

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Cornelius Robinson, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Douglas Pauley (Council Members); Brad Caulder, Interim Director, 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. Mr. Pauley made an amended motion to move the presentation regarding redistricting (Item 13F) before the second reading of Ordinance 780, seconded by Councilman Gilbert. Motion made by Councilman Trapp to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Councilman Roseborough led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2021, Special Meeting November 10, 2021, Special Meeting November 10, 2021, Special Meeting November 18, 2021,. ***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.

- Norma Branham – Coronavirus Relief
- John Jones – Ordinance 780
- Jeff Schaffer – Ordinance 780
- Randy Bright – Ordinance 780

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Bell stated that according to the amended motion, Item 8A (Ordinance 780) would be addressed after Item 13F.

- A.** Second Reading Ordinance No. 780: An Ordinance to Adopt a Redistricting Plan for Fairfield County, South Carolina Utilizing the 2020 Census Results. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

None.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Planning Commission – Dr. Roger Gaddy. Motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Gilbert that Dr. Roger Gaddy be appointed to the Planning Commission. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A.** Transit Employee Awards – Mr. Caulder stated he was happy to recognize several employees who have received awards. He said as Ms. Norma had stated, we appreciated everybody and he did not think we always did the best job recognizing our staff – their dedication and accomplishments that

they continue to get. He introduced Diana White, Transit Director, to speak about awards issued in that department. She thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and the County for allowing her to oversee Transit for the last two years. She said transportation was her passion and had been for 16 years. She loved getting the citizens where they need to be and on time. She apologized to Mr. Bell for missing the October meeting. She introduced 4 of her employees. In October and November (this past Saturday), they attended a regional rodeo. She explained that a rodeo involved the drivers going through different types of obstacles and pre-trip exercises to test their skills. She stated they did an amazing job and Fairfield County was well represented. In October, a cutaway driver, Eddie Harmon (not present) placed second and this month, Colin Feaster placed second in the van division. They went through many different types of training on that day. She stated the maintenance department placed third and they worked on 35 and 40 foot buses that we did not have here in Fairfield County. In Fairfield, we only had cutaways and vans. She said she was proud of them, they worked well together and they were an amazing set of employees. They were currently preparing for the March State rodeo, which will be held in Hilton Head, SC and they planned on doing a lot more. The testing time was stressful – from 8a to 2p. She stated that she mentioned to Mr. Bell that the Board and Council meeting training sessions were forthcoming and she would forward the information to the Clerk once she received it. She invited them to attend to see what Transit was all about. It was more than just taking people to doctor's appointments (which was important) but they would like them to see their day-to-day journey. She added that Fairfield County was well represented. They were on the Rodeo Committee. Her face was the first face the driver's see before they go to the field. Fairfield County was also represented on the Task Board. She presented the staff with awards and opened the floor for questions. Mr. Bell thanked Ms. White and her team for the work they did for the County and stated how proud he was. He requested a picture be taken. Mr. Robinson congratulated them on their accomplishments.

B. Airport Grant Award – Mr. Caulder introduced Denise Bryan, Airport Director. She said she was asked to give a 4 year summary of the Airport's financials and grants, which was accompanied by a power point slide. She stated the report was for the past 4 years because that was her tenure as Director. On July 10th, she started working as the Airport Director under contract with a company called WK Dixon. The Airport was managed by an FBO Director prior to her arrival. On November 20, 2017, she was hired by the County as the Director. She directed attention to the slide showing pictures of some of the most important projects at the airport, which included the old fuel farm. The County/County Council contributed 100%

of the funding for the fuel farm. It was about \$520,000.00 that the County contributed but it was the best investment that could have been made in our airport. The next slide depicted grants for the past 4 years. The Lighting and Signage project was in 2017, the Airfield Drainage study was in 2018, the Airfield Pavement Rejuvenation project was in 2019, and Airfield Drainage North was in 2020. CARES Act grants were 2020-2022 and the new drainage project will be in 2022. She referred to the slide showing the Airfield Lighting project. The picture was of the old lights that were buried in the ground and the new conduit system for the LED lights. The old electric bills were about \$600.00/month and now they were about \$250.00/month. The numbers for the Lighting and Signage upgrades in 2017 were: the federal share was \$697,848.00. The State and County share was a 95%/5% split and our contribution was \$39,000.00. We received almost \$700,000.00 in federal grant money and the County only had to pay \$39,000.00. In 2018, we did a drainage study. Four years ago when she started, the engineering company wanted to do a drainage construction project but no one could tell her what the drainage issues were. She initiated a drainage study to find out what the issues were. We spent \$71,550.00 federal share for the study and the County/State share was \$3,975.00. After this project, we knew what the drainage issues were. The next year we did a pavement rejuvenation project. The slide depicted the old and new pavement. She reported all the pavement was rejuvenated, including ramps, taxi ways, runways, access roads, and the main road into the airport. The cost was \$302,398.00 federal share and State/County was \$16,800.00. The new project (Airfield Drainage Design in North) was applied for in 2020. The slide depicted the north end of the airfield and they did a design of the project (the most recent project completed). The federal government paid \$236,942.00 and the State/County share was \$13,163.00. The State/County got a pretty good deal on federal grants. She stated they received 3 CARES Act grants from the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). In 2020, they received their first CARES Act grant for \$30,000.00. The only thing that these grants could be applied to was her salary. All of these grants were applied to her salary. In 2021, they received \$13,000.00 and they just received \$32,000.00 for 2022. In the past 3 years, they received \$75,000.00 that had all been applied to her salary. The Airfield Drainage project (we have talked about the study and the design, which has been completed) and they applied for project with the FAA for this year. They were turned down because they did not want to invest \$2.5 million in our drainage project and this is only half of the drainage project. They kept trying. The last day of the fiscal year was September 30th. On October 1st, they applied for supplemental FAA money and they won \$2.7 for our grant. She summarized the Airport

- Improvement Program supplemental funding for September 2021. Only 2 airports in SC won the \$2.7 million grant – Fairfield County and Lexington County. Lexington received \$1.4 million and they received \$2.7 million. The best news was that because of the \$2.7 million received from the federal government, there was no State/County contribution needed. In the near future, they will be talking about hangers because they need more hangers. They are doing a lot of work and getting a lot of money for the airport and people think they have value in our airport. She stated she needed everyone to think we have value in our airport, especially for our future. Hangers are on the top of list – they are on the top of every airport’s list right now. We have enough room to build one row of hangers and we need to do that. She asked for questions. Mr. Robinson stated that citizens probably think we do not need an airport in this county but when it comes to recruiting and finding new companies to come in, a lot of Council members can attest, we probably have one of the better airports in the State. It makes a difference when getting new companies to come in and do business. He was pleased with it. He said he recalled a discussion about hangers at Ms. Bryan’s last visit. Ms. Bryan stated before Mr. Taylor left, they were working extremely hard and he was ready to start helping her towards that but in the processes, it was dropped. She said she would like to start that conversation again. Mr. Bell thanked Ms. Bryan for her work and reminded everyone of the \$2.7 million grant.
- C. Animal Shelter Petco Grant Award –** Mr. Caulder introduced Shelley Fentress (Grants Coordinator). Mr. Caulder stated this was one facility where we relied heavily on volunteers and a lot of times they did not get recognized for the time and effort they put in. Bob would attest that it would be almost impossible for them to do what they do without them. He stated we were thankful for that and for all of the employees who work hard. Sometimes it’s hard to find staff there to keep up with the work load. Their commitment to the well-being of the animals was really appreciated. Ms. Fentress asked Samira Yaghi to join her at the podium. She stated she became aware of the Unsung Hero grant in July. She met Samira before and knew that she volunteered tirelessly for the shelter doing things, such as meeting the animals, posting on social media and finding them rescue. What propelled her to write the grant on Sam’s behalf was what she had not done in her time at the shelter. Due to her hard work, the shelter had not euthanized for space for the last 5 years. When you talk about relying heavily on volunteers, that is amazing. She was pleased that Petco Love saw in Sam what Bob and she saw every day. With this \$10,000.00 grant award, the shelter had begun to raise funds for a new animal shelter. They also had the possibility for another \$25,000.00 at the beginning of the year. She personally thanked Sam for all of her hard work and doing what was

very natural for her. When she wrote the grant, she wrote it and proof read it with tears every time. She could not thank Sam enough for what she did daily for all of us here in Fairfield County. Ms. Samira stated she was honored to be awarded this wonderful grant opportunity on behalf of the Fairfield County animals. She said saving animals was her passion – it was her heart and soul. It came naturally and it was what she gravitated towards. She thanked Petco Love for recognizing their efforts in our shelter. She thanked Bob for being a wonderful animal shelter director and Shelley for recognizing their hard work. She said one is only as strong as the support system and she was blessed to have an amazing team – followers, supporters, volunteers and staff. She said they needed a new shelter. The animals needed a new facility. It was run down and they were not able to house the animals adequately. This campaign kick started that effort. It was going to be a long road ahead and she looked forward to the Council's support. These were Fairfield County animals and they needed us. We need to be able to better house them in order for our efforts to continue and not have to euthanize any of them for space. She thanked everyone for the opportunity. Mr. Bell thanked them for their work and asked Mr. Bob Innes (Animal Shelter Director) to explain one of their programs. Mr. Innes stated that the majority of the animals that are picked up in Fairfield are distributed to animal humane societies and charitable organizations throughout the US, especially on the east coast. It generated an income, like an adoption. If we relied on adoptions, we don't get them – that's the problem. The organizations that take the animals pay the same as an adoption (there is no cost to the County) fee so that's how we generated County income. His figures over the last 5 years were from \$7,000.00 to \$136,000.00 because they were not euthanizing and sending the animals to good homes. Mr. Bell thanked all of them for all that they did at the animal shelter. He had visited the shelter and said there were some things that could be done today and they were working to try to make sure they get those things done. We had talked about windows and other things and would work with our building maintenance to help that situation. As they have said, they had a great need and they were pushing for them to get a new animal shelter. We had to think about other financial obligations but they were here to support them. He invited them to the front to take a picture and they did so. He also asked Ms. Bryan to come up front for a picture and she did so. Mr. Caulder announced that 4,000 animals over the past 5 years had been adopted, which was very impressive.

- D.** Emergency Management Employee Award – Mr. Caulder introduced Mr. Brad Douglas (Emergency Management Director). Mr. Douglas asked Ashley Jackson (the honoree) to join him at the podium. He said earlier this year, one of their dispatcher's received the South Carolina APCO & NENE

award and now they had another one. They did not just give these awards away. She received it for very good reasons. He also recognized Judy George, Ms. Jackson's dispatcher. She had been with the County for 27 years. It was because of people like her and the experience she had and her willingness to pass it on to people like Ashley that we would continue to have good dispatchers in the future. He stated NENA stood for National Emergency Number Association and APCO stood for Association of Public Safety Communication Officials. It was basically a professional organization for tele-communicators or dispatchers. The nominees for this award should demonstrate the following: a positive attitude towards all aspects of the job, willingness to be a team player, professionalism and pride in quality of work, ability to earn and maintain respect and high esteem of coworkers, flexibility and task assignments and capabilities and job performance above and beyond the call of duty. Some of you may have seen them walk in at about 6:10p because they have been on the radio and phones since 6a. Mr. Douglas read the nomination letter that he and Jennifer McGriff submitted. He read: Ashley Jackson more than adequately possesses all the criteria that is required to qualify for the Palmetto Award. She always brings a great attitude to the workplace. She is the epitome of a team player and is always willing to help out anyway she can. She takes pride in her work and always conducts herself in a professional manner, both in dealing with the public and in interacting with coworkers. Her work ethic and attitude has earned her a great deal of respect from her fellow workers. Although with only a few years of experience, she has already proven herself to have thorough knowledge of her position and responsibilities. She has repeatedly demonstrated that she is flexible in prioritizing and completing assigned tasks. Ashley's job performance is consistently above and beyond the call of duty. In one such instance, for which she received a commendation from her supervisor, Judy George, she took a call from an individual who appeared to be suffering from mental illness. During this incident, she dispatched law enforcement to conduct a well fair check and simultaneously spoke with a counselor who had also called regarding this individual. All of this was coordinated while Ashley continued to speak with the caller for over 30 minutes. During her prolonged conversation with him, she used a very calming demeanor to keep him calm while also providing law enforcement with regularly updated information regarding the caller and his status. Rather than send law enforcement to the door, which could have possibly provoked a violent response, Ashley developed a rapport with the caller and continued to work as a mediator between him and law enforcement, who remained in a safe position outside the caller's residence. The situation was resolved shortly afterwards without any further incident. Ashley's professionalism and dedication to her job, no doubt, was integral

in de-escalating a situation that could have easily become volatile if handled poorly. I was impressed with Ashley's commitment to not only protecting the caller but also her commitment to protecting the responding law enforcement officers. Ashley was an asset to our department and a great representative for the telecommunications profession. Mr. Douglas stated he was pleased that Ashley received the award (she declined to speak) and was appreciative for the opportunity to make Council aware. Mr. Bell congratulated Ms. Jackson and invited them to come to the front for a picture and they agreed.

- E.** Coronavirus Relief SC Project – Mr. Caulder introduced Mr. Will Lawton (Consultant with Coronavirus Relief Project). He stated he wanted to talk about how to help minority and women businesses in Fairfield County. He said the Coronavirus Relief Project was funded by the Department of Commerce and the Minority Business Development Agency and was overseen by DESA, which is a minority and women-owned business in Columbia, SC with over 35 years of experience in working with the growth and development of businesses. Over the last year, DESA has impacted over \$200 million in secured contracts and financing for small minority and women owned businesses. This was of tremendous value and they wanted to connect with Fairfield County to work with their small minority and women owned businesses. The services were free of charge. Some of the things that they were working on were the legal structure of the business (S Corp, LLC or sole proprietor), and assisting with bookkeeping (making sure books are in order, income and expense sheets are valid, revenue and Schedule C). They also assist with marketing and communications, including marketing strategies, branding, website development, social media and brochure/business card design. He stated he was happy to hear about the grant monies for the Airport because they could assist with the readiness of businesses being able to participate in the procurement process. Their business development area included increasing revenue and contract opportunities, networking opportunities, technology and workforce assistance and risk management. The last component was finance. A lot of small minority businesses did not participate in the PPP Forgiveness so they were able to assist with taking advantage of the EIDL and EDA loans and debts. He stated that in order to become a client, one could go to their website and set up a profile. He was available to do webinars/seminars to assist the businesses in Fairfield County for the growth and development of their businesses. As a result of this project, they were able to create 264 jobs and retain over 583 jobs. The State of South Carolina has stepped up to help with other businesses. They wanted to extend an invitation to the businesses in Fairfield County to participate in this free program. Ms. Greene asked if they had a relationship with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Lawton stated yes, they had a relationship with the Chamber of Commerce, the Women's Business Development Center, USC – they covered the whole gamut for the State of South Carolina. There was something for everyone. Mr. Bell thanked him for sharing this resource with the citizens that could be used on an ongoing basis. He asked Ms. Roberts to have the information placed on our website. Mr. Lawton said he was available to conduct seminars/workshops.

- F. Redistricting Maps and Census Data** – Mr. Caulder introduced Victor Frontroth, Adam DeMars and Mary Catherine Miller from the State Fiscal Affairs Office. Mr. Bell stated he would like to allow the presentation to move forward and to hold questions until the end. He asked Mr. Frontroth to bring maps, which will be distributed to Council. When Mr. Frontroth and Mr. Rainwater suggested this date, he did not think we would be ready but he thought we were ready to move forward with this work. Mr. Frontroth stated they were working on this redistricting process. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs is a neutral party agency. They were looking over the numbers and public input is a very big part of this entire redistricting process. It was a decision of the Council but public input was also a part of that. He referred to page 2 of the power point slide to go over some constitutional and statutory requirements that were used in the redistricting process. The first one was the 14th Amendment and that was the "one person, one vote" and that was covered under the Equal Protection clause. If you had one district that had 100 people in it and you had another one that had 200 people in it, that 100 person district would have more voice than that 100 person district. So the purpose of redistricting was to balance that out and so we would have 150 persons per district. The purpose was to try to create balance so that everyone's voice mattered. Race was a factor in the redistricting process but it could not be the predominant factor. It had to be a point but it could not be a determining factor so that needed to be defined. Still under section 2 of the Voter's Right Act, which was to protect the rights of the racial minority population. He asked how many members were on Council during the last redistricting cycle (two Council persons raised their hands). You may have remembered section 5 of DOJ pre-clearance. You had to submit your plan to the DOJ and they gave you a thumbs up or a thumbs down. They said if it was good or it was not. That was deemed unconstitutional on court decisions so now the burden falls more on Council. We do not have that DOJ pre-clearance. The plan needed to be finalized before filing and it also required public input and three readings. Public input was a very important part of this entire process. The next item was the traditional redistricting principles. Districts must be drawn contiguously. You cannot hop over one district to another. You cannot have District 2, District 2 and District 3 in the middle. It had to all

touch- it had to be contiguous. We also try to minimize the splitting of voting precincts. This turns into issues with Voter's Registration and burdens in other ways. We try to avoid splitting precincts although it's not completely avoidable but we try to minimize that as much as possible. Districts must also be geographically compact. You must be able to look at that map and say this district looks compact. It doesn't have legs going out on the sides - it has to pass the eye test. One of the things we are looking to Council to look into is communities of interest. They need to be pre-defined when drawing the plans. Communities of interest can be anything from a school zone, a neighborhood - any sort of cohesive group but they need to be pre-defined. If it happens after the fact, it doesn't go over well. Redistricting is a very interesting process and court decisions are still being made so it is important to keep track of any court decisions and federal and state laws. He referred to page 3 to go over some of the population breakdowns. Your total population decreased 12.56% - that's from 23,956 to 20,948. To reach the goal of redistricting, you take the total population and divide it by the amount of districts. You have seven districts and you get to the goal of 2,993 people per district. Right now, the high district is District 2 and it's over by 214 people. That gives a 7.17% deviation. The low is District 7 and that's under 251, which would give you a -8.37% deviation. If you add those two together minus the sum you get 15.54% deviation range. RFA recommends a 5% deviation range - that's 2.5% high and 2.5% low. Anything over 10% is considered noncompliant so you can go over the 2.5% but that is up to Council to decide how much you want to go over the 5%. It's kind of like driving a car - you may get away with driving 5 miles over the speed limit but 10 miles over may get you a ticket. He referred to page 4, which showed a benchmark map - this showed the districts in their current position. This was based on the census information and what we had now. He thanked Council for providing their addresses so they could make sure everyone was in their correct district. He referred to page 5 which was a much more intricate breakdown of the demographic information as provided by the Census Bureau. The fields included were Hispanic, Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic DOJ Black and Non-Hispanic Other. The Non-Hispanic Other was a mixed race category. These were all DOJ categories so all of this was provided by the DOJ. This was the official breakdown of the numbers. One thing to note was that the figures needed to remain relatively close in the population of any majority minority districts to avoid any packing/cracking concerns in respect to redistricting. That could be cause for voting delusion claims. We use the Department of Justice field for everything we calculate. He directed attention to the bottom column where all of the race categories were broken down by voting age population. To conclude, he stated the RFA was requesting the Council to

adopt through resolution for acceptance of this plan following traditional principles and that's continuity, the avoidance of splitting voting precincts, compactness of districts to a practical extent (the eye test), comply with federal and state laws and draw and respect communities of interest. They looked forward to hearing from Council as to what those communities of interest may be. Mr. Bell stated he received from Mr. Frontroth and sent to Council the 2010 map and the 2020 stats and the 2020 proposal. When you look at the proposal that you sent me, has the standard deviation improved since the last redistricting. Mr. Frontroth said the deviation he believed in the one draft is at a little over 6%. Mr. Bell asked if the line proposed had minimum changes. Mr. Frontroth said very minimal. They were not trying to rewrite record books. They try to move the minimal amount of blocks to be able to get the deviation and population in accordance with everything. Mr. Bell asked if redistricting took place every 10 years and was required by law. Mr. Frontroth said yes, redistricting did take place every 10 years and was required by law. Mr. Bell asked if the proposed map represented a loss in the population of approximately 3,000 people. Mr. Frontroth said that was correct. Mr. Bell asked if the map met the constitution redistricting proposal requirements. Mr. Frontroth said that would be up to the discretion of Council. Mr. Bell asked if it met the constitution requirements. Mr. Frontroth said as far as he saw – yes. Mr. Bell asked if the redistricting proposal ensure that the districts are contiguous. Mr. Frontroth said yes – they are contiguous. Mr. Bell asked if the proposal attempt, even with the loss of 3,000 people in the County, maintained constituent consistency. Mr. Frontroth said yes sir. Mr. Pauley asked where the new draft map that was presented to him came from. Mr. Frontroth said he was working with the Chairman. Mr. Pauley asked if he would agree that if you had 7 Council members that every Council member should have a say in that draft. Mr. Frontroth said they were under the impression that every Council member was aware. Mr. Pauley said they were not (Mr. Gilbert echoed the same). Mr. Pauley stated Mr. Bell presented that draft to you without consulting with any other Council members. In a 62-page presentation that he took off of their website today, that was presented to the South Carolina or either the Governor, goals and resolutions, one of them said solicit public input. You (Mr. Frontroth) said here tonight 2 or 3 times that the public should be involved in this input, correct? Mr. Frontroth said yes sir. Mr. Pauley asked if he would agree that having a public hearing on the third reading of this ordinance is unacceptable. Mr. Frontroth said he would have to agree. You need to have public input in this process. Mr. Pauley said it also said it needed to consider pending annexations. Do you know if that has been done? Mr. Frontroth said at a County level, annexations would not be of concern. Mr. Pauley

said on another page of the website, it said basic responsibility for redistricting – what (County Council), who (drawn by the Council), how (requires 3 readings with map and/or description passed by an ordinance). He assumed that those 3 readings would be once the map was completed and all Council members had a say on how it needed to be done – then you would have 3 readings on that map, correct? Mr. Frontroth said that was correct. Mr. Pauley stated it showed that Mr. Bell had once again excluded Council from making decisions that were in the best interest of all of the Fairfield County citizens. Mr. Gilbert asked, in his opinion, the ethical guidelines for Council during this period. Mr. Frontroth said during this period it had been a lot different than past redistricting cycles. They lost about 5 months of time with Coronavirus. With all the concerns, the Census Bureau released the information much later than they would have in a standard cycle. That's why they asked for one primary point of contact at this point and time and they had 35 counties that they were working with, 17 municipalities. It was a workload but they were trying to provide the most accurate information and they hoped the Councils could work together in their respect. They provide us with the information. He stated he sat at a desk in Columbia and he didn't know the local input that was why public input was so great when it comes to this process. You need the public to be able to speak and put in their insight. They take all of that into consideration and then it is up to the discretion of Council. As long as everything meets muster, it was approved. Mr. Gilbert asked if this should be a rushed process – if there was a certain deadline the County had to abide by in order to get this done. Mr. Frontroth said yes sir – that would be before filing (March 16th). It was a little bit of a rush but they needed the input as quick as possible so that they could make these decisions. Mr. Gilbert asked if his preference was full Council and public input before it's finalized. Mr. Frontroth said yes, both of those were required. Ms. Greene asked what other groups from Fairfield County had made comments on the maps. Mr. Frontroth said he had not heard anything. Mr. Pauley asked for the time frame required for public input. Mr. Frontroth said before third reading. Once third reading happens, the map was finalized. Anything before third reading was acceptable. Mr. Pauley asked for the process for the public to appeal Council's final decisions. Mr. Frontroth said he did not have an answer for that. It would fall on Council. Mr. Pauley asked what resources the public had to answer questions about redistricting. Mr. Frontroth said they could email them at redistricting@rfa.sc.gov. Ms. Greene asked if he was familiar with Mr. Don Roloff (he said no). She then asked about John Roof (he said yes he had). Ms. Greene said he had been in Fairfield County doing work. Mr. Frontroth said he had not heard from him in regards to Fairfield. Mr. Gilbert asked if it was proper for Council to

hold Town Halls on this issue. Mr. Frontroth said he would say that was fair. Mr. Robinson asked if the numbers were based on previous elections and the census. Mr. Frontroth said that all of the numbers there were based off of the 2020 census so those were the newest numbers. Mr. Robinson asked what happened if you didn't fill out the census. Mr. Frontroth said it was the cards they were dealt. They had to go with the census numbers. (Words were spoken off mic by Mr. DeMars). Mr. Pauley asked what determines the part of a district that is cut out and maybe given to another district. Mr. Frontroth it would be based on public input and input from Council. There were many factors but the main goal was to make sure that all of your DOJ definitions and your percentages remain quite close. They were not trying to rewrite history. They were trying to take the minimal amounts to make that deviation as close as possible. Mr. Bell asked if the standard deviation on the proposed map improved since the previous redistricting. Mr. Frontroth said he believed it had. Mr. Bell asked Mr. Boykin if one could approve an ordinance without public input. Mr. Boykin said no. Mr. Bell asked could one ever do that. Mr. Boykin said that is correct. Mr. Bell stated that is not being proposed at this time without public input. Ms. Greene asked if these maps and this information was available to the public online or otherwise. Mr. Frontroth said they could make this presentation available online. Mr. Bell asked if they could include the census blocks and the lines online. Mr. Frontroth said he wasn't sure he could do that. Mr. Bell said in order to make sure the public has input, you need to look at the census blocks and the drawing of the lines. Can you put both online? Mr. Frontroth stated he would have to look into the legality of that. Mr. Bell said ok. (Words spoken off mic by Mr. DeMars). Mr. Bell said as we reviewed this data, they wanted to make sure they included all the school board members and County Council members. He remembered in one block it was not included and they had to make sure they changed that, correct? Mr. Frontroth said correct. There was an outburst from the audience. Mr. Bell instructed Mr. Frontroth to not answer the question from the audience. There were further outbursts from the audience. Two citizens were escorted out of the Chamber. Mr. Pauley thanked them for coming. Mr. Gilbert said Council did not have input either. Mr. Trapp said so the shoe was on the other foot. Mr. Gilbert said yeah, wear it. Mr. Bell said and the note you were just passed, you were reading it well, right? Mr. Bell stated we would have an opportunity for public input and if they needed to have another meeting, they could do so. He told Mr. Frontroth that he could stay after the meeting to answer any questions and he agreed to do so. Mr. Trapp made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 780, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried 5-2.***

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mr. Pauley stated he was aware that we have agenda meetings on Wednesdays and the agenda does not go out until late Friday afternoon. This past Friday, there was a problem, which made Ms. Roberts come from her home after she had left for the day back to the County Administration building at 8:30pm. He thought they needed to be considerate of Ms. Roberts' time. He didn't see a reason why the agendas cannot go out at an earlier time than late in the afternoon on Friday. It would also give Council members enough time so if they needed to request any kind of information to help with making decisions on Monday's, it would be a benefit to all of us. But if she runs into any kind of problems like she did on Friday, then we are not taking away her family time on a Friday evening at 8:30pm. He also said he thought the second comment section should be put back on the agenda. We represent the citizens and we would not be in these positions if it weren't for them. The last time it was on there was March 18th, 2020. The citizens of Fairfield County have a right to be heard and if we are scared of getting our feelings hurt then maybe we shouldn't be a Council member. He also said he wanted to say Happy Thanksgiving to everybody – all the citizens of Fairfield County and he hoped they had a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Greene stated she wanted to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and she thought they should take a look at having a public meeting for redistricting within the next 2 weeks – if that was possible. She knew that others had discussed it but she didn't see them present in terms of reacting to the plan they had before them.

Mr. Bell said Mr. Donald Prioleau from the Fairfield High School Alumni had asked all Council members to attend an after Thanksgiving tailgating on Saturday at 3pm. On November 30th, we will have a "Meet and Greet" from 5:30p-6:30p to meet the new County Administrator. We would also like to have the Martin Luther King plaza groundbreaking on January 17th. We need to set a time so if you have any input, contact me or the Clerk to Council. Mr. Bell stated that when we were in desperate need of an Interim County Administrator, Mr. Brad Caulder stepped up to the plate and did a wonderful job (since May). He did a good job trying to help us as we went through the efforts of managing and doing the work of the County and for the citizens. He thanked him for all of the work he did. He did it untiringly with great determination. His integrity shined through as well as his work ethics. With all the things that came at him, he continued to do the job. He said to Mr. Caulder that he wanted to thank him again and said on behalf of Council, they truly

appreciated everything that he did and they cannot say thank you loud enough.

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., motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

- A.** Personnel Matter – Regarding County Administrator Proposed Contract Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(1).

At 7:34 p.m., motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Bell stated no action was taken in Executive Session. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

16. ADJOURN

At 7:35 p.m., it was moved by Councilman Pauley, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

KIM W. ROBERTS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN