

# MINUTES REGULAR MEETING FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

**Present:** Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Timothy Roseborough, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Douglas Pauley, Council Members; Brad Caulder, Interim County Administrator; Charles Boykin, County Attorney.

Absent: Mikel Trapp

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: <u>The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield</u>, 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 Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve the agenda. *The motion carried 6-0.* Chairman Bell announced that Councilman Trapp was not present due to illness.

# 3. INVOCATION

Council Member Pauley led the invocation.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 23, 2021. **The motion carried 6-0.** 

#### 5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

- 6. 1<sup>ST</sup> 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.
  - Randy Bright County Administrator Update/Hospital

#### 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

An Ordinance to make to make a Supplemental Appropriation of \$75,000 for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, So as to authorize Funding for the Position of Project Manager within the Economic Development Department. Chairman Bell opened the public hearing at 6:05 pm. The following persons signed to speak:

Randy Bright

Chairman Bell closed the public hearing at 6:08 pm.

# 8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 774: To make a Supplemental Appropriation of \$75,000 for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, So as to authorize Funding for the Position of Project Manager within the Economic Development Department. Motion was made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. *The motion carried 5-1*.

# 9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Fairfield Chamber of Commerce.

#### 10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

#### 11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### 12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

# 13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Sheriff's Department – Fun Day – Mr. Caulder announced that the Sheriff's Department would be sponsoring a Law Enforcement Community Outreach event on September 25, 2021 at Drawdy Park from 10am -2pm. Along with support from Serve and Connect, Love Never Fails, Fairfield County Recreation, Andre Jones and the Winnsboro Department of Public Safety, the Sheriff's Department will provide free hot dogs, drinks and chips. There will be several bounce houses, basketball and soccer games, a dunking booth and an ice cream truck. They have invited about 15 other local agencies to participate and will have literature regarding available services. Fairfield Medical will also be available to give COVID vaccines and blood

pressure checks. Our animal control department will be there giving free rabies vaccinations as well as dog food. Behavioral Health will also be there to take unwanted prescription medications that need to be destroyed. There are also other County departments that plan to attend. Mr. Bell stated we were looking forward to the event and wanted to publicize it as much as possible and place it on our website.

- B. Administration Building Update Mr. Caulder stated Council directed staff to evaluate the current condition of our Administration Building, which was last completed in September 2013. Some of the recommendations were completed but it is important to see how/if conditions have changed since then. The goal is to have the evaluation completed for information by October 1, 2021. Mr. Bell stated the Sheriff came before Council about a month ago and spoke about safety concerns with the new Administration Building. We are trying to get answers as to the cost if the Sheriff's Department stays or if it does not. We will look at all of those aspects before a decision is made.
- C. Emergency Management COVID Update Mr. Caulder stated in the spring of 2021, Emergency Management partnered with Fairfield Medical to conduct a drive-thru vaccine site at the former hospital. The site continued on a weekly basis for approximately 2 months. After 2 months the site was discontinued due to decrease in public demand and the availability of vaccines started filtering throughout the County. In the spring of 2021, a grant became available to support vaccine sites and our Emergency Management Department applied for this non-matching grant and was awarded \$6,690.00 to be used for supplies and equipment to support vaccine sites. We have since purchased equipment and supplies and will be able to host any future vaccine sites if the State or anyone asks us to participate. We will continue to monitor the availability of the vaccine in our County at our local pharmacies and doctor's offices to ensure an adequate supply for citizens who may want to get vaccinated. To date, approximately 57% of the County's population 12 years and older have had a least one dose of the vaccine and that is in line with the State rate which is at 57.9%. Councilman Gilbert suggested that due to the rise of the Delta variant we set up another site for testing because there are a lot of people that are looking for testing sites. At CVS you need an appointment. Mr. Caulder agreed to look into that request. Ms. Greene also asked if we could look into homebound regarding Emergency Management and Mr. Caulder agreed. Ms. Greene asked if we knew how many recent cases of COVID 19 we had in the County. Mr. Caulder stated he did not. Mr. Bell requested that information be sent to Council and Mr. Caulder agreed.

D. Office of Regulatory Staff - Broadband/Hearing and Speech Aides) - Mr. Caulder introduced James Stritzinger, Director for the Broadband Office for the State of South Carolina. He is responsible for ensuring that everyone gets connected to the internet. He introduced team members Casey and Mike Hershbeger and had handouts given to Council. He referenced the first slide which was a map of Fairfield County and showed the internet availability as of July 1, 2021. The green areas on the map were already served areas, the white areas were unoccupied, and the dark orange and dark red areas were where the most number of residents are but the internet is not very good. Those areas should be targeted to get them connected as soon as possible. He introduced the next slide and stated they were recently tasked by the SC General Assembly to collaborate with the SC Department of Commerce and make an investment of State money of \$30 million and those grants were awarded on July 15th. The yellow areas on the map were places where State money has been invested and the blue areas were where Federal monies were coming into Fairfield County. The next slide reflected October 31, 2022 and included a map of future connectivity areas. All of the grant awards were done with that period of construction time. There are other things forthcoming to Fairfield County (that has not been mapped out yet) as local provider Truvista was awarded a grant from the US Department of Agriculture that will serve some of the areas that do not have internet access. There will be a lot of work happening in Fairfield County in the next 18 months. He referenced numbers in the lower right hand corner of the slide that showed the number of residents (a little over 3,000) and housing units (close to 2,000) that do not have service. The numbers that were being invested was 1,600 which means those residents and 864 homes would receive service within the next 18 months. The mission was to turn the whole County green and ensure all residents have service. Mr. Bell stated he and Mr. Davenport rode around in the County recently looking at Economic Development potential. Regarding water lines, we want to ensure that you only dig once (put lines in at the same time). Mr. Stritzinger referenced a national best practice called "Dig Once", which means if you are going to dig up a street, you should fix as many things as you can. One of the biggest cost of the internet is diaging up the ground. A suggested best practice for the County is when you are improving water and sewer service is to also think about how you might improve broadband services at the same time. This also applies to building new water towers - there are ways to deploy internet, not just residential internet but you can also improve cell phone service. One of the ways to improve cell phone service is using the County's vertical assets water towers, telecom towers. He stated his office was here to help navigate this path. Mr. Robinson asked if this helped with only the current provider or does it allow other providers to come in and establish service. Mr. Stritzinger stated the County received American Rescue Plan dollars and one of those eligible expenses is broadband. The County could own that conduit and lease it to a broadband provider. It is a great strategy that they call "carrier neutral infrastructure". The County would own the conduit long term and then make it available to a carrier of your choosing. It is a great way to manage long term competition. He then gave the podium to Casey Sims to talk about the SC Equipment Distribution program. The program is administered by the Office of Regulatory Staff and provides SC residents with hearing or speech challenges with free equipment to communicate. The requirements are: must be a SC resident, have hearing or speech deficits and have active phone service. The process to obtain the equipment is to choose a product (amplified phones, captioning phones, alerting devices, electro larynx and an iPad), fill out a one page application, signature from doctor or audiologist, and a copy of SC ID and current phone bill. Once the application has been processed and approved, the equipment is shipped. Once approved, there is only one phone and one alerting device allowed per household. They offer phones that work with both landline and cell phone service. The slide displayed a picture of the applications - one for phone equipment and the other for the iPad. The installment and equipment training is included at no cost. The equipment belongs to the owner as long as they need it and remain a SC resident. She referenced their website and stated the applications could be found there. Mr. Bell expressed gratitude for the information and stated we may have people in our communities that need these kinds of services. He stated his sister-inlaw uses one of the devices (the iPad). We will put this information on our website and suggested to the media to put this out so people can use it. Ms. Sims added that it was a good resource for schools. Speech pathologists use some of their devices for their speech-challenged students. The iPad does not have to be turned in at the end of the school year, therefore they are not regressing during the summer. She left applications with the Clerk to Council.

E. Central Midlands Council of Governments (COG) – Census Data Update – Mr. Caulder introduced Gregory Sprouse (Director of Research, Planning and Development) to give a preliminary Census 2020 data report. Mr. Sprouse stated that the COG was a regional planning agency that serves Richland, Fairfield, Lexington and Newberry counties. They are one of ten planning agencies across the state that provide support, advocacy and technical planning assistance to local governments. Some of the preliminary 2020 Census numbers have been released by the Census Bureau and more is expected over the next several months. The first data

packet, which is intended for redistricting purposes, was released on August 12th and included the official 2020 population numbers and some summary demographic characteristics such as age, race and gender. The SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office has established a SC Census Data Center that includes a web portal that accesses all 2020 Census data. As more data is released, the web portal will be updated. The final redistricting data toolkit, will include an online data explorer tool and was scheduled to be released by the Census Bureau on September 16th. The trends being seen included (at the state level) South Carolina gained almost half a million people over the last decade, which is 10.7% population change and the 2020 population number of just over 5 million people. The top 5 counties experiencing the highest growth are Horry, Berkeley, Lancaster, York and Dorchester, ranging from about a 30-18% change. In the next 5, there is Charleston, Greenville, Jasper, Spartanburg, and Beaufort. Lexington is at #11 with about 12% growth (they added about 31,600 people). Richland is #14 with about 8.2% growth (adding about 31,643 people). Newberry is #21 with .5.6% (adding about 211 people) and Fairfield is #43 showing -.12.5% decline in population (losing about 3,000 people). In terms of size, Richland is the second largest county in the state. Lexington is the 6th, Newberry is the 27th and Fairfield is the 38th. He referred to the map that compared the change between the 2000-2010 census and the 2010-2020 census. It showed that Fairfield County is not the only county losing population. We are seeing less growth and more negative growth throughout the state in this last decade than the previous decade. Newberry had about a 3.8% change in 2010 and a 5.5% change in 2020. Fairfield showed 2.1% positive change from 2000-2010 and a -12.5% change in 2020. Mr. Bell asked Mr. Sprouse to repeat the last figures and he did so. Across the 4 counties, it is really what we expect in growth and development trends. The highest growth centers around Lexington, Northwest Richland, Northeast Richland, Blythewood. In the rural areas of Richland/Lexington, we are seeing slower growth and negative growth. As more data comes available, we will be able to look at more demographic characteristics at the sub-county level. The next slide showed data just on the surrounding counties to see how Fairfield County fairs with the other counties. The high growth rates in the surrounding counties show a lot of spillover from development from the Charlotte area, particularly in Lancaster County. Chester and Union County are more comparable to what we see in Fairfield. The next slide showed data from the jurisdictions in Fairfield County - just about every area shows population loss. Mr. Pauley asked if the greatest reduction loss was in Ridgeway. Mr. Sprouse responded yes, just in terms of the change. We can pull this at Census County division, which will aggregate up a bit from the municipalities but still give an idea of where the change is within the

County. Mr. Bell stated his concern was the decline in population from 2010-2020, which was significant. Seemingly, what we have been doing is not working and we have to do something to help build these communities so we do not continue to lose our population. A gentleman from Kershaw County sent him a paper (bragging) and it looks like every county around us grew in population except us. He stated he knew Mr. Sprouse could not do anything about it but reminded him that he agreed to help us think through it. Mr. Sprouse stated Fairfield County had a lot of geographic advantages and one of the things to focus on was that a lot of the highest growth in the state is on both sides of Fairfield County. It positions the County well to absorb some of that growth in the future. Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Sprouse.

F. SC Housing Authority - Housing Assistance Programs - Mr. Caulder introduced Felicia Kilgore, with the SC Housing Finance and Development Authority, which provides services for the entire state. They provide funding to develop and build, create and rehab affordable housing throughout the state. One of the programs to support that mission is administering the SC Housing Trust Fund program. A lot of their programs are supported Federal and State dollars, tax-issued bonds, and multi-family bonds. When you purchase a home, you pay a deed stamp tax fee as a part of closing costs. That money goes directly to the state and a percentage of that funds the SC Housing Trust Fund program. In 1992, the Governor awarded them to administer this program via those monies. They also have a group home program that supports the mentally challenged, supportive housing that supports those dealing with substance abuse or transitioning from foster care and the Small Rental Development program, which is designed for larger non-profit organizations to build affordable housing units. Affordable housing is designed for families whose income falls within 50% of the AMI, which varies from county to county. In Fairfield County, a single person's maximum income to be able to receive services is \$25,250. A family of 4, the maximum total household income is \$36,050. She offered a handout of a snapshot of the services they offer. She stated as of today, they provide up to \$10,000 of needed repairs all of which relate to the outside of the home (roof, heating/air units, windows, doors, ramps, rails, septic tank, water heater, deteriorated boards and wrap with vinyl siding). They have proposed changes to the program that will allow up to \$30,000 for exterior home repair. Feedback from the proposal is suggesting that repairs be offered to the interior of the home as well. When making repairs to the interior, the age of the home has to be considered. Homes built before 1978 may have lead-based paint issues, therefore, the budget needs to be able to accommodate those needs. She hoped to have the proposal completed within the next month or so. In the meantime, they continue

their current program. The application process for assistance goes directly through a non-profit organization. The two that serve this area are I-58 (contact person is Leslie Brakefield 803-209-5553). She offered a handout with a list of the non-profits and stated that all of this information was on their website. The other organization that serves Fairfield is SC Uplift Outreach (contact Wimberly Community Kevin 803-691-4742). Participants' name must be on the deed to the house and income verification is also required to include bank statements. We work with licensed, bonded contractors with worker's compensation and general liability. They provide a one-year workmanship warranty and we have an inspector to ensure the work is done correctly before and after. A lot of folks in this area have been referred to the USDA Rural program for additional assistance for repairs. One of the main things we have been advocating for in this area is non-profit organizations. We would like to find such an organization stationed and operating in Fairfield. She stated if any were known to be interested to refer them to SC Housing Authority and they would provide training and assistance based on qualifications and guidelines met. She stated she and Mr. Bell talked about options for rental units. The Small Rental Development program is available for organizations that are interested in developing multi-family units. If they exist, they should contact their office. She suggested their website (SC Housing) be looked at regularly for updates. Ms. Greene asked if property liens were included regarding grants. Ms. Kilgore stated they do place a soft lien on the property for any project with a \$15,000 or more investment. A 20-year restricted covenant is placed that is forgivable. As long as the property stays in the homeowner's name or is transferred to a family member, a low-income status can be verified and the property will be used as their primary residence, they do not have to repay the funds. Any additional liens will be reviewed. Mr. Bell thanked Ms. Kilgore for the information.

G. Action Item: Request authorization to accept and disperse emergency grant funds – Mr. Caulder stated the grants department had been awarded two Cares Act Community Development Block Grants that require no match on the county's behalf. One grant focuses on food access/shortages and the other supports air purification systems in our county schools. The first grant public services expands the Meals on Wheels program from 5 days to 7 days, provides emergency meals for our senior residents and allows Fairfield Forward to purchase coolers to store fresh fruits and vegetables for their food share program throughout the county. The first two programs will be conducted in conjunction with Fairfield and Newberry's Council on Aging to provide these services to both counties. We have been awarded \$339,800, which is \$169,900/County, for both Meals on Wheels and the emergency meals. We have also been awarded \$66,000 to purchase the

coolers for Fairfield County. The second grant public facilities allows the Fairfield County school system to purchase air purification systems for every school. The air purification systems attach to HVAC units and kills COVID 19, flu and other viruses and bacteria. This allows our students, faculty and staff to stay healthy while limiting time away from the classroom. We have been awarded \$355,000 to attach 900 systems to HVAC units. Because of the on-going public health threat of the pandemic and the rapid spread of different variants of COVID, it is extremely important that these projects are implemented as soon as possible. The grants department is therefore requesting Council's authorization to proceed with procuring the required goods and services for these projects under the County's emergency procurement provisions and allow this request to serve as approval for goods over \$25,000. All expenditures will be 100% reimbursable from the grant and these funds are currently available for use. All procurement actions will comply with all Federal and State procurement requirements and the request for these emergency procurement provisions will only apply to these two grants. Approval of the request will allow us to implement these emergency meals and air purification systems as quickly as possible. Motion made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Pauley asked if it would require Council on Aging employees to work extra days on the weekend. Mr. Caulder stated he did not know. His understanding was that the County was just a pass thru for supplies. Ms. Greene stated the way it works in other communities, they deliver the weekend meals on Friday. The motion carried 6-0.

H. Rock Around the Clock Festival Update - Gene Stevens - Chamber of Commerce - Mr. Caulder introduced Mr. Stevens who was going to give an update on the event. Mr. Stevens stated the event has been traditionally held the first weekend in October. In the past it was run by one person but he worked to change that in order to get input from other entities. For this year's event, there were concerns regarding COVID 19 and the health and safety of all involved. Due to those concerns, we decided that the event would be cancelled. He stated there was a budget for the sponsorship of the event and it could be refunded or held until next year. Mr. Pauley asked if "we" referred to the Town of Winnsboro, the Fairfield County Chamber Board or both groups. Mr. Stevens stated both - everybody. Mr. Pauley asked if the Town of Winnsboro voted it down. Mr. Stevens responded there was not technically a vote but their stance was that they would have trouble providing employees to work and there were concerns regarding liability. There was not an actual vote but there was a consensus among the Council members and it will be reflected in the minutes that they all said they wanted it cancelled. Mr. Pauley stated he knew Mr. Stevens worked for the

Chamber but asked if he knew if the Town of Winnsboro was planning to cancel any other events located in the city of Winnsboro. Mr. Stevens stated the town events - yes. There are some things that will happen regardless, like the Big Grab. He recalled Mr. Pauley asking him about the Big Grab and he stated that if the Chamber had announced 3 months ago that the Big Grab was cancelled, it would still happen - they cannot stop it. It is a community event and people show up to sell and people show up to buy. It's on private property and it's nothing that the Town of Winnsboro can do. In regards to the Food Truck Wars, it is not in the Town of Winnsboro's jurisdiction - it actually occurs in the County parking lot. In the past, Ms. Johnson (before she left) gave us permission to use it and I have also reached out to Mr. Caulder for permission. Again, if it was moved from the downtown area, it would still happen. They would move it to the bypass, out of town limits within the County lines. The reason we moved it there was to benefit our merchants and businesses downtown because although there are food options on the bypass, there are not many food options downtown Winnsboro. Our merchants have received a huge boost every time the food wars are there. If the County decided they did not want it in the County parking lot, they would have to move it to another location. The next town event will be the Pumpkin Fest and he recommended to Town Council to hold off because they can put events together rather quickly but they will have to make a decision because that is strictly a town event and they will probably vote on that at the next meeting. Contingent upon where we are as a nation, state, county will determine future events. He tried to get the Christmas parade approved last year but was told he would have to require masks be worn and that couldn't be done without ordinances. At this point and time, the group that makes decisions think it is best that we do not have the Rock Around the Clock event this year. The Pumpkin Fest will probably be cancelled due to concerns with children and the variant and increased exposure. Mr. Bell stated he spoke to some vendors of the Big Grab and they had people from Mississippi, Tennessee and a lot of other places and they were pleased with the advertising of the event because it attracts a lot of people. Mr. Stevens stated a lot of local media feels sorry for them and gives free air time, like WLTX. Daniel Bonds is from here and he reaches out to him when there is an event here. They came and did a story on the event. They have also expanded ads to the Rock Hill/Charlotte area and there is a Facebook page with 11,000 followers. The event basically markets itself. He spoke with a couple from Pennsylvania and they plan their vacation around this event. The weekend after Labor Day, people will show up to sell because people will show up to buy. Some people do not like it because of traffic but it gives great exposure to our County. Some of our businesses have their biggest days of the year

during this event. Mr. Bell stated that Mr. McMeekin called him to inform him the Rock Around the Clock had been cancelled. Mr. Stevens said an official statement regarding the cancellation would be out tonight and reminded Council of the refund due to them – whether it be refunded or kept for next year. Mr. Bell said it would be discussed.

# 14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

#### 15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Gilbert: Mr. Gilbert stated in our future decision making he would hope serious consideration be given to our Economic Development Director, Mr. Ty Davenport, as he needs a permanent office and not an open space in the middle of a building. He hosts and entertains potential new customers and he has to sit with them in the middle of this building. It does not look good for Fairfield County. He works hard for Fairfield County and should be rewarded with a permanent office and his auto allowance should be re-instated. He reiterated how hard Mr. Davenport works for Fairfield County and he needed an office.

Pauley: Mr. Pauley stated on April 24<sup>,</sup> 2021, he sent an email to Chairman Moses Bell and copied all other Council members. In this email, he asked the Chairman to put on the next agenda, which would have been tonight, the request that the Sheriff made in the budget for a new Evidence Officer. He also requested that the Fire Inspector also be put on the agenda that it be moved from a part time position to a full time position. There has also been a request made that we consider hazard pay for all of our first responders as well as some others. He noticed that was not on the agenda to discuss. He hoped

Council

members knew that we are not in compliance with the fire service. For some reason, Mr. Bell chooses not to put on the agenda what some Council members are asking for but will put on the agenda other Council members' request. In closing, he wanted to say that some Council members only do things to benefit themselves and not what's best for the County. Maybe Chairman Bell missed putting these things on the agenda because he was pressing the attorney's from the Dominion settlement to have a celebratory steak dinner at Hall's Chophouse where he could get himself a free steak. This steak dinner involved everyone that was involved in the negotiations for the settlement but he was the only Council member present. He guessed we all now see what has been going on.

Greene: Ms. Greene stated she wanted to thank the Grants Department for their fine work in securing grants for food access and the public facilities air filtration. She applauded their wonderful efforts. Bell: Mr. Bell concurred with Ms. Greene's comments. He stated he asked Ms. Roberts to provide a copy of their bylaws on each Council person's desk. Although they would not be addressed in this meeting, he wanted everyone to review because there were items that conflicted with State law. He stated they needed to work on the bylaws and requested they review and make note of any recommended changes and forward them to him so we can update/ratify our bylaws and be within State law compliance. Mr. Bell stated we had a lot of presentations about a lot of services that are offered by the State and others to help us to grow and develop ourselves. He thanked those who came. It was significant and we need to continue to bring people in to let our citizens know about services available to them. He stated he was preparing a decision making framework and he will present it at another time so we can look at how we make decisions about projects and how we go forward.

# 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.)

Attorney Boykin stated, even though it was printed, the law requires that you announce after the vote the topics that you will discuss. He asked to include this topic that he received at 3:15pm this afternoon. A legal update to discuss with Council the status of the case of Fairfield County vs Alliance Wiley Easton et al. That's the pending litigation – you will take no action. He just needed to make Council aware of the contents of the email he received at 3:15pm.

At 7:25 p.m., motion made by Council Member Roseborough, seconded by Council Member Greene, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. *The motion carried unanimously 6-0.* 

- A. Legal Update Regarding the Status of Pending Hospital Debt Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- **B.** Legal Update Regarding the Proposed Hospital and Property Sale Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- C. Legal Update Potential Implications of the Recent Decision in the Norfolk Southern Litigation Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- **D.** Personnel Matter Regarding County Administrator Search Update Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(1).
- E. Legal Update Fairfield County vs Alliance Wiley Easton et al Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).

Mr. Pauley had a question but withdrew.

At 8:32 p.m., motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Bell stated no action was taken in Executive Session. The motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Gilbert made a motion that we as a ward accept the agreement with the hospital board on the debt owed to the County, seconded by Councilman Pauley. Mr. Bell asked Mr. Mitchell (Financial Director of Hospital Board) if he was forgiving any of the debt of any people that owed money to the hospital. Mr. Mitchell stated as far as patient accounts receivable, during the period the hospital was in operation, we wrote off several million dollars a year in patient debt. Chairman Bell asked Councilman Robinson if that answered his question. He answered no but go ahead. The motion carried 5-1.

#### 16. ADJOURN

At 8:34 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to adjourn. The motion carried 6-0.

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MOSES BELL **CHAIRMAN** 

Mrs WBell