



**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
JUNE 27, 2018**

**Present:** Doug 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:** Billy Smith, Mikel 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 Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle, and one hundred thirty four other individuals.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

In Chairman Smith's absence, Vice Chair Goins called the Special Meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION**

Council Member Pauley led the invocation.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the Agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

**IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- A.** Execution of a Lease for Property Located in Ridgeway for Use as a Temporary Library Site: Mr. Taylor reminded Council of the Library Director's comments about a year ago when the Ridgeway Library had to be closed due to the condition of the building. At that time, it was stated that efforts would be made to get a new library opened as soon as possible. The County, the Library Board and other various entities have been involved in this process for quite a while. The Library Board voted to move forward with a temporary solution while looking for a long term solution. As the Mayor of Ridgeway stated at the meeting earlier tonight, the Ridgeway Council has discussed options to be considered for the permanent solution. This process will entail applying for CDBG grants for additional funding, which will be at least a two to three year process. If a temporary solution is not found, Ridgeway will be without a library for at least another two to three years. The building in question is the old Post Office. A lease has been prepared for two years. The Library Board requested at least a two year lease with another two years available and an option to purchase. The purchase price listed is high, but this option does not have to be exercised. The lease is \$850/month for the first year and \$892/month for the second year. The library had already been renting one building, and they will continue to pay the prior rental amount with the County paying the remainder. The additional money has been covered in the budget. This

has been taken to the Public Services and Development Committee with recommendation to move to full Council for approval. Council Member Ruff also added that this building is approximately double the size of the previous building, it is ground level instead of steps and there is better parking available. Council Member Pauley inquired of the reason for the increase in rent for the second year. Per Mr. Taylor, this is the request of the owner. Council Member Douglas added that the reason this is being done quickly is the owner has someone else interested in the building. This is the only building available that is not in worse shape. Per Mr. Taylor, several locations were looked into, and this spot was determined to be the best. Others would need a lot more work, had less parking or just were more expensive. Council Member Ruff stated one building that was being explored would have required an extremely large amount of work on the inside and had no parking. Another building that would have been suitable, the owner would not rent or lease it. This is the only option and also has much better parking, is ground level and has more space. One of the Library Board's stipulations was to be on or as close to Main Street as possible. Council Member Robinson made a motion, seconded by Council Members Douglas and Pauley, to approve execution of the lease for the temporary library site. Before the vote was taken, Council Member Ruff reiterated that this request has been discussed for several months. The urgency occurred when the owner had received a deposit on the building from another individual. Council Member Ruff then spoke with the owner who agreed to work with the County if it could act quickly. This is why the issue of urgency arose. If this had not been acted upon quickly, it would have resulted in Ridgeway being without a library for a longer length of time. Per Mr. Clauson, he is hoping to have applications ready for community infrastructure grants in August. This would include a 3 mile radius from downtown for the library's primary service area, about 420 homes. If the income threshold is met, then this request would be one of the competitive projects across the state. This would not be guaranteed, but the application will be completed with the hopes that it will be chosen. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

**V. ADJOURN**

At 7:49 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff, properly seconded by Council Members Robinson and Pauley to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

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PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.  
CHAIRMAN