



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
JUNE 28, 2021**

**Present:** Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Council Members; Brad Caulder, Interim County Administrator; Kenneth Davis, County Attorney; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

**Absent:** Doug Pauley

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 Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Council Member Robinson led the invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 14, 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 - Procurement Policy

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

**A.** First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 772: An Ordinance to Establish and Recognize Juneteenth as a Public Holiday and Special Day for Fairfield County. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 772. *The motion carried 6-0.*

**9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES - Received as information**

- A.** Chamber of Commerce
- B.** Disabilities and Special Needs Board

**10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**A.** Progress Report on Lake Wateree Fire Station. Mr. Caulder asked for Mr. Jason Pope to come to the podium to discuss this matter. Per Mr. Pope, additional funds were requested from Council in the fall of last year. The final reading of this ordinance was in February of 2021, giving a total budget amount of \$375,000. Once the site work was completed, with most of this work being completed by County employees, the department worked with an architect for some building specifications. A bid was then posted for the building for 30 days. The bid opening was on June 22, and Mr. Pope is sad to say there were no bids received. He is not sure of the exact reason, and no one called to say why they would or would not bid. He can say that the plan going forward is to revisit the architectural drawings to make them a little bit simpler. The intent is to make it an easier project to bid. The desire is to have an attractive building that the County can be proud of. We are sticking with a wood truss building at this time, and this was the plan from the beginning. The price of lumber is very high right

now, and the hope is bids will come in for a reasonable amount. Vice Chair Greene inquired if the price of lumber could be the reason the bids did not come in. Per Mr. Pope, he is not a builder and does not think this should prevent someone from bidding. He does, however, feel the budget may be affected by this increased cost. He feels there were some variables in the plans, and it may be too much of a custom building for people to bid on. Chairman Bell inquired what is meant by custom building. Mr. Pope stated again, he is not a builder, but a lot of the wood frame building companies have set dimensions that are easier for them to deal with. It is possible that the specifications did not meet this criteria. However, he does not know for sure and can only guess at this point. Vice Chair Greene inquired if some kind of metal construction could be looked at. With the price of lumber, Mr. Pope stated a metal building could almost be built for what it will cost to build a lumber building. This will be discussed with Mr. Caulder going forward.

- B.** Update on Changes to Procurement Manual. Mr. Caulder asked for Mrs. Bass to come to the podium to give an update on this item in addition to Item C. Per Mrs. Bass, The internal revisions are complete and have been sent to the attorney for the legal review. At the point when this is returned to her, this item will then go forward to the Finance Committee and then come to full Council. She would imagine this would be coming forth in July.
- C.** Update on Fiscal Recovery Fund Process. Per Mrs. Bass, the department continues almost daily to immerse itself in the documents trying to nail down what kind of items will be eligible for the County and fall within the boundaries. The anticipation is that the money will be drawn down after the first of the fiscal year and then, Mrs. Bass and Mr. Caulder will develop a list of things that will be eligible. This will then be brought to Council. There is also the idea to do this in the form of a work session in order to be able to thoroughly discuss. Chairman Bell stated the important thing to note at this time is that the County will be drawing this money down soon, so the money will be in hand. A lot of work will need to be done to be sure to stay within the parameters with the spending, but this is the first piece of work. Chairman Bell thanked Mrs. Bass and Mr. Caulder for their work on this matter.

#### **14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT**

None. Chairman Bell stated Mrs. Davis has decided for a career move. He thanked her for all the work she has done with Council, and it is much appreciated. Council will miss her.

**15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert would like to put emphasis on the fact that MUSC voted to acquire Providence Hospital, to include Kershaw County and the Fairfield County freestanding ER. He spoke with Mr. Bernard who stated this is a very good development, and it will help the healthcare situation in the Midlands and in Fairfield County. There is an escrow of \$1M per year that is kept for this project. Now that someone else is purchasing Providence, that money will be coming back to the County. Chairman Bell inquired the amount of the escrow. Per Mrs. Bass, there is \$4M in escrow and \$1M is spent yearly.

Robinson: Council Member Robinson inquired if this happens with the escrow, would this be enough to suffice for the courthouse renovations instead of cutting the project. Chairman Bell stated a meeting was held with Mr. Brown, employees from the courthouse and the County administration and finance departments. We are attempting to get the cost reduced, not the project. We are searching to see if the amount for the project can be reduced or if there is any money that can be taken advantage of such as possible tax credits, etc. The project has not been cut, but we are attempting to see if the money can be cut. Council Member Robinson also wished to send well wishes to Mrs. Davis. He and Mrs. Davis came to Council about the same time and began learning together. Not only was she a great Clerk to Council, but she is also a great friend and will definitely be missed.

Greene: Vice Chair Greene also congratulated Mrs. Davis on her new position and Council will certainly miss her. It has been a pleasure to work with her, and Vice Chair Greene stated she appreciates everything she has done.

Bell: Chairman Bell appreciates everything the County staff is doing with everything going on. He was able to meet with them last week and felt very privileged to be able to do this. He also thanked Mrs. Davis for all she has done in helping Council.

**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.)**

Attorney Kenneth Davis stated, with a 2/3 vote from Council, an item needs to be added to be discussed in executive session: Legal advice on two pending matters that have come up since the agenda was printed regarding property interest of the County. Council Member Robinson made a motion to add item D to executive session to discuss a legal matter concerning land purchase, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

At 6:18 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0.**

- A.** Personnel Matter - Discussion Concerning the Position of County Administrator as it Relates to Selection of the Executive Recruiting Consultant Pursuant to S.C. Code An. §30-4-70(a)(1).
- B.** Personnel Matter - Discussion Concerning the Position of Clerk to Council Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(1).
- C.** Contractual Matter - Discussion Concerning Possible Sale of Former Hospital Property (Medical Office Buildings) and Existing Leases Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- D.** Receipt of Legal Advice - Discussion Regarding Two Pending Legal Actions Regarding Property Interest of the County.

At 6:52 p.m., motion made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Council Member Trapp made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to continue with an agreement with the Mercer Group pertaining to the County Administrator position, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. **The motion carried 6-0.**

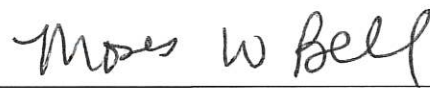
Council Member Trapp made a motion to authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to search for an individual to fill in as the Clerk to Council on a temporary basis, seconded by Council Member Roseborough. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**17. ADJOURN**

At 6:54 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to adjourn. **The motion carried 6-0.**



PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL



MOSES BELL  
CHAIRMAN