



**MINUTES
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 29, 2011**

Present: David L. Ferguson, Sr., R. David Brown, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Dwayne Perry, Carolyn B. Robinson, Mikel R. Trapp, Council Members; Philip L. Hinely, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Jack James, County Attorney; Shryll M. 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 fifty-three other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M.

2. INVOCATION

Council Member Kinley led in the invocation.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Presentation: Catawba Regional Local Foods Coalition

Ms. Gloria Kellerhals and Mr. Ben Boyles gave a presentation of the Catawba Regional Local Foods Coalition, which is a partnership, planning and leadership development program that targets the small individual who want to make money for their family. Her presentation included speaking about a farmer's market/artisans market and classroom and small space to be used to lease to help support the market. She mentioned that the Council may have an old building that they could put to this purpose.

Questions:

- What is the timetable in getting starting in Chester and what is the expected timetable to network with the other counties?
- How much money was received from the grant?

B. Disposition Of Fairfield County Annex Building

Mr. Hinely prefaced the discussion by saying bids have been received on having the building demolished and he wanted to seek the Council's pleasure. Chairman Ferguson asked each member of Council to give their position on the matter:

Perry: If Council did not talk about this tonight and based on the last meeting, impression was the building was condemned, which was one of the main reasons why the County moved Voter Registration out of the building. Don't see spending any of the taxpayers' money that is condemned. Not against preservation. Going to be expensive to make the building safe. As long as it does not cost the County money to preserve that building and Council places a comfortable time limit, am open to that. As far as being dead space, if the building is condemned, it gives Council an opportunity to put another building there. Don't want abandoned buildings around with no one occupying it.

Kinley: Parking lot is not a desirable look. Don't want to let the building sit. Looks bad to see vacant buildings. Asked if the gentlemen could come and make a presentation to the Council and give a year to put his plan in action. Don't want it to sit longer than that. Would be very advantageous to look at the presentation.

Brown: Don't see where the County needs to be spending money if can secure a grant. Agree that it does not need to be an empty building sitting. Cannot believe the Town of Winnsboro has not gotten involved because it is in a historical district. Am aware of the building in Chester that this group is doing and feel like this building is in better shape than that one. If this group can get a grant and stabilize that building... It would be an asset to downtown with the parking behind and an asset to the community for people who might want to plant a half acre of okra and pickle it.

Marcharia: Agree with several things heard. Thought that the building property lies within the Town of Winnsboro, rather than under the County auspices. Think we need to look at that - if they want to seek grants for the next year; if we are not in a rush to see what kind of funds they can come up with to strengthen that and also to refurbish that parking lot. It is enough space to accommodate any kind of market you would have in that particular location. Am not sure what kind of jobs it would create. Need to explore it since it is going to be sitting there.

Trapp: Agree with Mr. Perry. As long as the County does not have to expend any funds to redo the building, don't have a problem with it.

Robinson: Think the County is being a little hasty because need to explore all the aspects. The Chamber had talked about possibly having it opened up to have a market there. That's why it needs to be in committee to let the committee act and have the people come forward and make some presentations. Are not making a lot of decisions that need to be studied through committees. Have some legwork done as to what could possibly be done for grants for that building.

Ferguson: While waiting on things to be done and talking about a building that has been condemned, have had two sets of notations on that building over the last three years from authorities about the condition of the building. That building, once Voter Registration and the other two entities moved out of it, became a non-occupied building. If anything is to be done with the building, it is going to have to be done quick, fast and in a hurry because that is, more or less, a liability for the County to accept. As far as sending it to the committee, the seven of Council has to make the decision; so any programs that are presented will be presented to the full seven. One of the things that would be forefront would be could this be done to a third party as far as owning the building and getting the County totally out of the upkeep, maintenance and insurance. How would the taxpayers buy into that. A lot of questions would have to be answered before any decisions can be made on it. A proposal coming back to the Council is probably the way to go. Whatever is done, give it a suitable amount of time to come forward to ascertain if it is in the best of the taxpayers of the County.

It was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Council Member Robinson to allow a group of interested people to come in; make a presentation and see if we can live within a year guideline to see how fast this can be taken care of. During discussion, the Chairman set forth that the one year time line would be a very workable timeline and Council can draw up the aspects of what the expectations would be in a year, as well as a third party entity owning the building or taking over the building. Mr. Hinely was asked to take this on as an assignment; to get the individuals who are interested in it to come back and make a detailed presentation, with the understanding that it will be at no expense to the County. The motion carried unanimously.

{Council recessed at 6:45 P.M.}

{Council returned from recess at 7:23 P.M.}

The following individual signed to speak during public comment section:

1. Mr. Wil Stewart

Mr. E. Sutton signed to speak; but asked that his name be removed from the sheet and left the room prior to the public comment section.

C. Criteria For Developing Plans For The 2010 Redistricting Process

Mr. Wayne Gilbert, Office of Research, outlined the following criteria for developing plans for the 2010 Redistricting process, and also indicated he would be presenting background information about the census, the database where it comes from, going over some benchmark statistics and looking at a proposed map:

1. Adhere to the court ordered constitutional requirement of one person, one vote
 - a. County Councils must adhere to a state law of population variance under 10%
2. Adherence to the 1965 Voting Rights Act as amended and by controlling court decisions
3. Ensure that parts of the districts are contiguous
4. Respect Communities of Interest
5. Attempt to maintain constituent consistency
6. Avoid splitting voting precincts
7. Solicit public input

Construction of a Redistricting Plan

- Step 1 – Construct Benchmark Plan
- Step 2 – Locate incumbents
- Step 3 – Copy Benchmark Plan and adjust blocks to adhere to 1965 Voting Rights Act, the constitutional requirement of one person, one vote and traditional redistricting principles.
- Step 4 – Hold public hearings
- Step 5 – Pass plan at local level (3 readings County Council, 2 readings City Council)
- Step 6 – Submit to Justice Department
- Step 7 – Receive preclearance letter and implement plan

{At this point, Council and Mr. Gilbert discussed some benchmark statistics and looked at a proposed map}.

After discussion, Chairman Ferguson set forth the following:

- Look over what was presented.
- Mr. Hinely was asked to request maps from ORS of where the Council currently is (as of the discussion tonight).
- Consider a worksession for Wednesday, September 7th.
- First Reading will be held tonight. Second Reading will be held Monday night, September 12th.
- If the School Board wants to meet with the Council when the Council meets with Mr. Gilbert after he gets the maps drawn (get it explained to all seven of the School Board).

It was moved by Council Member Brown; seconded by Council Member Robinson to adopt the Criteria For Developing Plans For The 2010 Redistricting Process. The motion carried unanimously.

D. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 591 - An Ordinance Adopting A Redistricting Plan For Fairfield County, South Carolina Utilizing The 2010 U.S. Census Results
It was moved by Council Member Marcharia; seconded by Council Member Trapp to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 591. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 P.M., upon the unanimous approval of Council.

SHRYLL M. BROWN
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DAVID L. FERGUSON, SR.
CHAIRMAN