



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
APRIL 28, 2014**

**Present:** David L. Ferguson, Sr., R. David Brown, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Dwayne Perry, Carolyn B. Robinson, Mikel R. Trapp, Council Members; J. Milton Pope, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Jack James, County Attorney; Shryll Brown, 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 Herald-Independent, The State, and Winnsboro Cablevision, and ninety-six other individuals.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

*Prior to the adoption of the Approval of the Agenda, Mr. Pope asked for Council's consideration to move Item 13D of the County Administrator's Report up on the agenda prior to the Public Hearing, so that he can give an explanation regarding the details of the budget and what has been submitted to Council. So moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Council Member Robinson, and **unanimously approved by Council.***

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*It was moved by Vice Chairman Perry; seconded by Council Member Kinley to approve the agenda, with information as presented above. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Council Member Kinley led in the Invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*It was moved by Council Member Trapp; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2014 and Budget Work Session of April 15, 2014. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**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:

- Ms. Beth Jenkins – Budget
- Mr. Billy Smith – Elected Official Personnel Matter
- Mr. Randy Bright – Budget Work Session

*{Prior to opening the public hearing, Mr. Pope was given the opportunity to speak about the budget. He brought forth the following information: "Dear Members of Council and taxpayers of Fairfield, I am pleased to present for your consideration the proposed budget for 2014-2015. This year's allowable tax increase is 1.45% based upon the published CPI for political subdivisions in South Carolina. In South Carolina, each and every year, we have a published CPI that is the maximum that you can actually raise taxes. This year, it is 1.46%. Of course, normally there is a growth factor with that as well, but in Fairfield County, due to our last census information, there was not any growth. We just can use the CPI amount which is the 1.46%. This year's budget recommendation reflects a transition in Fairfield County—a transition that capitalizes on the strengths of our past successes and an acknowledgment of areas of desired improvement that reflects positive changes for our entire County, as well as establishing a sensitivity to the taxpayers' ability to fund and support the operations of our County. The foundation of this budget recommendation was crafted with a "no-tax" increase philosophy, but balanced with a clear vision of meeting the operational needs of the County by enabling our elected officials and our professional department directors to deliver services with an exceptional quality of customer manner. The genesis of our recommended budget proposal began with a three-hour, in-depth public budget presentation whereby staff went through every general fund budget and gave a summary of every increase or decrease of that particular budget, but also responded to any question of County Council regarding that budget. As your staff, we believe that this transparency increases our fiscal accountability and reflects integrity in the budgeting process. What is "not" included in the Administrator's budget recommendation: (1) there is no tax increase for the general fund; (2) there are no new positions in the recommended budget to County Council. What major items are included in the Administrator's budget recommendation: (1) Administrative transfer of emergency services millage to the general fund; (2) Increases in health insurance cost under the South Carolina Employee Insurance Program; (3) Increases in fuel and associated vehicle cost to operate the County's fleet; (4) South Carolina Retirement Employer increase cost for Police and regular retirement employees; (5) Creation of a regular (instead of a temporary position) for the Department of the County Liaison; (6) Incentive pay for County employees. This budget will assure that the services of the County will continue to be delivered and position the County for future operations, while maintaining a strong, fiscally-responsible approach. It is this fiscally-responsible approach that keeps our bond rating at an enviable A+ rating."}*

Mr. Pope stated the first budget work session was held on April 15, 2014; the second one will be held May 5, 2014, where the special revenue and other parts of the budget that were not covered at the general fund work session will be provided.

## **7. PUBLIC HEARING**

◆ Ordinance To Establish Operating And Capital Budgets For The Operation Of The County Government Of Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2014 To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2014; 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 Ferguson opened the public hearing at 6:19 P.M. The following individuals signed to speak:*

- Mr. Randy Bright
- Mr. Billy Smith
- Mrs. Pat Williams
- Mr. Bob Carrison

*Vice Chairman Perry addressed the mechanics and content of the budget work session that was held by the Council and stated there were only three citizens that attended.*

*Council Member Robinson also spoke on the public hearing matter, stating this budget work session was one of the most informative ones she has gone through in the past nine to ten years, and that for the first time, every department head was present during the work session, giving Council an opportunity to ask questions regarding their respective budgets.*

*Hearing no other comments, Chairman Ferguson closed public hearing at 6:34 P.M.*

◆ Ordinance To Amend The Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (Ordinance No. 596), To Provide For The Zoning Reclassification From R-1 (Single Family Residential District) To R-2 (Inclusive Residential District) Of Sixty-Eight Hundredths (.68) Acre, Owned By Thomas And Paula Gaston, Tax Map No. 107-03-12-014-000, Located At 785 Peays Ferry Road, Winnsboro, SC.

*Chairman Ferguson opened this public hearing at 6:34 P.M. No one signed to speak during this public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed public hearing at 6:35 P.M.*

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

**A. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 629** - To Establish Operating And Capital Budgets For The Operation Of The County Government Of Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2014 To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Fairfield County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2014; 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. *It was moved by Vice Chairman Perry; seconded by Council Member Marcharia to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 629. **The motion carried 6-1. {Council Member Robinson voted nay}.***

**B. Third And Final Reading: Ordinance No. 627** - An Ordinance To Amend The Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (Ordinance No. 596) To Correct Zoning Map Deficiencies. The Map Correction Will Apply The Same Zoning As Originally Intended. *It was moved by Vice Chairman Perry; seconded by Council Member Marcharia to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 627. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**C. Third And Final Reading: Ordinance No. 628** - An Ordinance To Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (Ordinance No. 596) To Provide For The Zoning Reclassification From B-2 (General Business District) To RD-1 (Rural Residential District), Of 0.4 Acre, Owned By Frank Johnson. Applicant: Frank Johnson. Portion Of Tax Map No. 144-02-02-028-000, Located At 63 Sandy Lane, Winnsboro, SC, 29180. *It was moved by Council Member Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Trapp to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 628. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**9. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MINUTES**

Provided as information.

**10. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS**

*It was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the Appointment Ratification as presented for the Fairfield County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs. **The motion carried unanimously.***

The Clerk announced the following appointment to the Board of Disabilities and Special Needs: Mr. Donald Walnock (representing District 7).

**11. OLD BUSINESS****A. Naming Of Industrial Park Road**

Mr. Pope read out the suggested names that came forward from Council being: (1) Trade Boulevard, (2) Market Place, (3) Exchange Street, (4) Management Boulevard, (5) Blue Granite Parkway. *It was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to name the Industrial Park Road "Blue Granite Parkway". **The motion carried unanimously.***

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 630** – An Ordinance To Amend The Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (Ordinance No. 596), To Provide For The Zoning Reclassification From R-1 (Single Family Residential District) To R-2 (Inclusive Residential District) Of Sixty-Eight Hundredths (.68) Acre, Owned By Thomas And Paula Gaston, Tax Map No. 107-03-12-014-000, Located At 785 Peays Ferry Road, Winnsboro, SC. *It was moved by Vice Chairman Perry; seconded by Council Member Kinley to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 630. **The motion carried unanimously.***

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

**A. County Spotlight:** Fairfield County Delinquent Tax Collector (Mrs. Miriam Woodard).

**B. Drawdy Park Update.** The County recently took over the Drawdy Park Association; therefore, a lot of the development of that Park was actually done through the Association and not the County. Some of the major hazards that Mr. Wade spoke about were factual and the County discovered copper was stolen from some of the units. Months before that, the County had an inspection through the liability insurance carrier; actually walked through the Park and said what issues needed to be addressed. Even before the copper was stolen, the County already had a punch list of items to complete. This safety hazard has been cleared up.

**C. Flood Plain Insurance Update.** Council was briefed on some potential contractual matters. Have been in discussions with Kershaw County looking at potential partnering on a flood study for Lake Wateree. Staff has had those discussions and working collaboratively to draft a Request for Qualifications to propose a flood study. Once that RFQ is submitted and information is received, will report that information to Council. The goal of the flood study would be to lower the base flood elevation of Lake Wateree to effect potential reductions in flood insurance premiums.

Mr. Pope was asked to give an update on flood insurance in the discussions with Congressman Mulvaney's Congressional Aides last week.

**D. Budget Work Session Dates.** Addressed prior to public hearing.

**E. Recreation Update.** Based upon the policy process adopted, consultants have met with most of County Council in reviewing information that was submitted publicly on the master list. The consultants will take that information and come up with cost estimates, which will be brought back to a public work session. Subsequently, a decision-making process will be held, based upon how to proceed with that information.

**F. Corps Of Engineers' Report.** County Council participated, with the Mayor and the Town of Winnsboro and the Corps of Engineers regarding the joint study that had been performed by the Corps. The recommendation provided by the Corps stated that the Town of Winnsboro should continue to buy the wholesale water from the City of Columbia. There may be some differing of opinions of that; therefore, the County would need to work with the Town to complete those recommendations regarding water infrastructure. Mr. Pope was asked to give an update on the information that was discussed with Congressman Mulvaney's Congressional Aides last week.

**G. Road Paving Policy Legal Update.** Staff is requesting that this matter be discussed in executive session.

**H. Industrial Park Easement Legal Update.** Staff is requesting that this matter be discussed in executive session.

**I. County Council Redistricting.** Was asked to follow up on this matter. Several bits of information was reported by the press regarding the redistricting information. Mr. Bobby Bowers' office was contacted regarding this issue, and Mr. Pope read a letter he received from Mr. Bowers, and is incorporated herein by reference, as if fully set forth. *It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Brown to direct Mr. Pope to work with the County Attorney to make the necessary and appropriate corrections, as it was always the Council's plan to protect the incumbent in each district. **The motion carried unanimously.*** Mr. Pope was also asked to check on the guidelines and to advise the Council if a special meeting is necessary in order to adopt the ordinance in the appropriate amount of time.

**J. Elected Official Personnel Matter.** Staff is requesting that this matter be discussed in executive session. Mr. Pope set forth that this item deals with elected officials' pay policy, and has nothing to do with any County Council member.

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

None.

#### 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:

- Ms. William Turner – Redistricting. (Mr. Turner commented from the back of the room that he thinks his question has already been answered. However, he continued to ask questions from where he was standing at the back).
- Ms. Beth Jenkins – HH Notice
- Mr. Mike Ward – New England Law Review
- Mr. Barry Tuttle – Public Officer Comments
- Mrs. Kerry Matthews – District 3 Newsletter
- Mrs. Terry Vickers – Festival & Movies
- Mr. Randy Bright – War On Diversity

**16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Marcharia:

Commented on an article that stated the public expressed concerns over a Councilman's comments.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*At 7:52 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Brown and Council Member Kinley to go in executive session to receive legal advice on an Elected Official Personnel Policy Matter, Industrial Park Easement Legal Update and Road Paving Policy Legal Update. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*At 9:48 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Trapp to come out of executive session and return to open session. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*In open session, Chairman Ferguson reported that Council received information in executive session.*

**18. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 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