



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 28, 2017**

Present: Doug Pauley, Neil Robinson, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Dan W. Ruff, Mikel Trapp, Bertha Goins, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Jack James, County Attorney; Patti Locklair, Clerk to Council.

Absent: Billy Smith.

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

Vice Chair Goins called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., thanking everyone for attending and also advising that Chairman Smith would not be in attendance tonight due to a pressing business engagement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Robinson led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Ruff to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2017. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

- 6. 1ST PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES):** All public comments made during this session must pertain to items on the agenda for which no Public Hearing is scheduled. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- Mr. Jeff Schaffer – Building Codes
- Mr. Randy Bright – Ordinance #687

7. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Application and Expenditure for the 2017 JAG (Justice Assistance Grant) Funds.** At this Public Hearing, Fairfield County will provide information concerning the proposed use of the funds in an identified program purpose area. Vice Chair Goins opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Mr. Jason Taylor explained that the application for this grant is yearly, and Sheriff Montgomery is present to speak on the specific details of the amount of the grant and how it is to be spent. Sheriff Montgomery set forth the amount of the grant is \$10,591.00 which will be used for four AED's and 55 ear pieces from Motorola. The ear pieces will assist the officers in situations of being in the proximity of a suspect when dispatch advises that there are warrants on the suspect. With the ear pieces, the suspect will not hear this conversation. Presently, suspects are able to hear this information, which is a safety issue for the officers. The AED's will be utilized one per shift and swapped out. The supervisor will carry the AED which will assist in medical issues until EMS arrives. Council Member Pauley inquired the total number of ear pieces, which will be 55, and this will be for the entire Sheriff's Department. Mr. Taylor interjected that the AED is a defibrillator. No one signed to speak; therefore, the public hearing was closed at 6:07 p.m.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A. Third and Final Reading: Ordinance No. 684 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2015 Edition of the International Building, Residential, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Fire Codes as the Mandatory Building Codes for Fairfield County, South Carolina.** It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 684. Council Member Ruff commented that he had spoken to Mr. Taylor concerning the code Ordinances and asked that a brief explanation be given concerning 684, 685 and 686. Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Tim Roseborough to come to the podium for any questions, but essentially, the County has been operating under these codes which must be formally adopted. Vice Chair Goins asked Mr. Roseborough to give more information. The building codes are adopted every three years by the State and the County is simply catching up with the adoption by Ordinance. Council Member Douglas asked if we could adopt an Ordinance to be in line with the State all the time. Mr. Roseborough stated this is an option. Mr. Taylor said many jurisdictions do this, but in the past, the County has passed the specific year. Council Member Robinson asked if there is a 2017 code and per Mr. Roseborough, there is, but it has not been adopted yet and is unknown when it will be adopted. Council Member Robinson suggested possibly tabling this Ordinance until the next meeting and ascertain when the State will adopt the new changes. Council Member Ruff pointed out that all three of these pending Ordinances are not on the same time table. The electrical code, per Mr. Roseborough, is every two years and other codes are every three years. Council Member Ruff suggested the Council approve the Ordinances now since the codes are being enforced and then take this discussion into

consideration in the future. Mr. Taylor and Vice Chair Goins agree since the County needs to adopt the codes that are now in force. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

- B. Third and Final Reading: Ordinance No. 685** – An Ordinance Adopting the 2014 Edition of the National Electric Code (NEC) as the Mandatory Electrical Code for Fairfield County, South Carolina. It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Ruff to approve the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 685. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***
- C. Third and Final Reading: Ordinance No. 686** – An Ordinance Adopting the 2009 Edition of the South Carolina Energy Conservation Code, Regulating and Governing Energy Efficient Building Envelopes and Installation of Energy Efficient Mechanical, Lighting and Power Systems in Fairfield County, South Carolina: Providing for the Issuance of Permits and Collection of Fees Therefor. It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 686. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***
- D. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 687** - An Ordinance Authorizing an Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park by and Between Richland County, South Carolina, and Fairfield County, South Carolina, to Expand the Boundaries of the Park to Include Certain Real Property Located in Richland County (209 Stoneridge, LLC); and Other Related Matters. It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 687. Vice Chair Goins remarked that this is extremely necessary for the movement and betterment of the County. Fairfield County is in competition with every other county in the area, and it will be hard work to get the right businesses in place for us. This is something the County has to do for survival. Council Member Douglas asked Mr. Taylor to expound on the "other related matters" portion of the Ordinance. This is a very broad "catch all" phrase. Mr. Taylor will research this and bring more information to the Council at the next reading. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Douglas to accept the minutes from the Chamber of Commerce. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

A. Aeronautics Commission - Jonathan Goode, District 6. Vice Chair Goins advised that this item will be tabled until further information is received.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of Approval of Application for 2017 JAG (Justice Assistance Grant) Funds.** It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the Application for the 2017 JAG Grant Funds. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A.** Report by Tony Hill, Fire Marshal - Update and Overview of Services: Mr. Hill reported that the fire services' main responsibility is to respond to emergencies from the citizens of the County. In addition, the EMS service requested the fire service respond to all roadway accidents to protect EMS. This is a new function within the past five years. The fire service has 166 volunteers whereas 15 years ago there were 250 members. This is a nationwide problem with recruitment and retention. Mr. Hill is aggressively exploring recruitment possibilities other than word of mouth. Training is provided through the S.C. Fire Academy with some type of training occurring every month in the County except December. Mr. Hill spoke on the smoke detector program that has been in place for the last 15 years, placing smoke detectors in homes at no cost to the homeowner with training. Fire Prevention Week will be the first week in October when the fire service will be at the schools with various programs in partnership with the National Fire Safety Council. The fire service also goes into the local businesses for fire extinguisher training. Again, Mr. Hill reiterated the County needs around 100 more volunteers. Council Member Douglas asked how the fire service is planning to get more volunteers. In the past, outreach was done at the local festivals; however, the fire service is now looking toward other forms of getting the word out such as advertisement, billboards, mail-outs, etc. Council Member Douglas also suggested informing the public of the longitude and latitude of the fire hydrants. The locations have been placed on a County map for the fire services' use. Fire investigations are performed and, if there is suspicion of criminal activity, law enforcement is contacted. The County fire service works well with the Town fire service assisting each other within a certain mile radius. Mr. Hill has two part-time workers who maintain the fire equipment to ensure proper working order, including 52 trucks with equipment on board. This is done on a weekly basis. Fire hydrants fall to the water system's responsibility. The County must work along with the water systems for fire hydrants. A program was used in the past to obtain many fire hydrants, especially in the Lake Wateree area, and this can possibly be used in the future. Lastly, ISO will be on the western side of the County on Wednesday for an evaluation. Blair, Feasterville and Jenkinsville will be combined to form one department, Fairfield Western Fire District. Also, the new radio system is working well. Council thanked Mr. Hill for the update.
- B.** Quarterly 4-H Report by Jennifer Stevens, along with Pinckney Leadership Conference Participants: A hand-out was given to the Council members by the Clerk including a review of activities for the past three months for Council to

peruse at their convenience. Tonight, Ms. Stevens wanted to highlight the six students selected from Fairfield Central High School to attend the Pinckney Leadership Conference at Clemson University. The conference was created in memory of Senator Pinckney, who was a leader in the community and an advocate of 4-H. Ms. Stevens thanked the Council members who took the opportunity to donate student registrations. The student participants were: Antione Young, Jeffery Feaster, DaYan Woodard, Alexis Williams, Gerell Lawhorne and Harrison Kennedy. All of the students could not attend the meeting tonight; however, two students were able to attend and one student, DaYan Woodard, wrote a letter, which Ms. Stevens read to Council. Antione Young and Jeffery Feaster then spoke also thanking the Council for the opportunity to attend the conference. Ms. Stevens has requested the students come back to the community and show the results of their labor. Vice Chair Goins thanked Ms. Stevens and the students wishing the students the best in life and thanking Ms. Stevens for her leadership and compassion to the young people. Council Member Ruff also thanked Ms. Stevens for her role in the community and the County is proud of all who attended the conference.

- C.** Eric Robinson, Library Director - Closing of Ridgeway Branch: Mr. Robinson realized that a report on the library had not been given since around 2006, so a brief overview was provided to Council. Mr. Robinson referred to information that had been distributed by the Clerk and thanked the Council for the current budget for the library. This budget comes to around \$21.90 per capita, and Mr. Robinson gave several scenarios breaking down the savings for the patrons of the library. Statistics for 2016-2017 were reviewed including a total number of patron visits of 80,443. Mr. Robinson also reviewed staff, library programs and services including job services and staff training. Mr. Robinson thanked the Sheriff's Department for the active shooter training recently, and plans in the future include contacting the Fire Marshal to discuss how to perform fire drills in order to keep the library patrons and staff safe. Some changes since the last report include renaming of the library to the Sarah D. McMaster Fairfield County Library, and Mr. Robinson thanked the Council for making this happen. Other changes include staff retirements and new employees/positions and, finally, the temporary closing of the Ridgeway branch. The current location is no longer feasible for health reasons; therefore, temporarily Ridgeway library needs will be serviced by the bookmobile after the current location is closed on September 1. Patrons can place holds on their books which will be delivered 1 or 2 days a week through the bookmobile, which the Mayor has given permission to be located in the Cotton Yard. A more permanent location is being sought but may take a while. Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Robinson for the update.
- D.** Suzanne Doscher, CEO Fairfield Memorial Hospital - Update on Fairfield Memorial Hospital Activities including Financial, Admissions and Reorganization Plans: Ms. Doscher reported the hospital continues to provide Emergency, Inpatient, Short Term Rehabilitation, Rural Health Clinic, Rehabilitative Therapy, Laboratory, Imaging, Respiratory and Home Health Services. Sleep studies and nuclear medicine services were recently discontinued and MRI will be discontinued in September. For July, the hospital reported a net loss of \$128,000 and year-to-date net loss of just over \$1m. Total cash in operating and restricted accounts is approximately \$1m before payroll later this week.

The volume of service continues to decline, and Ms. Doscher does not anticipate being able to decrease enough overhead to keep up with the current decline in revenue. Revenue decline is directly related to decreased admissions to the hospital. There has been a marked decline in admissions. Medicare and Medicaid pay a higher percentage for the cost of inpatient care as opposed to emergency services. The emergency room volumes had also been declining but have leveled off, due in part to the commitment to quality care with contracting EmCare to provide physician coverage along with a satisfaction tool. As determined by the Hospital Board and the County Council last year, the top priority for the community was to have 24 hour emergency room services. A big step in this direction was executing the non binding MOU with Providence Hospital in May. Many communities the size of Fairfield have lost their hospitals and/or 24 hour healthcare coverage. Ms. Doscher hopes to have discussions soon and be able to report on further details. It will be difficult to sustain the hospital with the declining admission volumes without help from the County. The hospital is also evaluating other outpatient services. Ms. Doscher invited all Council members to contact her to sit down and discuss any further questions. Council Member Douglas asked if Eau Claire Medical is being considered. Ms. Doscher reported Eau Claire has a lease that is running out and they would like to move into the medical office building. These talks are still underway. Council Member Pauley thanked Ms. Doscher for attending the meeting tonight and stated everyone understands the importance of healthcare in Fairfield County, making sure the best possible healthcare is available. However, Council Member Pauley is very concerned with healthcare in the County and had a few questions for Ms. Doscher:

Q: How many executive leaders are at FMH?

A: There are four, the CEO, the CFO whose primary responsibility is the financials of the hospital, a Chief Nursing Officer and an operations executive (COO) who is responsible for all services that are not nursing.

Q: Would you say that FMH executive structure is standard for other hospitals the size and profitability of FMH, even though services are not provided in the areas of surgery, cardiology, etc.?

A: I don't know of any hospital without a CEO, CFO and CNO. Sometimes the CEO will take care of the departments that the COO handles. So, the structure is similar, or maybe three.

Q: Does the outpatient clinic, Blue Granite, make a profit?

A: It does not.

Q: Has it ever made a profit?

A: Not that I am aware of.

Q: Why is it still open?

A: Blue Granite is a primary care provider in the community and there is a great need for additional primary care providers. There is no primary care provider that can stand alone as a provider's office, the Martin Center gets assistance from USC, Fairfield Medical Associates brings in other types of revenue opportunities. In a larger hospital, there are always discussions on why so much money is lost with providers. They make money in other ways, by ordering lab tests, imaging tests, providing a need to the community. There is not a single excess provider in this community and the community needs more.

Q: How much money has the hospital had to write off or adjust due to errors on their part in the last year?

A: I will try to get the information for you.

Q: Board and staff members are supposedly attending a conference in Hilton Head next month. How does the attendance to this conference help the hospital?

A: Like this conversation, there is no amount of education that is not beneficial. They are volunteer board members, do not get paid and it is their opportunity to interact and network with their peers and to learn more about healthcare.

Q: Is the hospital paying for the trip to Hilton Head?

A: Yes.

In closing, Council Member Pauley stated if the hospital pays for the Hilton Head trip and then returns to Council for additional money, he will have no alternative but to vote no, with the hospital in its current financial condition.

Council Member Robinson also had the following questions:

Q: How many full-time employees are employed by the hospital?

A: A month ago, I would say 142, but some cuts were made recently. I don't know the exact number but probably around 135.

Q: This is a small rural County, and I was told that the employees were told to take a pay cut.

A: They were not told to take a pay cut. The staffing was not matching volumes and so staffing was adjusted to volumes.

Q: Meaning that certain departments were cut?

A: Hours were cut.

Q: Were any of the executives' pay cut?

A: No salaried employees were cut.

Q: What generates the most money at the hospital?

A: Probably imaging services.

- E. Solar Eclipse Comments: Mr. Taylor had a few comments concerning the Solar Eclipse event. The County was provided with a grant by Davidson College in association with the Fairfield County Museum, and a program was held at the ball field on Garden Street with an educational program the night before. The educational program drew about 100 people and the event the day of the Eclipse drew around 1700 people. It was a very successful event and Mr. Taylor, again, wanted to thank the Museum and Davidson College for their assistance.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

- 15. 2ND PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES):** All public comments made during this session must pertain to items not on the agenda or under Council's consideration. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- Jeff Schaffer - General Thoughts
- Randy Bright - Priority One

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Douglas: Grand opening for the Mitford Recreation Center was held yesterday, August 27, with a great crowd. Thanks to all who participated in making this a success.

Ruff: Commended Vice Chair Goins on a job well done in chairing the meeting tonight. Also, he appreciates the comments on how well the new radio system is working with this being the lowest bid and obviously performing very well. In addition, he will not be at the next meeting due to a family obligation.

Robinson: Thanked Administration and the Recreation Department for the Back to School event at Drawdy Park. Getting the community together was great, and if possible, maybe this could be a twice a year event versus once. The people liked the fact that the County came forward to try to get the community together versus just asking for participation from citizens with recreation.

Trapp: Recreation participating with the Back to School event was great. This could be improved by taking it to other areas, the western and eastern sides of the County. The children in the outer areas of the County may not have transportation to get to Winnsboro, so it would be advantageous if this could be spread out to other areas.

Goins: Agreed that possibly the event could be spread out into different areas in the future. Also, thanks to Administration and Councilman Douglas for the event at Mitford. She is also looking forward to opening the Jenkinsville Recreation Center on September 17. Everyone is invited in hopes that this will be a good event for the community.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)

At 7:30 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Ruff to go into executive session for (a) Receipt of Legal Advice - Review of potential litigation and other legal options regarding SCANA's planned abandonment of the proposed V.C. Summer New Nuclear Units in Jenkinsville. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

At 8:14 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff and seconded by Council Member Trapp 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.

PATTI LOCKLAIR
CLERK TO COUNCIL

WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.
CHAIRMAN