



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 12, 2019**

Present: Moses Bell, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Mikel Trapp, Bertha Goins, Doug Pauley, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Laura Johnson, Interim Deputy County Administrator; Tommy Morgan, County Attorney; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield and The Country Chronicle and one hundred thirty two other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Council Member Bell and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Vice Chair Goins led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Bell, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of July 22, 2019. ***The motion carried unanimously 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.

- Randy Bright - Promise Us

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A.** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-in-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South

Carolina and Project Goldstar to Provide for Payment of a Fee-in-Lieu of Taxes; Authorizing the Inclusion of a Project Site in a Multi-County Business Park; Authorizing Special Source Revenue Credits; and Other Related Matters. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. The following individuals signed to speak:

- Randy Bright
- Renee Green
- Lisa Brandenburg
- Shirley Greene

Following comments, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

- B.** An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-3 (Inclusive Residential District) to B-2 (General Business District) of 1.35 Acres Owned by Surinder Singh (Applicant), Tax Map No. 125-04-02-057-000. Property is located at Kincaid Bridge Road, Winnsboro, SC 29180. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. No one signed to speak. Council Member Douglas stated there are some people who want to speak, but the notice was received only today and they were not able to make this meeting. Council Member Douglas would like to put off any further decisions on this property until the citizens of adjoining properties have a chance to speak. Chairman Robinson inquired if Council Member Douglas knew this property, to which he replied he did. As this is just the public hearing and not the final decision, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 729** - An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-2 (Inclusive Residential District) to B-2 (General Business District) of 1.35 Acres Owned by Surinder Singh (Applicant), Tax Map No. 125-04-02-057-000. Property is Located at Kincaid Bridge Road, Winnsboro, SC 29180. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 729. Council Member Douglas stated he received a call before the meeting from an adjoining property owner who stated he would like to discuss this matter further. Per Chairman Robinson, there is still the third and final reading. Vice Chair Goins requested for Mr. Taylor to explain the ordinance for the

benefit of the public. Mr. Taylor also requested for Mr. Chris Clauson to come to the podium in order to give specific details. This request has been before the Planning Commission and was moved forward with a recommendation to rezone. Per Mr. Clauson, this rezone request was brought before the commission a while back. The normal process includes a public hearing before the Planning Commission, for which letters are sent out to notify the public, and a posting in the paper and on the property. This was done for the Planning Commission public hearing and also done a second time for the Council public hearing tonight. These letters are sent certified; however, a person cannot be forced to sign for a certified letter. Mr. Clauson checked with his staff prior to this meeting, and he was assured the letters went out. Council Member Douglas inquired if Mr. Clauson has a map of the subject property. Per Chairman Robinson, this information was sent to Council members in the agenda packet. Per Mr. Clauson, the property is 1.35 acres off of Kincaid Bridge Road. There used to be a gas station, and this is the property owner of the former gas station site who bought the property, which is a flag lot that goes behind it, and they wish to merge these two together. This was in keeping with the Comprehensive Plan for this area. It is designated mixed use commercial, and B2 is an acceptable use of the property for rezoning. Everything around the property is B2. Council Member Pauley inquired if there is already a convenience store next door to the property, to which Mr. Clauson agreed. With no further discussion, Chairman Robinson proceeded to the vote. ***The motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Douglas voting nay.***

- B. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 730** - An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-2 (Inclusive Residential District) to B-2 (General Business District) of 0.5 Acres Owned by Patricia Mattox (Applicant), Tax Map No. 145-01-24-004-000. Property is Located at Columbia Road, Winnsboro, SC 29180. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Trapp to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 730. The motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Douglas voting nay.
- C. Resolution No. 2019-05** - Authorizing an Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina, and Richland County, South Carolina, to Expand the Boundaries of the Park to Include Certain Real Property Located in Fairfield County; and Other Related

Matters. Chairman Robinson deferred this item until after Executive Session.

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

None.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

A. Planning Commission - Reappointment of Mr. J. Chris Knight, District 3. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve the reappointment of Mr. J. Chris Knight to the Planning Commission representing District 3. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

B. Library Commission - Term Extension of Mr. H. Paul Dove, Jr. Chairman Robinson stated according to the By-Laws, one can serve two terms with no more than an additional 1.5 years after this. Therefore, motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Council Member Bell, to approve the term extension of Mr. H. Paul Dove, representing District 5, for one (1) year. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Contractual Matter Concerning the Promise Program. Chairman Robinson deferred this item until after Executive Session.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Request of Action: Emergency Purchase to Replace a 10-Year-old Ambulance with 226,450 Miles and 7.764 Engine Hours - Administration and Finance Committee Recommends Approval. Per Mr. Taylor, the situation has arisen where the engine has blown in this ambulance. Mr. Tanner has looked at various options, which were taken into consideration by the Finance Committee, and the Committee is making the recommendation to buy the used road rescue vehicle as opposed to replacing the motor in the current vehicle or purchasing a new vehicle. He requested for Mr. Tanner to give further details. In addition, there is money in the vehicle replacement

fund to cover this request. Council Member Douglas questioned the purchase of the extra ambulance last year because of the situation with the emergency room. Per Mr. Tanner, the total number of ambulances was increased to 11, and this time of year with football, there are 9 trucks used during the day with the department only having 11. A list of all ambulances was given to the Finance Committee along with mileage on each vehicle. Two trucks are under 100,000 miles. As the higher mileage is reached, more downtime is expected on the ambulances. Mr. Tanner has found this viable option in order to keep the 11 and keep the spares that are desperately needed. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to approve the Request of Action. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

Council Member Trapp left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

- B.** Demetria Holmes, Director Fairfield Transit System - Update on New Transit Routes. Per Mr. Taylor, discussions are underway to transform the Transit System to make it more on-demand, including a partnership with the Comet system in Columbia. Ms. Holmes is present tonight to discuss the upcoming changes to the system as well as the present system. Per Ms. Holmes, a partnership is underway with the Comet system to expand services in the County. A folder was provided to Council concerning the services. The Transit System has been in existence since 1988 and was established as a public transportation service. Originally, the service was on a 5311 grant with funding from the State for public transportation. Around 2012, Transit moved more toward the Medicaid side, which is not public transportation. Once this was done, the grant amount was cut. Council Member Bell inquired if the service could go back to this grant. Per Ms. Holmes, the grant is still being used, but it is for public transportation. The Medicaid service is responsible for over 300,000 miles per year with only 34,000 miles for the public service. This is why the grant was reduced significantly, from \$300,000 down to about \$129,000 in funding. In addition, \$70,000 of the \$129,000 funding was not able to be drawn down due to not being enough on the public use side. Also, SC DOT gave the County \$180,000 in 2017 for three buses for public miles, but they are being used for Medicaid miles. The department must redirect and get back on the public side. Currently, about 1,500 Medicaid trips are done monthly. Council Member Pauley inquired of the total cost to the County to provide this service. Ms. Holmes directed attention to the Budget Performance

Report included in the packet. Three years, including 2017, 2018 and 2019, were provided and discussed. Council Member Pauley believes this is a much needed service but also wonders how long the County can offset the difference as it has been doing. This follows along the same lines as what the County was doing in previous years with the hospital in order for them to stay afloat. Per Ms. Holmes, the State is in the process of negotiating a new contract, and it should address the rising costs, which have not been addressed since 2012. Also, hopefully the citizens will start having closer appointments as new doctors move into the area. Council Member Douglas inquired if an amount was budgeted for the Transit System, and Mr. Taylor agreed and that we understand the system is being subsidized. Vice Chair Goins inquired if the collaboration with Richland County will help with the public transportation side. Ms. Holmes agreed, and the hope is that with more public use, more funds will be able to be drawn down from the 5311 grant. The plan is to be able to offer services to all residents in Fairfield County. The Transit System will also be going through a rebranding so it will not just be known for Medicaid transportation. Ms. Holmes explained that the Comet system is paid for through a fare to ride the route. Once the rebranding is accomplished, the citizens will be able to identify which buses are for public use and which buses are for Medicaid use. Some routes will be expanded in order to touch all parts of the County, to include Ridgeway, Greenbrier, Blackstock, Blair and Jenkinsville areas. It will take at least three to six months in order to map the routes out and line up the times. Chairman Robinson has witnessed the Killian Road Express, and he inquired if there have been any problems so far. Per Ms. Holmes, this service just began on August 5 and additional marketing must be done. Right now, the citizens are taken to meet the Comet bus. Under the new agreement, once the fare is paid to the County, the citizen will be able to transfer to the Comet bus for free. Then they will pay the Comet to come back and the Transit System will bring them back into Winnsboro for free.

- C. Waste Management Notification. Per Mr. Taylor, the County pays the waste management contract in the amount of \$994,000 a year for waste disposal and the County recoups about \$330,000 a year. The existing contract has not increased for three years; however, this year it will include an increase of \$1.99 per ton. This will bring the total per ton charge to \$57.17. The recommendation is that the County fee be increased \$2.50 in order to recoup some of the charge for the additional fee. Chairman Robinson inquired of the date the contract is

renewable. Per Mr. Caulder, the contract just renewed for another three year term. Council Member Pauley inquired if there is another company that could provide this service. Per Mr. Caulder, there is no one else at this time. Council Member Bell inquired when the contract was renewed. Per Mr. Caulder, the contract renewed on July 1 for three more years. Council Member Bell also inquired concerning the facility in Columbia the Council toured recently and if they might be able to assist; however, per Mr. Caulder, this company does not take municipal waste.

D. Central Midlands Council of Government Appointments. Per Mr. Taylor, Chairman Robinson has been appointed to the COG Executive Committee and the Planning and Developing Advisory Committee. This is good for the County and will hopefully help to pull some additional dollars to our area. Mr. Taylor has also been named to the Transportation Committee as the Vice Chair. Mr. Taylor and Chairman Robinson will work and try to use these positions in order to help the County.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. 2ND PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT CAN BE TO INTRODUCE AN ITEM NOT CURRENTLY UNDER COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OR BRING A CONCERN TO COUNCIL'S ATTENTION. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.

- Yvette Howard - Blight
- Jackie Workman - Visions
- Gregrey Ginyard, Sr. - Jenkinsville Recreation Building
- Thomas Armstrong - Public Service
- Randy Bright - It's a Homerun!

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Bell: Council Member Bell asked Mr. Taylor how, in the future, something as simple as ice can be done. Per Mr. Taylor, there is more to this story, but he will be glad to provide ice in certain situations. In addition, Council Member Bell asked if all the County recreation centers have the same rules. Per Mr. Taylor, he believes the rules are the same across the

board. Council Member Bell asked for Mr. Taylor to look into this to verify. Chairman Robinson believes the rules are not the same across the board because the centers on the outskirts are not as crowded. Per Mr. Taylor, Mr. Price had advised that some of the centers were being used essentially for childcare where kids were being dropped off. It was agreed, however, that the ages need to be consistent.

Goins: Vice Chair Goins stated it was an honor and a privilege to attend a portion of the Hilton Head conference with the Council team and wanted to thank Disabilities and Special Needs for recommending Fairfield County for the Golden Palmetto Award. On the Promise Program, from the beginning, she was in favor of this program and still is; however, there are a few things that need to be ironed out. It is a great program and opportunity. On the teacher village, she was excited from the beginning. This is a great opportunity to attract, start afresh and open up the County for an influx of residents and businesses. This will be another catalyst that can be used to move the County forward. She hopes that soon the agreement will be in place. The County should already be breaking ground for nice apartments and subdivisions. These are visions that are possible now. Vice Chair Goins thanked everyone who is working diligently to make this happen. Kudos to the Transit System. It's a good thing whenever an opportunity is seen to partner with someone else to make things better. No one accomplishes things by themselves. Concerning the blight situation, she is behind this 100%. A lot of this falls on the responsibility of citizens. We may not think about what happens to our property when we're gone, for example, can it be maintained, will it be sold, etc. This is a part of replenishing our resources. She also asked citizens to maintain their property as this is something that is distracting as opposed to attracting others to our area.

Pauley: Council Member Pauley stated he agrees with Mr. Ginyard concerning the recreation centers being open on a more continuous basis to accommodate the youth. According to the rules of the Jenkinsville Recreation Center, 16 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. He asked Mr. Taylor to look into this as he feels if one can get a driver's license to drive to a recreation center, he does not see where a parent would be needed. He opined that possibly doing a waiver, which would state use of a certain amount of time, could take the liability off of the County. The centers need to be open as much as can be in the summertime to give the kids something to do. Vice Chair Goins stated

she read the rules for the Jenkinsville Recreation Center, and she does not feel it is so much a restriction but a good support system and safety mechanism. It must be recognized that children can get into things when they are not accompanied by an adult. There have not been any incidents to date, and Vice Chair Goins feels this is due in part to these measures being in place. Council Member Pauley further stated the Council must protect the County, and if this can be done through waivers and a certain time frame, this would be a great thing. Also, Council Member Pauley takes offense to the public service comment because a lot of the Council members do things that are not seen or known. Council members are asked to give donations and assistance many times. Most Council members were not even aware of the ice situation, so this wouldn't involve the Council members. Instead, this would involve the County Administrator and the Chairman, and he does think that once you start doing things, such as giving out ice, and open it up for one person, you will then have other groups requesting the same thing. There must also be someone available to get the ice, especially during off hours, and could often include having employees report to work on the weekends. Therefore, doing this on a regular basis might not be a good idea.

Robinson: Chairman Robinson stated while at the conference he learned that NACo is promoting an app called TestIT. As everyone knows, there are problems with internet services in rural communities. This app can be downloaded and will shoot a coverage map to NACo concerning broadband speed. Chairman Robinson also reminded each Council member that a confidentiality agreement has been signed by each member, and there can be legal ramifications of anything that comes out of executive session.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION (SUBSEQUENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION).

At 7:12 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to go into executive session for (a) Proposed Contractual Matter - Discussion Regarding an Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park, (b) Contractual Matter - Discussion and Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Agreement Between Fairfield County, Fairfield County School District and Midlands Technical College as to the Promise Program and (c) Personnel Matter - Discussion Regarding the Annual Review of the County Administrator and Clerk to Council. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

At 8:42 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to authorize County Council to increase the annual salary of the Clerk to Council by 2% with the 3% cost of living. ***Motion carried 4-2 with Council Members Bell and Pauley voting nay.***

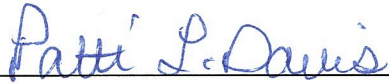
Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to authorize the County attorney to prepare an employment contract for the County Administrator that includes the terms to raise his annual salary 5%. ***Motion carried 4-2 with Council Members Bell and Pauley voting nay.***

Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to approve the Promise Program as amended. Council Member Bell wished to state for the record that he has several questions, to include: Is the agreement the same agreement as carved out and negotiated by Dr. Rhames from Midlands Technical College, Dr. Green from the Fairfield County School District and Mr. Taylor and Mr. Davenport from Fairfield County, was the original agreement brought to Council and has the new agreement been discussed with Dr. Rhames and/or Dr. Green. He wished to state his reservation to the new agreement that was done without discussion with all the parties. At this point, we don't know if they will agree. One question remains, did we give them a courtesy review of the draft since it does involve them because this is a different agreement than the original. Going forward, we may be looked upon as a group that cannot keep its word. He desperately wants the Promise Program as he sees it as a bridge to educate the students of the County regardless of their circumstance. The program is educational, economic development and quality of life. During the signing of the MOU at Midlands Technical College, Mr. Taylor stated this is an investment in our citizens, and because of the impact, Council Member Bell is willing to endure any hurdles or any difficulties that make something simple more complicated. He is willing to make this program work, and he will vote for it. Per Chairman Robinson, just to clarify, the reason they have not received a copy is this is officially what we have agreed upon now. He is sure the other parties will review it and make notes as they see fit. Vice Chair Goins stated it was her understanding when originally discussing the MOU, this was to start the process, and also in that, both parties have the discretion of choosing their own avenue

of how they handle the proceeds. ***Motion carried 5-1 with Council Member Pauley voting nay.***

18. ADJOURN

At 8:45 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bell and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN