



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 25, 2022**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Cornelius Robinson, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Doug Pauley (Council Members); Malik Whitaker (County Administrator), Charles Boykin (County Attorney).

Absent: None

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 forty two other individuals.

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the meeting is being live-streamed through the County's YouTube page in order to keep citizens informed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Councilman Trapp led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Trapp to approve the minutes from the Audit Presentation April 4, 2022 & Regular Meeting of April 11, 2022. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. 1ST PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, FOR WHICH NO PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED OR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.

- Jeff Schaffer
- Randy Bright - Projects

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

None.

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Behavioral Health Services - 11/15/21 & 1/24/22 for information.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Behavioral Health Services - M. Kay Boulware (District 1), Vernon Anderson (District 2), Brian Bonds (District 7)

Council on Aging – Herb Rentz (District 7)

I-77 Alliance – Jennifer Eickmeyer

Mr. Bell asked if Council would agree to a motion to appoint all applicants. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Pauley said he had nothing against any of the board members but he thought they should check to make sure they had not extended their time. He thought they had. He thought they had served since 2014. He said they needed to check with the Clerk to see if they were trying to locate others to serve on these boards. There were three members on the Behavioral Health Services board and if they had extended their time maybe they could stay on until they found someone else. Mr. Bell asked Dr. Roberts if she talked to Mr. Kennedy. Dr. Roberts said she spoke his Executive Assistant Ms. Johnson, several times. She said the persons Councilman Pauley were referencing had served since their terms expired in 2014 and 2015. They had continued to serve. Mr. Bell said he believed they had continued to serve without an appointment. Dr. Roberts said she did not find in the records where they were re-appointed after their terms expired. Mr. Bell said these were reappointments. Mr. Pauley said he believed the bylaws said they could serve two consecutive terms. Mr. Bell said yes but as Dr. Roberts stated there was no reappointment. Mr. Pauley said right, so the question would be would they put a timeline on it – like six months until they found someone else. He said they could not continue to let them serve six years, nine years, twelve years. Mr. Bell said, as he understood it, all of these persons would be unable to serve another term after this one because this would be their second term due to it not coming before Council until now. He said what they were trying to do was look at all of the board and commission appointments to make sure they were true appointments and

members were not just serving. Mr. Pauley said ok. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Projects Update – Mr. Whitaker said they had a report from the Economic Development Director, Ty Davenport, and from Deputy County Administrator.

Mrs. Williams announced a typo on the agenda for the second budget work session. It was dated Monday, April 26th and the date should have been Tuesday, April 26th. She stated the meeting would be held tomorrow (26th) at 350 Columbia Road. She also announced that Samira Yaghi, who was present at the last Council meeting, won the popular vote and was the National Unsung Hero. They were coordinating with Petco for the check presentation at a local Petco in the Midlands. She said once those details were confirmed, Council would be notified and press releases would go out. Mr. Bell said it was very warm in the Chamber and asked if the next report could be given timely.

Mr. Davenport said these were exciting times for economic development in South Carolina and in Fairfield County. They had seen levels of activity rise in the past but never like this. His colleagues across the State all agreed that there was more project activity today than in the last 30 years. Reshoring impacts, tariffs, worldwide labor shortages, rising consumer demands and the need to manufacture where you sell were all driving project activity through the roof. He said probably the newest and biggest driver of today's unprecedented activity was the accelerated development of electric vehicles. The EV plants were massive and there were many in the planning stages, while others had already selected a community. Not only were the EV plants coming but the battery plants as well. The battery plant facilities employed thousands and invested billions. He said hopefully, their investment in new product and critical infrastructure would allow them to compete in this growth area. To drive home the point of the need to invest in critical infrastructure, he quoted John Truluck, his economic development colleague in Dorchester County, as he discussed the economic impact of Walmart's recent \$220 million investment in his County. John

said this would be a historic day in Dorchester County. He especially thanked County Council and Administrator, Jason Ward, for recognizing 15 years ago that to have economic development there had to be water and waste water to support it. Walmart coming there that day was proof that those continued investments pay off. Mr. Davenport said like Dorchester County in 2004, they were also developing the future of Fairfield County. They just completed a 450,000 sq. ft. building pad (he referred to the yellow building on the slide). They had a ribbon cutting and the pad would serve new industries looking at the area in the future. To give perspective, he said it was the size of eight football fields. He believed there was only one pad bigger in the State and it was in Charleston near the port. It was a million square feet. When companies searched for new locations, they looked for ways to save time, reduce costs and eliminate risks. Graded pads and speculative buildings were a great way to accomplish these goals. They were already seeing activity on this pad. Their marketing efforts were paying off and consultants were calling asking for preliminary information. He thought they would have success there soon. In addition to the completed pad, they were designing another million square feet pad next to it, which would equal 17 football fields and compete with the Charleston pad. These pads would allow for companies to build their facilities quickly and to their unique needs. The pads were effective but most companies were looking for existing buildings - speed to market, they want to get in and get going. Buildings were at a premium and there were not very many of them available across the southeast. They were going to build a 100,000 sq. ft. speculative building (he referred to the red area on the slide) and it could expand to 275,000 sq. ft. He knew it would draw activity quickly. He hoped it would sell before it was finished. He said beyond these projects, they were working on the I-77 mega site. They received bids a couple of weeks ago that came in under budget. They would mass grade that property and it would be over a million square feet and was happening now - the bid was awarded. In addition to mass grading it, they would do something called "day lighting", which along I-77 they would selectively cut trees so the pad itself would be visible. They were hoping to put up a billboard to advertise the pad and to make known the other things going on in Fairfield County. He said finally, they continued to make progress on the sewer plant. As his colleague said from Dorchester County, water and sewer were critical to succeed. To that end, the Fairfield Joint Water & Sewer System had engaged an engineering firm to study and develop the most efficient route for the 20-mile (plus) long collection line. Additionally, the Joint Water & Sewer System authorized the engineer to make specific site location recommendations for the facility itself. The ultimate location of the facility was not random. Among other things, the new plant would

need road access, electricity and somewhat of an isolated location. The current members of the joint system, the Town of Winnsboro and Fairfield County, recognized the importance of new capacity and were working together to move the project forward. Council had no questions and Mr. Bell thanked him for the report.

Mr. Whitaker informed Council that the sign to the Ridgeway Community Center site was vandalized - a police report was filed and he would keep them updated. He guessed it happened over the weekend.

Mr. Gilbert said he received an email last week in reference to the survey and wanted to know the plans to move forward. Mr. Whitaker said it was at the will of the Council. Since he was the lead on the project, they presented him with the information for further instruction. Mr. Gilbert said he would like it to come before full Council so they could move forward. Mr. Whitaker said ok. Mr. Pauley asked if he was going to bring it to Council for a vote. Mr. Whitaker said no - one of the challenges they had was a lack of a project initiation process. They would have to develop that so as the project initiator, he wanted to give the information to Mr. Gilbert for further instruction. Mr. Gilbert said he did not see where it needed to be voted on - it was something that needed to be done. Mr. Whitaker said ok - they did receive quotes and he would provide that information and start the process of how to get an item on the agenda.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mr. Robinson asked if they could ensure the air conditioning was working tomorrow since they would be there for a while. He said he had better days in the desert. Mr. Bell said ok.

Mr. Bell said he was saddened by the defacement of the sign at the District 1 Community site location - not so much for him but for the citizens in the area. He was also very hopeful - he would explain later. The sad piece was that too many in this County leave their communities and themselves should receive all the benefits of this great County and if you get in the way, they must try to rid themselves of that hinderance. He received a call on Thursday and told Councilman Robinson about the call on Friday. The caller stated you all were doing the right thing to grow this County and to grow out its infrastructure. But many do not want to see you and this Council be a part of the wealth that would come to the County for your work. As stated in the call, they were working to build the infrastructure in a way that gives them sustainable growth into the future, the ability to recruit industry, continue to build speculative buildings, provide rural water to areas that were without and complete the

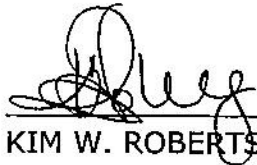
high-speed internet to 96%-98% of the citizens of Fairfield County and an overall improvement in the quality of life for all citizens of the County. He was hopeful and purposeful. Regarding the defacement of the sign, there were many who were working very hard to incite others with many others granting permission. He understood. However, the sign did not belong to Fairfield County Council. The sign itself was the property of Fairfield County. Once the investigation was completed by the Sheriff's Department, Fairfield County, as part of its governmental duties, would erect a new sign. He was excited and hopeful that the citizens of Ridgeway and the surrounding communities would soon enjoy the benefits of the community recreation center as others. He ended with the quote by John Kennedy - "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

16. 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.)

None.

ADJOURN

At 6:23 p.m., motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Councilman Trapp, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***



KIM W. ROBERTS, Ed. D.
CLERK TO COUNCIL



MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN