



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 2, 2017**

Present: Billy Smith, Doug Pauley, Neil Robinson, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Dan W. Ruff, Bertha Goins, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Jack James, County Attorney; Karen Roseberry, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Mikel Trapp, Council Member; Patti Locklair, 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 Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle, and one hundred twenty seven other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smith called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. INVOCATION

Vice Chair Goins led the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Ruff to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

Several citizens have requested to speak tonight; therefore, Chairman Smith announced that public comment will be allowed right before the executive session. Chairman Smith stated the sign-up sheet is located at the podium and to please sign up if you wish to speak. Also, Chairman Smith wanted to inform the citizens of the purpose of this meeting. First, thank you to all who came out tonight and the hope is to continue to see involvement from the citizens regarding this reprehensible abandonment plan announced on Monday afternoon. Some information will not be able to be shared publicly during this meeting; however, the presence of the citizens speaks to the Council and will hopefully speak to those who are responsible for this situation. This meeting was called because the Council was shocked along with the public following the announcement. Immediately after, the Council knew it needed to meet as soon as possible to begin to figure out a way to get through this. Fairfield County has a Fee in Lieu of Taxes Agreement on the project accepted in 2010 with SCANA and SCE&G which would have reduced the cost paid to the County and its citizens on the new units when they were completed and brought on line. This meeting is called for Council to discuss that agreement to see what, if any, avenues may be available within the agreement, within State, Federal and any other applicable law to hopefully be able to mitigate some of the extremely negative impact this negligent and careless decision is having and will continue to have on our County for the foreseeable future. As the Fee in Lieu of Taxes Agreement is a contract and there is very great potential that this could evolve into an extremely serious legal matter, Council's discussion tonight must be in executive session. With this said, Chairman Smith stated the County has been

partners with SCANA and SCE&G for a long time. The County is glad their operation is in our area and that it has contributed to our people. However, that does not lessen or make broken commitments and promises or abandonment of the crucial V.C. Summer nuclear project any more tolerable, does not help the County feel any less betrayed, does not help the thousands of workers who now find themselves jobless at no fault of their own, and it does not offer the South Carolina energy rate payers who have financed this mismanaged project with anything less than an empty bag and eroded faith. The magnitude of this failure cannot be overestimated. It is perhaps the largest, single financial disaster in our State's history. While Fairfield County is most immediately affected by this, the negative impacts will reach far across and beyond our State long into the future. This meeting is called to begin to get answers and try to identify a path forward. All options will be explored. This meeting is the first step in a likely long process, but be assured this Council and the Fairfield County team have come together on this issue and this will not be taken lightly or silently. The response began yesterday as some members of Council, our State Representative and Senator began responding on the heels of the abandonment plan presentation. This was the beginning but not the end, and our unified response will continue and will grow stronger. Again, Chairman Smith thanked the citizens for attending this meeting and their help in this matter.

Council Member Ruff appreciates the Chairman's comments and also thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight. This is a tragedy to Fairfield County and the State now and in the future, but in spite of this, our trust must be in the Lord and trust in each other to work together and band together to work through this in spite of this tragedy. The Council will work toward the best possible way to work this out, but in the end, the community as a whole must work together and stay together.

Council Member Robinson, speaking directly to the citizens, "It's truly a dark day in this State and especially for the residents of this County." Everyone is hurt and Council Member Robinson feels the pain felt by the community as his wife worked at V. C. Summer. The community wants answers and he wants them as well. Promises were made and broken, so it's left up to the community to stay strong and have faith in the Lord. There will be sunshine at the end, so stay strong and have faith in your Council as everything possible will be done for the County.

Vice Chair Goins speaking to the citizens present at tonight's meeting and the citizens of South Carolina, a word of encouragement was given, that even though times are difficult, Fairfield County is a very strong County. It's been through many difficult times in the past and will make it through this. Reflecting on the situation with SCANA, they have been a vital part of this community and in the end they will continue to be here. However, this issue is strictly business. It's difficult, but Vice Chair Goins asked that SCANA and all of its affiliates, as this process unwinds, remain transparent, remain and stand accountable and connected with the Council and the citizens of what exactly is going on. There may have been some discrepancies, intentional or not, but they need to be brought to the table. Speaking on the possibility of \$2.2 billion being returned to the customers, thinking of all the families and businesses affected, this would be just the tip. Vice Chair Goins asked that SCANA look beyond the barriers of politics and limitations and

reach deeper to restore this brokenness. This is not a typical situation but is a long term effect for children and grandchildren, school district, for every entity in this County and the State and even for people outside the State who came in to make homes here and be a part of this community. At the end when the dust is settled, let it not be said that the County tore itself apart. Relationships have begun with the Town and other agencies in Fairfield County and these need to be preserved. Vice Chair Goins closed with a thought, "a wise man will seek healing to the people because he understands it is the will of the Lord, and the Lord will bless him and the nation will prosper; a fool will bring much sorrow because he has made his belly his compass and his wits shall be as waste."

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME:

- Randy Bright
- Diana Robinson
- Tangee Jacobs

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION (SUBSEQUENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION).

At 6:19 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff, seconded by Vice Chair Goins to go into executive session for (a) Contractual Matter – V. C. Summer Fee in Lieu of Taxes Agreement. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

At 7:40 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

There was no action taken in executive session.

Chairman Smith reported again that the Council has been shocked by the announcement Monday afternoon. This meeting was scheduled as quickly as possible within the Freedom of Information Act guidelines. The Council has begun to look into options concerning this matter. Chairman Smith wished to assure everyone that the Council is doing everything possible to make sure that no leaf is left unturned throughout this process.

5. ADJOURN

At 7:42 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff, properly seconded by Council Member Douglas to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

KAREN ROSEBERRY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.
CHAIRMAN

MINUTES TYPED BY PATTI LOCKLAIR, CLERK TO COUNCIL.