't hear anyone complaining to the School District when they get a tax notice, because they think the County is responsible for all of it. The law says unless the School District goes over three percent of their budget, they are not required to come to the County. Some counties are set up where the Councils have to approve the School District budgets every year. Have had to request the School District come to the Council twice in all this time. They are spending almost two thirds of every dollar that comes into this County--which means they are spending about 63 or 64 cents out of every dollar that floats through this County.

3. Response Times. Don't see anybody asking the Council to stop EMS. Fought long and hard to get an EMS station at Mitford. It was taking a minimum of one hour, depending on where they were, when a call was received from the lake, and someone died because that response time. Now, because that station is out there, it is now the number three called station in the County, which is important, as the people at Lake Wateree and Mitford pay good tax dollars like everyone else and deserve that service. Because of EMS, service is much better. The average response time is 8 to 9 minutes for almost every call that comes into 911 for EMS. EMS was brought under the County because it was costing more money the way it was located under the Hospital system. It costs to have EMS, but it is nice to know that it is there when you need it. These are some of the areas where the County only gets 30 cents out of the dollar, but having to spend over \$2,000,000.00 to take care of the State because they won't step up to cut on their end of the State budget in order to provide what they tell the County it has to provide.

4. Diversifying. As Chair, there is a plan for this County to take the County to different heights. Have new Council Members who have just seen a County budget for the first time. They are having to spend time, and for the first time in many a year, the Council is going line item by line item. They have the opportunity to ask questions. At the work session before, every department head was present to answer questions. Coming soon will be all the departments that the County pays money to in support of their budgets that are unfunded mandates. Every one of those departments has submitted their budget request, it has been reviewed by the Administrator and his staff, and now the Council is going to look at it.

5. Economic Development. The first time anything leaks on economic development, the County can kill it for the company and for the County as a whole. Economic development has to be kept confidential until every "t" is crossed and every "i" is dotted in those contracts and ready to be announced. The Council does have plans and they are moving forward. Hoping for another announcement in the next few months that will also be a source of income and jobs for the citizens of the County. The Council is not sitting idle. Council spends much time studying, working through and meeting other people so that the Council will know what they are doing in going forward.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. 2ND 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.

The following individuals signed to speak:

- Ms. Faye Sandow - Recreation
- Mrs. Terry Vickers - Tourism
- Mr. Jeff Schaffer - Responsibility
- Mr. Randy Bright - Recreation

{Mr. Pope asked to respond to certain comments made previously from the public. He set forth that any time there is a mission critical service like EMS, it needs to be clear on how EMS works in this County. He also addressed the issues of recreation, citing that estimates were provided to the Council and to the public. In the totality and context of that, it was mentioned that several other items, i.e., fire station and EMS station was included in the bid, in an attempt to get cost savings based upon the bid to bring it under the \$3.5 million dollar amount. It was stated to the Council and to the public at that time, that the amount, once the final numbers were received, if the project were bid out, the Council would be faced with the question of whether or not things had to be reduced strategically, or if the process worked out based upon the bidding, it could come in under budget. Council would have the opportunity, if in fact, the expenses were over the \$3.5 million dollars, to address that. The final number will not be known until everything is bid and the final numbers are back in}.

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Stewart:

Read the following statement into the record: "I agree that we should discuss recreation in a different committee setting. I am concerned about the following: have we budgeted completely for the centers we are constructing? Is there money in the budget for

furniture? Is there money for computers and particularly for wifi, in these areas that we are building them where there is a major need? Is there money for proper staffing one person versus two in these outlying areas, and we will probably need two people in some of these for safety? We need to identify what the real cost to build and operate these centers will be. Before we build new centers, we need to repair the equipment and the building and playground equipment in the existing areas. We should develop E should develop a comprehensive recreation program that ties into the programs for our seniors, our after school programs and what the citizens really want. We need to present options for the citizens to select from. Thank you."

M. Robinson:

Introduced Ms. PerryAnne Robinson, daughter of Judge William and Wendy Robinson. She is a rising senior at Richard Winn Academy, and has been selected to attend Palmetto Girls State. It was suggested that she attend a Council Meeting before attending Girls State.

Kinley:

Offered congratulations to Ms. PerryAnne Robinson.

Set forth that she had four meetings before her recreation plan was submitted, and a total of seven people attended the meetings.

Stated the national EMS response time is usually 10 to 12 minutes, and for the last five to eight years, has been under the national average.

Commented that *Time Magazine* listed genealogy as the second most popular recreation in the United States. Set forth that a report from the Genealogy Department stated 3,000 people visited Fairfield County, which had a significant economic impact on the County.

Thanked the Clerk to Council for her work on the Code of Ordinances project and for the job she does for the Council and for the County.

Ruff:

Voiced that he agreed with the citizen who spoke on recreation in regard to keeping everything within the budget that was set forth.

Commended all the speakers in keeping their comments cordial and direct. Opined that Council is held to a higher standard, and thanked everyone for being cordial and civil in their communication.

Commented on the Arts on the Ridge event this weekend.

Smith:

Thanked everyone who came out this evening and encouraged everyone to keep everything cordial from both sides. Responded to the comment made from one of the citizens about recreation, saying he agrees with that and with what Mr. Stewart said as well.

Marcharia:

Commented that there are a lot of different perspectives about recreation and that in looking at surrounding counties, over the last ten to fifteen years, they have grown in leaps and bounds and recreation has been one of the drawing cards.

Asked for a legal interpretation of private drives.

C. Robinson:

Commented on the 2010 Recreation Plan that recommended the County be divided into four quadrants, with a facility in each quadrant to serve the people in those areas. It also recommended no more than two additional mini parks. Opined that what is being suggested right now is actually being divided into quadrants ultimately.

Encouraged the public to attend the budget work sessions.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*At 7:31 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chairman Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Kinley to go in executive session to receive legal updates and an economic development contractual matter. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*At 8:32 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chairman Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Kinley to come out of executive session and return to open session. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*In open session, it was moved by Vice Chairman Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Robinson to authorize the Administrator to move forward with Phase II of the Commerce Park. **The motion carried unanimously.***

18. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M., upon the unanimous approval of Council.

SHRYLL M. BROWN
CLERK TO COUNCIL

CAROLYN B. ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN