



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

Present: Billy Smith, 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; Tommy Morgan, Attorney; Patti L. Davis, 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 thirty five other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the Agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Douglas led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2018. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

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.

- Shirley Greene - Government Complex
- Donnie Laird - Mt. Zion
- Yvette Howard - Mt. Zion
- Bill McDonald - Mt. Zion
- Heyward Banks - Mt. Zion and Economic Development
- Jackie Workman - Mt. Zion
- Bill Haslett - Mt. Zion

- Jeff Schaffer - SCE&G
- Jana Childers - Mt. Zion
- Randy Bright - SCANA

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A.** An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Accept the Conveyance of 2.72 Acres, More or Less, Situated on Old Windmill Road, Near Ridgeway, South Carolina, in the County of Fairfield, to be Used for Public Safety or Other Uses Deemed Fit by Fairfield County Council, and Other Related Matters. Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 6:28 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, by motion of Council Member Ruff and second by Council Member Douglas, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 6:28 p.m. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

None.

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Goins to accept the minutes from the Chamber of Commerce as presented. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A.** Mr. Russell Price, Director - Overview of Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Price thanked Council for the opportunity to present tonight. He introduced Barbara Mack, Deputy Director, and together they have 45 years of recreation experience and 60 years of service to Fairfield County.
- Currently, the department handles over 13 parks and three facilities. Not included in this list is City Park in Ridgeway, which is maintained by the department, and Fortune Springs Park Pool, which will be taken over by the County in the near future.
 - Athletic Staff includes Lucas Vance, Athletic Coordinator and Larry Perry, Athletic Specialist. The department is currently in the midst of the fall schedule of sports, including flag football, football and soccer. The winter sports consist of basketball from age 4 through age 12. Mr. Price started in his position during basketball season last year and saw an increase of 38 participants going from 200 to 238. The spring sports consist of tee

ball, machine pitch, baseball and softball. These numbers are up by 43 participants in this category, a total of 284 participants in baseball and softball. Mr. Price stated winning trophies is good, but this is not the department's goal. The goal is to make kids want to come back, have fun and participate and teach them to be good people.

- The program staff consists of Cindy Pauley, Program Coordinator, Marsha Cloud, Program Specialist and Aliyah Miller, Recreation Specialist. Youth programs include the after school program, dance, gymnastics and summer camp. During the after school program from 2:30 to 5:30, the kids receive a meal/snack, play activities/games and the counselors assist with homework. The dance program has increased from 11 last year to 22 this year. The dance registration fee was increased in order to get a qualified instructor to come to Fairfield, and since this time, the numbers have doubled. Therefore, if you provide a good product, people will come. The gymnastics program increased from 38 last year to 59 presently. Summer camp usually has about 80 kids from 7:30 to 5:30 with two field trips per week and meals. Adult exercise programs include soul line dancing, cycling, Zumba, cardio bounce and group resistance/pilates. Senior programs include bingo and field trips twice a month.
- Maintenance staff includes Joe Novaro, Grounds Lead, Darrell Brown, Facility Lead and Mark Whalen and Paul Keller, Maintenance Specialists. The department is fortunate that the Detention Center provides five trustees to assist, and without this help, the department would not be able to do everything that needs to be done.
- Some projects recently completed by the department include infield renovations at the city parks (Drawdy Park and Garden Street) and dugout renovations and bleachers at Drawdy Park. Current projects include the Fortune Springs Park Pool and coordinating the renovation of tennis courts. Future projects will include field renovations on the outer parts of the County, Lake Monticello, 34 and Rufus Belton Park. Press boxes and concession areas will also be improved.

Mr. Price encouraged everyone to contact the department with any suggestions for improvement. On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, Mr. Price thanked the Council for providing what is needed to have a successful program. Council Member Pauley thanked Mr. Price for attending tonight and the department's efforts are very much appreciated. He inquired of the current participation fee for Fairfield County compared to other counties, and how long has this fee been in place. Per Mr. Price, the fee is \$20 and the next lowest fee, he believes, is Chester County at \$40. Anywhere else would be much higher. Not only is the fee low at \$20, but this also includes a pair of pants, helmet and shoulder pads. Most everywhere else, the uniform must be purchased by the participant. Council Member Pauley opined it would benefit the County to increase the participation fee, and Mr. Price agreed, even on the low end. Council Member Pauley also asked if the department has an open gym on any night during the week for the kids. Per Mr. Price, the open gym is usually on Sunday; however, the problem is not having enough room. Council Member Pauley also asked if we currently use the football field at Drawdy Park. Per Mr. Price, the upper field is designated now just for soccer. A great relationship has been built with the school

system, and he invited everyone out tomorrow for the first game which will be played at the high school. This is bringing back the home town feel. Council Member Robinson also feels the fee is low. He feels the parks look great, and he questioned if there are open gates for people to walk. Per Mr. Price, access to the fields are all the same, there are no gates on any of the fields. Council Member Robinson feels we should increase the fees on Sunday and quite possibly the need is there for another gymnasium. Mr. Price agrees that more space is needed as the gymnasium is not only used for recreation but also for rental events. The department is trying to service the youth and adults with activities and people also want to rent the space. Council Member Douglas inquired when the rentals would be increased, and Chairman Smith stated this is a Council decision and would be discussed during the next budget session. Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Price and Ms. Mack for everything they do. She also inquired of the youth and senior participation on the west side, the Greenbrier area. Per Mr. Price, there is bingo twice a month for which some people attend. He feels now more folks are wanting to come into Winnsboro and get on a draft to play with same ages. Vice Chair Goins was inquiring concerning the need for help with transportation, and Mr. Price stated he doesn't want to leave anyone behind. Council Member Ruff feels the increase in the participation numbers is very impressive. He also inquired of the ball field in Ridgeway, and per Mr. Price, this can be used as long as it is scheduled through the department to ensure that it is available. However, Mr. Price would like to see this given to the County so much needed improvements could be done. Chairman Smith asked where this park is located. Mr. Price stated it is named City Park, right across from Charm. Chairman Smith also thanked Mr. Price and feels the department has been on a great upswing as evidenced by the increased participation numbers. He also suggested that next year when the budget is discussed, the fees could be raised and put toward transportation costs to assist the citizens. He feels one of the issues in the outer areas of the County with transportation is that people aren't going to call to inquire about this because it hasn't been offered in the past. Instead, it is written off as not available to them, and this can be fixed by using any additional fee amounts to help pay for fuel and any extra fees associated with this.

- B.** Request of Action: Revision to Procurement Manual - Local Preference. Administration and Finance Committee recommends approval. Per Mr. Taylor, this has passed committee and was on the last agenda; however, a vote was not taken at that time. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, properly seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve the Revision to the Procurement Manual concerning the Local Preference. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- C.** Request of Action: Purchase of 2017 CAT D6 Bulldozer (Demo) for use at the Fairfield Commerce Center as well as other Fairfield County projects. Administration and Finance Committee recommends approval. Per Mr. Taylor, this purchase is made using funds from Economic Development. Timber has been cut at the Commerce Center generating over \$200,000 and a bulldozer is being purchased in order to do in-house rough grading of the land, which will save the County money. Grading on property is usually very expensive. This is a used piece of equipment, and he asked Mr. Jake Gaston to further explain. Per Mr. Gaston, Economic Development and his department discussed how to

improve the look of Commerce and also save some funds by doing some things in-house. The department's current bulldozer is a 1980 model Caterpillar D6 with about 20,000 hours and is very limited in what it can do. Once the timber was cut, the idea was to get a piece of equipment to enable the County to do more toward having things look more presentable and appealing for prospective industry. The 2017 CAT D6 was found with 850 hours and includes a 3,000 hour maintenance powertrain and hydraulic warranty. On a piece of equipment such as this, 800 hours is practically new. It will be used quite often at Commerce but also in-house working on the parks, etc. Mr. Gaston feels this is a comfortable price. The County's operator is comfortable with the equipment and can also work on the equipment. The County will retain the 1980 model also. Council Member Robinson made a motion, properly seconded by Council Member Douglas to approve the Purchase of the 2017 CAT D6 Bulldozer (Demo). Council Member Robinson inquired the purchase price of the equipment and how it is being paid. Per Mr. Taylor, the cost is \$165,500. Revenue from the timber being cut at the Commerce Center has resulted in a little over \$200,000 so far with about another \$25,000 from the timber sales expected. This revenue will be used to purchase the equipment. Chairman Smith offered appreciation to staff who put this deal together. This was discussed during the budget work sessions, and actually a little more money was made than was thought for the timber value. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

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.

- Ronnie Murphy - Roads
- Rose Murphy - Roads
- Peggy Swearingen - The Question Is
- Jeff Schaffer - Just Opinions
- Randy Bright - Out Darn Spot

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Douglas: Council Member Douglas questioned if the Council has something to vote on, even if all are in agreement, is someone supposed to say nay? He hopes not. There is very little asbestos in the school building or auditorium/gym. The asbestos at the Mt. Zion property is in the floor inside the lunchroom, and this is not very big. The forum was a success, and every question was answered. Everyone was told if they needed additional information to get in touch with administration. No one on the Council or administration or 1st & Main has lied about anything. What is the real reason some do not want the Mt. Zion project? 1st & Main and

administration explained in detail how grants and tax incentives work. Cost to the County for the administration office at Mt. Zion would be \$7.3M, not the total cost of \$12.8M. A new building would cost \$13.4M. The current administration building would cost \$8.5M to redo. The Wal-Mart building would cost \$13.1M. The hospital building would be \$13.2M. If the office complex is not built, it would probably be years before it is torn down. It would be an eye sore even worse after further deterioration.

Goins: Vice Chair Goins spoke concerning some small things. There was a petition done in the west side about the monument situation. Small things: She would like for a petition to be done to restructure the Jenkinsville Water Company in order to be more productive for the west side and to connect with the County. Small things: Broad River Campground, she wants to say thank you to Mr. D. Melton for not giving up on this project because this is the second time it has been a refuge for evacuees. Small things: The wedding venue, Ms. Wendy Bracewell, also was a refuge for evacuees at no cost. Sometimes we see so many negative things, we overlook the small things and the great works that are being done. After the forum, someone approached Vice Chair Goins and they were upset. She wished to say thank you to this individual because they came to her to talk about it. This is how we resolve problems. Rather than carry it somewhere else, go directly to that person. She has an open door policy and is willing to talk to resolve issues. She also apologized if she worded some things in a manner which offended anyone. She is sincere and serious about this County, about the citizens, about progress.

Ruff: Council Member Ruff had someone contact him in reference to a misunderstanding concerning the new fire and EMS building on Old Windmill Road and that the fire and EMS at Southeastern could possibly be closed as a result. This is not true. Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Jason Pope to be here tonight to address these concerns definitively. We do not want to do anything to hurt existing services, and instead, wish to augment and improve service. Per Mr. Pope, this has never been a part of the picture. The new building will be a substation of the current Southeastern fire station. Eventually there will be a fire engine and a fire tanker there. Once an ISO rating is assigned, it will significantly decrease the insurance rates of about 300 homes. The EMS has not been in the picture, but this may change. The current EMS substation is co-located at the Southeastern station. The plan right now, as Mr. Pope understands, is to leave this in place. The Sheriff may put a boat for closer access to the lake. Council Member Douglas spoke with EMS, and they feel it might be a good idea to have something in place for holidays and vacation time but not all the time. Council Member Ruff thanked Mr. Pope for the clarification. He also agrees with increasing the recreation fees to support other needed services. The SCE&G updates in executive session were also mentioned tonight. Most of the time there is no information; however, if it needs to be talked about, it's listed and this is transparency. He asked Mr. Taylor to also respond to this. Per Mr. Taylor, this is essentially a placeholder because this is an ongoing lawsuit. We never know what developments may occur, but in case something does occur, it's on the agenda so Council can be updated. Council Member Ruff asked if there is any information to pass along to the public. Chairman Smith stated this is in reference to the recent development which was reported in the paper, and asked Mr. Taylor or Mr. Morgan to further explain. Per Mr. Taylor, the case came up and the Judge wanted some time to think about it. He put it off until

later in the meeting. When that time came, the Judge said he did not want to hear this and wanted to "punt". He may make a request for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina to assign one judge for all of these related cases. Council Member Ruff stated a lot of time is not being wasted on this issue, but we're not giving up either. He also asked for Mr. Taylor to give an update on the Ridgeway Library status and District 1 recreation. Per Mr. Taylor, the County has leased a building, and the building has been redone using in-house staff. A little more exterior work is needed to ensure ADA accessibility and to correct some drainage problems. He met with the Library Director today, and bookshelves are coming from a warehouse where libraries contribute unused equipment. This should occur by the end of the week, and the Library should be open in no more than three weeks. On recreation, we will possibly work with Meade and Hunt, an engineering firm, to do some drawings. The drawings are not yet to an appropriate point and the cost is high, so we are trying to work on this to have an affordable facility.

Robinson: Council Member Robinson is sure everyone heard the good information concerning Element, and he would like to think that he and Chairman Smith played a part in this with their DC trip. He is thankful for this development. The hard part of being a Council member is that citizens assume you're not being transparent enough for them. This is not actually the case. If Council discloses some things that are being worked on, there would be repercussions. Jobs are going to come, we just have to wait to disclose information. Also, he was one of the catalysts who started discussions concerning the gym on Fairfield Street. As stated tonight, our only open gym is on Sundays, but there might be someone who wants to rent the facility get married on that Sunday, so where will the kids go? His thinking was to try to do something with old Fairfield; however, he doesn't believe this will happen now. He would love for the kids to have somewhere to go in the afternoons, somewhat of a community center, but he doesn't think this will happen. He has had many people who support the new admin project and many who are against it. For the forum last week, only 12 people submitted questions out of a County of 23,000. He received a message today about petitions in reference to this project. This is your American right to do; however, he asked that correct information be disseminated and people are told what you're fighting for. The Council is open to suggestions; however, right now, this is the cheapest option for us. Taxes will not be raised with these numbers. He also received correspondence today concerning himself and another Council member in an attempt to change their decisions. His phone number is 803-402-0211, and he asked that you please call him to have dialogue to get the correct information out. We don't need negativity due to false information as we are trying to bring the County together and move it forward.

Smith: Chairman Smith spoke concerning some of the misinformation about the Mt. Zion project. For some reason, he has heard over and over again that the County is signing a blank check and has no cap. That is not true. That is not true. That is not true. At this time, there is an \$8M cap in the project. He feels this always happens around election time and someone may be on a misguided track and perfectly willing to burn the County down as long as they can rule over the ashes. He feels we need to be cognizant of that, watch out for this and make sure on election day you are taking the time to talk with people and get information on your own. He has put countless hours into speaking with people about this issue.

Some have come away in agreement and some have continued to disagree, but each one has appreciated the dialogue and willingness to talk about it. The other thing in the contract, and this was discussed in the forum, if we sign the agreement, our exposure at most would be \$175,000. This is what we will have committed, and if we, for whatever reason, pull out of the contract before all is figured out or before construction starts, the most we will have to pay is \$175,000. At the end of the day, the biggest exposure is \$175,000. Chairman Smith feels most of this is campaign rhetoric, and he challenges Council to vote in favor of this. Any new Council members can review and vote to do away with it and raise property taxes to do something else at that time. This is something they would have the right and privilege to do, and he would like to offer this opportunity.

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 7:31 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Robinson to go into executive session for (a) Legal Matter - Update on Litigation Against SCANA/SCE&G in Reference to the Abandoned V.C. Summer New Nuclear Project, (b) Proposed Contractual Matter - Discussion Regarding a Proposed Contract on the Potential Development of a New County Administration Building to Better Serve the Citizens of Fairfield County and (c) Contractual Matter - Discussions Regarding Contractual Issues in Proposed Land Conveyance to County, TMS #134-02-000-008-000. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

At 8:34 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Council Member Ruff to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

No action was taken in Executive Session.

18. ADJOURN

At 8:34 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, properly seconded by Vice Chair Goins to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.
CHAIRMAN