



**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
May 7, 2018**

Present: Billy Smith, Douglas Pauley, Neil Robinson, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Dan W. Ruff, Bertha Goins, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

Absent: Mikel Trapp

Other Staff: Laura Johnson, Comptroller; Anne Bass, Deputy Comptroller

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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smith called the Work Session to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Vice Chair Goins led the invocation.

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. FY 2018-2019 Budget:

The following items were discussed:

- **Sheriff's Department Salaries:** Per Mr. Taylor, Council has been provided with information concerning the 3% COLA in addition to 25%, 50% and 75% of the Sheriff's requested amount. Council Member Pauley stated he is comfortable with the Administrator's recommended 3% and 25% additional with a review of the salaries again in the future in order to stay competitive. Per Chairman Smith, the 3% total would be an additional \$64,722 and 25% of the difference from that level to the request would be an additional \$28,262. Council Member Robinson asked the Sheriff if he has any further information from the other agencies. Per Sheriff Montgomery, the information sent to Council is accurate and this information was received directly from other Sheriffs. Council Member Douglas questioned having a FT deputy present at the courthouse. Council Member Robinson also is comfortable with the 3% increase plus the 25%. Council Member Ruff agreed, and he stated he wished the County could fund 100% of the request. However, given the recent circumstances, the County has to be mindful with looking at any department in the future. Sheriff Montgomery questioned if the 3% is across the board. Per Chairman Smith, this will be discussed further tonight. However, he also does not have a problem with the 3% plus the additional 25%. The total of this would be an additional \$92,984 over what was funded last year. Sheriff Montgomery questioned the difference in

the EMS request and the Sheriff's Department request. Per Chairman Smith, the EMS request was based on the pending loss of accreditation along with multiple sites being down on multiple days of the week due to loss of employees after other agencies had raised salaries. As stated by Sheriff Montgomery in the past, other counties are looking to raise salaries; however, with EMS the counties had already raised salaries. The County then raised the salaries to remain competitive and to prevent the loss of accreditation. What is asked of the County with the Sheriff's Department request is to increase salaries in anticipation of what other counties might do. Vice Chair Goins stated she also would love to be in the position to be able to fund this request fully; however, at this time, the County is not able to do this. Since all the facts are not in as far as the other Sheriff's Department salaries, this will at least leave some room to work with. Once more information is known of the counties that are competitive with Fairfield, this can be revisited again.

- Tourism: Per Mr. Taylor, this pertains to the money previously allocated for the Chamber of Commerce. This has been placed on hold until it can be decided at a future date how to allocate this money. The full funding level of \$87,507 will be held for further information. Discussions are being held with the Chamber, and hopefully, they will provide a plan so the money can then be allocated. However, if this does not happen, the money could be re-allocated to another tourism related project. Chairman Smith feels the Chamber will try to get a plan together by the end of the week.
- Capital Worksheet. Per Mrs. Johnson, this is an updated sheet, and all highlighted areas are the entries that were changed based on the prior budget work sessions. Concerning the capital request of the ambulance, a request of action has been put forth, and it would take around three months for the ambulance to be purchased and delivered. Per Mr. Taylor, a previous discussion had been held with Council about purchasing the ambulance early with the situation that has arisen with the hospital. One ambulance was out of service due to an engine, and the engine has been replaced with this ambulance now up and running. The County was attempting to purchase this ambulance early; however, it will take around three months for delivery which will be into the next budget year. This would be a total of \$216,256.00 and would be taken from the vehicle replacement fund balance. Question from Chairman Smith concerning the security cameras, and per Mr. Anderson, these were taken from the individual departments and consolidated into one state contract thereby having one person to provide service and also obtaining better pricing.
- Fee Schedule. Per Mr. Taylor, attempts are being made for all fees to be on one fee schedule as opposed to the fees being scattered. Per Mrs. Johnson, this would be taking the fees out of the budget ordinance thereby creating a separate fee schedule. Mr. Anderson stated the Transit Department had the most fee changes because these fees had not been updated since the late 80's. A fee schedule will be brought before Council for the on-demand service in the near future. Council Member Pauley asked if a fee is in place for use of the parks. Mr. Taylor reported a fee is charged for use of the parks. Mr. Price will also be coming before Council in the near future for an increase of Recreation fees. Discussion ensued concerning these fees.

- COLA: The legal opinion was distributed to Council by the Clerk concerning the elected officials. If the elected officials take part in the merit-based system, they will not be included because they cannot be reviewed by staff. However, if the elected official gives the 2% across the board, they would receive this also. Chairman Smith would like for this to be presented in writing, gather the answers and then figure the appropriate level into the budget by the third reading.

IV. Adjourn

At 6:28 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Goins, properly seconded by Council Member Pauley to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.
CHAIRMAN