

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
JULY 22, 2013**

**Present:** David L. Ferguson, R. David Brown, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Dwayne Perry, Carolyn B. Robinson, Mikel R. Trapp, Council Members; J. Milton Pope, 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 seventy-three other individuals.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*It was moved by Council Member Trapp; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to approve the agenda. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Council Member Kinley led in the invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Council Member Trapp to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2013; Special Meeting of July 11, 2013; Special Meeting of July 15, 2013; Special Meeting of July 17, 2013 and Special Meeting of July 19, 2013. **The motion carried 6-1. {Council Member Marcharia voted nay on all sets of minutes presented}.***

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals signed to speak to Council during public comment:

Mr. Jeff Schaffer – Issues

Mr. Paul Dove – Salkehatchie & Lions Youth Exchange

Ms. Beth Jenkins – Taxes; Council

Ms. Mary Harris was not present when her name was called.

Ms. Darlene Johnson – Recreation

Dr. E. Sutton – Recreation

Ms. Faye Sandow – “Hello, I am Faye Sandow. I would like to ask Mrs. Brown to enter my comments into the minutes of tonight’s meeting. At the last Council meeting, I listened to Senator Coleman speak about the recent SLED investigation of our former County Administrator; the lack of prompt and appropriate disciplinary action by Council, as well as some improprieties on the part of some Council Members. Regarding the issue of our former Administrator, I was appalled to learn SLED met with Council Chairman on February 21<sup>st</sup> and little to no action was taken by Council until June, but it was even more shocking to me to hear him comment on the decision of a Council Member to accept County money for college tuition, and that other Council Members are accepting County money as insurance reimbursements. If this is true, and I believe it is, since Senator Coleman was willing to stake his good name and reputation by going on the record with his information, I would like to ask these Council members what were you thinking? What are you thinking? I will be honest. I don’t know the specifics of these issues. I don’t care who offered the money; what deals may have been cut; what promises might have been made; what perks you may think you are entitled to. Regardless of any reason you can put forth as to why you took the money, how in good conscience can you look yourself in the mirror or put your head on the pillow at

night knowing you are being dishonest, not only with yourself, but with the citizens of this County. In my opinion, anyone accepting money from the County budget for personal use is stealing—a crime punishable under law, and anyone who steals should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. By their own admission, I am personally aware that the Council Member receiving money for tuition has made arrangements to repay the County. To the other Council Members, I suggest you do the same and do so immediately. With any respect that might be due, I am asking each of the Council Members who took County for personal use for three things: include interest on the repayment of the money to the County; publicly apologize to the citizens of the County and submit your resignations immediately.”

Ms. Kathy Owens was not present when her name was called.

Mr. Kevin Thomas – Council

Rep. MaryGail Douglas – Attorney General’s Opinion

Sen. Creighton Coleman – Future Plans/Where We Are

Mr. Tom Chase – Taxes

Mr. William Coleman – Council

Mr. Vernon Pylant – Meeting Announcement

## 6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING

An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 541, Ordinance To Regulate Abandoned Buildings, Mobile Homes And Manufactured Homes, Regulate Public Nuisances, and Regulate Abandoned, Dismantled, Junked, Wrecked Or Inoperative Vehicles In The Unincorporated Areas Of Fairfield County; To Provide For Definitions; And To Provide For Enforcement And Penalties As Follows: Remove Article II (Abandoned/Dangerous Building) In Its Entirety; Amend Article III (Manufactured/Mobile Homes), Section 4.A(6) And Section 4.B(1). *The Chairman opened public hearing at 6:34 P.M. Council Member Robinson commented on the meeting she and Mr. Vismor had as it relates to titles to mobile homes. She referenced Section A(6), ...the landowner must remove and dispose of the derelict mobile home and send proof of the removal and disposal to the County {Tax Assessor} and {Auditor}, pointing out that this should only be the {Auditor}, which is what the State law says. Additionally, she pointed out that a copy of the removal and disposal notice must be attached to the public records in the {Tax Assessor’s} office; not the Auditor’s office.*

*Dr. E. Sutton also commented on zoning and properties and the partnerships with cleaning up communities.*

*Chairman Ferguson asked Mr. Pope if he would follow up on ensuring the matters brought forth by Council Member Robinson were addressed prior to the Ordinance being finalized.*

*Hearing no further comments, the Chairman closed public hearing at 6:43 P.M.*

## 8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS:

**A. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 617** – An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 541, Ordinance To Regulate Abandoned Buildings, Mobile Homes And Manufactured Homes, Regulate Public Nuisances, and Regulate Abandoned, Dismantled, Junked, Wrecked Or Inoperative Vehicles In The Unincorporated Areas Of Fairfield County; To Provide For Definitions; And To Provide For Enforcement And Penalties As Follows: Remove Article II (Abandoned/Dangerous Building) In Its Entirety; Amend Article III (Manufactured /Mobile Homes), Section 4.A(6) And Section 4.B(1). *It was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 617, with the proper corrections. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**B. Third And Final Reading: Ordinance No. 616** - An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 583, Roads, Highways And Bridges, As Follows: Revise Section 1-20, Road Paving Program. *It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 616. **The motion carried 6-1. {Council Member Marcharia voted nay}.***

**9. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MINUTES**

Provided as information.

**10. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS**

*It was moved by Council Member Robinson; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry and Council Member Trapp to approve the Re-Appointment Ratification as listed under Section A and Section B. **The motion carried 6-1. {Council Member Marcharia voted nay}.***

The Clerk announced the following re-appointments. Dr. Leonard Mushkin (Hospital Board); Ms. Wanda Carnes (Planning Commission)

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration Of Purchase Of Property For Mini Park In District 3.** *It was moved by Council Member Trapp; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to approve the purchase of property for mini park in District 3. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

**a.** Mr. Pope expressed that this was quite an eventful first meeting, and thanked Council for the opportunity to serve in his capacity. He commented that it, in his previous experience, it was good having an economic development relationship with Fairfield County, and is looking forward to continued strong ties with other major counties. Commented on the scheduled staff meetings he has set for tomorrow and is scheduling individual meetings with members of County Council.

**b.** Staff intends to bring back information on the Local Option Sales Tax in a meeting set for Monday, July 29. Other scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Ferguson indicated the Council also has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of second reading and public hearing for economic development incentives to Project Palmetto.

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

None.

**15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Perry: Commented on a response from an individual as it relates to the Local Option Sales Tax. Indicated he wanted to make a copy of the letter, showing that it was responded to on March 28, 2013. Voiced that he has not accepted insurance money or education reimbursement.

Brown: Thanked everyone for coming out tonight and voiced that he appreciates the prayers that were sent up on his behalf. Thanked the media for being present.

Robinson: Appreciated the people for coming to speak to the Council at every meeting. Hopeful that Mr. Pope is going to be able to find information that has been hidden which Council did not know about, and bring it before the Council.

Marcharia: Commented on the petition he received from Mr. Schaffer which contained over 157 names of residents of the Dawkins community. Inquired if the construction at Drawdy Park coming from bond money or was it issued previously? Commented on the matter of the schools being asked to provide recreation and asked who is responsible for security or if something happens to a child, etc. He asked that someone explain what kind of discrimination is all about against western Fairfield, when requests for that area seems to always have to be voted on when other districts seem to get anything requested.

Ferguson: Commented that all buildings that were built, capital purchases and any fire trucks bought, etc. were all voted on by all members of Council. He also commented that the people of Greenbrier certainly have a reason to say what they have said, as there is one mini park in District 5 and none in the Greenbrier community of District 4.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Receive Legal Advice**

*It was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Council Member Trapp to go in executive session to receive legal advice and an economic development update. **The motion carried unanimously.***

*At 8:03 P.M., it was moved by Council Member Kinley; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry to come out of executive session and return to open session.*

*In open session, it was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Vice Chairman Perry for Council to give staff permission to continue to work on a prospective economic development issue. **The motion carried unanimously.***

**17. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 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