



**MINUTES
WORKSESSION
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 22, 2011**

Present: David L. Ferguson, R. David Brown, Dwayne Perry, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Carolyn B. Robinson (arrived 7:15 P.M.), Council Members; Philip L. Hinely, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Jack James, County Attorney; Shryll M. Brown, Clerk to Council

Absent: Mikel R. Trapp

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 fifty other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. INVOCATION

Council Member Kinley led in the invocation.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Letter of Support – Fairfield Behavioral Health Services

Council Member David Brown, County Council ex-officio member to the Fairfield Behavioral Health Services Board, was asked to research additional information and bring back to the Council; subsequently, the County Council agreed to table this discussion until Monday, June 27, 2011.

B. Fairfield County Economic Development Strategic Plan

County Council discussed the following topics of the Plan:

Establish A Water/Sewer Coordinating Council

- County has five water companies and two sewer companies. Can do away with the part in the plan that recommends establishing one water and sewer authority.
- Disagree with that. Document will last 20-30 years. May be able to get all the water and sewer companies together.

Create A Fairfield County Economic Development Board

- County is going to be funding the majority of it.
- Need to be participants, either in ex-officio or voting capacity.
- If the Council goes in as a committee, Council should have one vote.
- Need to get more examples of organizational structures from other counties.
- Fairfield County needs to structure its own (one that makes sense). Business community needs to be involved.
- Would like to see the by-laws and how they are structured as well as the funding process and what other counties are responsible for.
- Look at what is successful in other counties.
- *Administrator was asked to contact the Association of Counties to research what counties have an Economic Development Board and how the financial background is broken down.*
- Pg. 121. Estimated First Year Budget For Fairfield County Economic Development Organization.

- Have to find Executive Director who is going to have to organize and put the recommendations in motion before it is known how much it is going to cost. The SWOT analysis depends heavily on the Chamber of Commerce Director.
- Pg. 128. Total Cost and Yearly Commitment projected over the next five years.
- There needs to be consistency of the Economic Development Board.
- Do you feel like the estimates done for Fairfield County are estimates done for the size of the county, or are they budgets in general for all counties?
- Perform a target of industry.
- Pg. 56. Physical Infrastructure Strengths: Rail Lines, Airport, Availability of Water and Electric Service and Land; Weaknesses: Lack of Water/Sewer Infrastructure, Sewer, Wastewater Treatment and Broadband Availability
- Pg. 57. Education & Workforce Weaknesses: Public School System/Educational Achievement; Existing Workforce (Hard and Soft) Skills; Opportunities: Transformation of School System from Liability to Asset and Leverage Available Job Readiness Training Resources; Community Coordination & Cultural Relations Weaknesses: History of Past and Present Racial Tension and Divisive Racial Politics, Citizen Apathy, Lack of Communication Among Communities & Overall County "Mission/Vision"
- Continue to work with Intergovernmental and bring in business sector.
- Pg. 121. Looking at commitment from financial standpoint, view it more than just a first year commitment: Staff, Office and Equipment and Operational Costs.
- Idea is this is not "in addition to" what the county currently has; but a consolidation of what the county is currently funding and a blending of services; not creating a whole new service base.
- This was not very clear when it was initially discussed. The document gives the appearance of "in addition to". Notes from previous meeting were how to incorporate current positions into the Plan, which would lower some of the costs.

{Council recessed at this point}.

{Council returned from recess}.

- How do you envision blending what the County currently has with the projections indicated on page 121.
- Next Steps: (1) Discuss the ideas proposed by Mr. Perry and Mr. Brown and (2) put together a Plan of what and how. These would have to be set up appropriately where it would be an asset and not a problem to the County. Some of this can be dove-tailed to what the County is already doing.
- Don't have enough latitude in the millage cap to sustain \$276,000.00.
- Envision something similar to the Committee of 100, e.g., by selecting people to be on the board who have a vision for Fairfield County just as the Council does. Envision them going after and recruiting funds to be able to do a lot of what the \$276,000.00 yearly projection is. What the County presently has would be integrated into this Plan.
- Does the County have an inventory of every parcel/business that is available?
- One goal would be to constantly educate the public.
- Pg. 134. Recommendation: School District To Work With ED Community To Identify Specific Program Requirements. Envision pulling students in.
- Pg. 136. Other Related Education & Workforce "Suggestions": County has Career Center, One-Stop and Midlands Technical QuickJobs Center.
- Need to collaborate with all stakeholders (Local and State Delegation).
- Pg. 138. Public Awareness Of Important Issues Related To County Government.
- From communications and public relations standpoint, is a tremendous challenge getting information out to the public.

~ Council will have a second meeting sometime in July. After another review, suggest inviting the Department of Commerce representatives in.

~Genesis Consulting Group will be in position to gather samplings of bylaws from other counties.

C. Executive Session: Legal Matter/Pre-Contractual Matter

At 8:55 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Council Member Marcharia to go in executive session to discuss a legal matter/pre-contractual matter. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved; properly seconded and unanimously approved for Council to come out of executive session and return to regular session.

Council received information.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned, upon unanimous approval of County Council.

SHRYLL M. BROWN
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DAVID L. FERGUSON, SR.
CHAIRMAN