



**MINUTES  
BUDGET WORKSESSION  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
MAY 3, 2016**

**Present:** Carolyn B. Robinson, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, 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

**Other Staff:** Laura Johnson, Anne Bass

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 fifteen other individuals.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

**2. INVOCATION**

Council Member Robinson led in the Invocation.

**3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. FY 2016-2017 Budget**

Mr. Pope set forth that Administration is presenting some clean up items, as well as some items to bring to Council's attention for discussion. Three additional sheets are information are as follows:

- Draft document, dated 05-03-16, which is the draft Budget Ordinance, per Second Reading approval. The budget is adjusted based upon everything that has been done up to this point. This document will be posted online.
- Summary Sheet Budget Worksession II Notes of May 3, 2016.
  - General Fund      Adopted \$27,003,070.00  
                             Recommended \$27,302,411.00  
                             Variance \$299,341.00 or 1.11% increase
  - Capital Funds      Adopted \$2,452,467.00  
                             Recommended \$1,695,504.00  
                             Variance (\$756,963.00) or -30.87%
  - All Other Funds      Adopted \$5,314,343.00  
                             Recommended \$4,279,892.00  
                             Variance (\$1,034,451.00) or -19.47%

Everything that has been worked on in comparing this budget year to the recommended one, the County is further reducing its expenditures by 4.29%. Mr. Pope reminded Council that this is the third consecutive year that the County has not had a millage increase. Also, did not use any additional revenue, but used within the existing parameters. The Auditor has to set those numbers and have that final information, which will be done after the new fiscal year starts. There should also be another adjustment in the millage rate which should be favorable after the Reassessment was had the previous year. From a fiscal standpoint, this is a tremendous direction of the County. Still are able to fund those



important things Council deemed important that were brought to staff and Administration's attention. Continuing to upgrade equipment, buying vehicles and replacing vehicles that meet the criteria. This is consistent with the direction and path that Council gave staff at the retreat in January.

▪ General Fund And Bond Items

- Fairfield Behavioral Health Services. Requesting funds through USDA and another grant of constructing a new building, based upon what they feel their service needs are. In their budget request, they asked for an additional funding from the County in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the next 20 years, which would have equated to asking for one million dollars. Had conversation with Mr. Kennedy about this matter, and made him aware of the County's situation regarding major projects and capital items. In the Administrator's recommendation, the County approved the consistent funding, but did not recommend any additional funding unless the Council desired to do that. The request does have merit; however, it is a matter of setting priorities and getting some certainty on some other projects.
- Plantation Pointe. Cost of doing the work is between \$175,000.00 and \$300,000.00. Received information from Plantation Pointe contracting company. Have been in communication with the County Transportation committee to get estimates. This issue needs to be readdressed in committee to bring something back to full Council; however, a question of this body will be, per the initial request of the citizens who live in that area, of whether or not the County is going to take in that road. Will bring a policy perspective back to Council on this matter.
- Recreation and Public Safety Projects. Mitford Recreation, Jenkinsville Recreation, Jenkinsville EMS/Fire, Ridgeway Fire, Belton Park. Discussed with Council that the County will be responsible for all the furniture and fixtures, which are capital items. Looking at approximately \$150,000.00 for those projects as they come on line. These are not General Fund dollars; but rather bond funds.
- Commerce Center Phase II And Park Certification. Park Certification is underway and nearly complete. The County will continue to retain certification of the park. Met with the Town of Winnsboro regarding follow up for infrastructure. Received some estimated numbers of nearly six million dollars. Need to work with the consultants on this. These are earmarked within the bond to take care of those things with the improvements at the Industrial Park.
- Courthouse. Have earmarked dollars for the Courthouse; however, at the time when the bond dollars were looked at, were just looking at renovating the Courthouse; not actually having to move everyone out of the Courthouse to another location to establish a temporary Courthouse and then upgrade the existing Courthouse. Mead and Hunt have provided estimates on retrofitting the HON building into a new Courthouse facility, which is a great plan; however, the dilemma of that is spending three or four million dollars for a temporary solution that the County will have no long-term use with. Will need to decide where the Courthouse should be, as the HON building is outside the corporate limits and the County seat has to be in the largest municipality and inside the incorporate limits. Decisions will have to be made in order to finalize the dollars and facilitate a plan.

Mr. Pope stated Ordinance No. 664 has all of the required adjustments to the budget. He stated the Retirement contributions that the County pays for employees may change in the State budget of an increase of \$56,000.00 or \$57,000.00. There also could be an increase for the County's share of insurance by about .08% or \$9,057.26. If these were to occur, these can be managed and adjusted within the existing budget.



Mr. Pope pointed out that if there is any headway made with the adjustment to the Local Government Fund, that could potentially be positive for the County, which would increase the revenue side to address a number of issues or could further go back and amend and adjustment the budget for further reductions.

- Email received from Library.

{Chairman Robinson announced that she would have a conflict of interest in discussing the Library, and removed herself from the dais. She signed a Statement of Conflict of Interest Form, which is on file in the Clerk to Council's office, and turned this portion of the discussion over to Vice Chairman Marcharia to preside}.

Mr. Pope addressed the email from the Library that was received today, saying in the Library's proposed budget, they try to track what the County is doing for its employees, as well as looking at the State. In the Library's budget, they did not include the 2% increase, equating to less than \$9,000.00. If Council desires to address this, it would have to be at Third Reading; however, there may be a way to handle this or adjusted within their existing budget. Administration will have a conversation with the Director tomorrow, prior to Council's Third Reading.

{At the conclusion of this discussion of the Library budget, Vice Chairman Marcharia turned the meeting back over to Chairman Robinson}.

- Chairman Robinson acknowledged Solicitor Newman who was in the audience, and asked if he had any comments to make.
- Council Member Kinley and Vice Chairman Marcharia gave their viewpoint on the elimination of the work of the Community Liaison Department. Chairman Robinson set forth that Council can discuss this further on Monday.

#### **B. Executive Session: Personnel Matter (County Administrator Position)**

*At 6:53 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chairman Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Smith to go in executive session to discuss a personnel matter regarding the County Administrator position. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*At 7:30 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Smith to come out of executive session and return to regular session. {Vice Chairman Marcharia was not present when Council returned to regular session}. **The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Robinson reported there was no action taken in executive session.

#### **4. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M., upon unanimous approval of County Council.

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SHRYLL M. BROWN  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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CAROLYN B. ROBINSON  
CHAIRMAN