



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 22, 2023**

Present: Shirley Greene, Dan Ruff, Clarence Gilbert, Tim Roseborough, Doug Pauley, Peggy Swearingen, (Council Members); Laura Johnson (Interim County Administrator); Synithia Williams (Deputy County Administrator); Tommy Morgan (County Attorney); Dr. Kimberly Roberts (Clerk to Council)

Absent: Cornelius Robinson.

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 Pauley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Pauley called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Pauley asked for a motion to add Item 6C - a public presentation from Gregory Sprouse regarding public hearing Item 8B to receive information about the Fairfield County Needs Assessment as part of the South Carolina Community Development Block Grant Program to the agenda. Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve the amended agenda. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

4. INVOCATION

Pastor Alvin Belton (Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church) led the invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilman Gilbert to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting May 8, 2023. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**A. National EMS Week Proclamation May 21-27, 2023**

Dr. Roberts read the proclamation, it was presented to Director Daniel Sloan and pictures were taken. Mr. Gilbert said he was appreciative of the services rendered to the county by the department.

B. National Public Works Week Proclamation May 21-27, 2023

Dr. Roberts read the proclamation, it was presented to Director Jonathan Burroughs, and pictures were taken. Councilpersons Ruff and Greene expressed gratitude for the work his department did for the county.

C. Fairfield County Needs Assessment – Gregory Sprouse, from the Central Midlands Council of Governments, said they were a regional planning agency that served Lexington, Richland, Fairfield and Newberry. He wanted to introduce the public hearing related to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Needs Assessment. The CDBG program was a federal program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and was administered through the SC Department of Commerce. It provided assistance to communities with improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs. The primary focus of the program was to benefit low and moderate-income populations. HUD gave monies to entitlement areas (urban counties directly) but rural counties had to compete through the state program (SC Department of Commerce). The national objectives established under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 made activities eligible that must meet one of the following national objectives – benefit low & moderate income persons, aide in the prevention of slum and blight and meet other community development needs that had an urgency to public welfare or health. They allocated funds yearly and the 2023 funds was \$23 million – for all rural areas across the state. The funds were available through a competitive grant program through different primary programs. One of the most popular was the Community Infrastructure program, which happened every spring. It was primarily for water, sewer and drainage improvements. They currently had a CDBG open with the Town of Winnsboro to install a backup generator at the sewer plant. The Community Enrichment program opened applications in the fall. It was for demolition and clearance of dilapidated properties, library/park improvements, etc. The neighborhood revitalization program opened applications in fall also. It was for neighborhood improvement projects – they were currently working on one in the Zion Hill neighborhood. The Local Priorities program, which was for projects that did fit not in any of those areas and were not typically funded. The Ready To Go program was for projects that were already designed/engineered and needed extra funding to get off the ground. He said one of the grant requirements was that a community had to do a Needs Assessment, which identified community development priorities

related to housing, infrastructure, public facilities/safety, and economic development. It required a public hearing to receive input on what the needs and priorities were. He said the CDBG program had a number other federal requirements and one was to be in compliance with the Fair Housing Act, which brought about the Fair Housing Resolution that the Council recently passed. He expressed gratitude for the partnership.

- 7. 1st PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** All public comments made during this session must pertain to items on the agenda for which no Public Hearing is scheduled. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- Joe Wilkes
- Randy Bright

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Prior to opening the hearings, Mr. Pauley wanted to ensure that proper notification was sent and it was verified.

A. An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Revised and Restated Multi-County Industrial Park Agreement Between Fairfield County, South Carolina, and Kershaw County, South Carolina; Ratifying the Existing Park Boundaries; and Other Related Matters. Mr. Pauley opened the public hearing at 6:23pm. Randy Bright signed up to speak – Mr. Pauley closed the public hearing at 6:26pm.

B. A Public Hearing to Solicit Public Input on Community Needs and Priorities for Housing, Public Facilities, and Economic Development. Input Received Will Be Incorporated Into the Fairfield County Needs Assessment, Which Identifies Potential Activities for Grant Funding, Including Potential Activities for Application to the SC Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Where the Primary Beneficiaries Are Persons of Low and Moderate Income. Mr. Pauley opened the public hearing at 6:27pm. Randy Bright signed up to speak – Mr. Pauley closed the public hearing at 6:30pm.

9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Third & Final Reading Ordinance No. 811: An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Revised and Restated Multi-County Industrial Park Agreement Between Fairfield County, South Carolina, and Kershaw County, South Carolina; Ratifying the Existing Park Boundaries; and Other

Related Matters. Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Ruff. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

- B. Second Reading Ordinance No. 814:** An Ordinance By Fairfield County Council to Amend and Restate Ordinance No. 674 Roads, Highways, and Bridges; and Other Matters Related Thereto. There was no motion made. Attorney Morgan said since there was no motion, it died and would end the matter.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES (For information only)

- A.** Disabilities & Special Needs – February 17, 2023 & March 17, 2023

11. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

12. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** Animal Control Ordinance No. 810 Update – Mrs. Johnson said the committee had their first meeting on April 19th. They had to cancel the May 9th meeting because it conflicted with another meeting. At the April meeting, they discussed euthanization, the condition of the current facility, and the City of Aiken's ordinance. Fairfield's Director of Animal Control, Bob Innis, provided them with additional county ordinance information for them to review. Currently, the county attorney was working with the Sheriff's Office and the Solicitor's Office regarding changes in language. The next meeting would be scheduled once that had been completed.
- B. Motorola Change Order for Emergency Management – ACTION ITEM**
Mrs. Williams said Director Jennifer McGriff was present to answer questions, if needed. She said the original Motorola Solutions contract came to Council via a Request for Action (ROA), it was approved and under state contract which was the reason for bringing it Council for review. It included the costs to configure tests and plan a cut over from the current system to the new statewide Essinet system. It was anticipated to happen in mid-2022 but due to delays on the contractor's side, it was rescheduled for mid-2023. The change order included the additional costs associated with engineering and project management support for the second cut over from the current system to the statewide system. Council originally approved it in December 2021. Mrs. Greene asked the cost of the change order and Mrs. Williams said \$59,000 above the original amount. She said a lot of it would be recovered by pending reimbursements from the state. Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Housing Study Update** – Mrs. Williams said the study was funded through last year's Rural Stabilization funds. The request for proposals for a qualified firm to conduct a housing study went out on April 4th and stayed open for 30 days – three responses were received. They were working with the top scoring firm, MRB Group Consulting. Once they reviewed their final contract, they would update Council with a timeline. It would probably involve public meetings for input.
- B. Audit Update** – Mrs. Johnson said she spoke to Mauldin & Jenkins last week and that day. She was told she would have a draft by day's end May 24th. After they received and reviewed the draft, finance would follow up with questions, if any. She hoped their books would match the audit. They would then get the final draft and schedule the presentation before Council. Mrs. Greene asked for a timeline. Mrs. Johnson said the review normally did not take long but she had never worked with that auditing firm before. She hoped the presentation would take place at the June 12th Council meeting.

15. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

- 16. 2nd PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** All public comments made during this session must pertain to items not on the agenda or under Council's consideration. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- Don Goldbach
- Randy Bright

Mr. Pauley thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting.

17. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mrs. Greene said there was a funeral held the day before for Mr. Tommy Scott Young, who was born and raised in Fairfield County. She said he was one of the first people in the state of South Carolina to convince the state to involve the arts in schools. He brought in performers, plays, musicians, etc. to involve

schools at the state level and the arts with the Katani Foundation. He was a performer in Hollywood and New York as well. She requested a proclamation in his honor.


Mr. Pauley announced that the County offices would be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day. He asked Mrs. Johnson if the recycling centers would be opened. She said they would not and he asked if proper notification could be sent to the public with that information. Mrs. Williams said it was posted on the County's Facebook page and the website earlier that day. A press release went out to the local media as well.


18. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)

None.

19. ADJOURN

At 6:48pm, motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to adjourn. ***The motion carried 6-0.***


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


DOUGLAS PAULEY
CHAIRMAN