



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

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Doug Pauley, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Laura Johnson, Assistant County Administrator; 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, 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 unanimously 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Robinson led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2021, and Special Meeting of February 10, 2021. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation of 2020 Palmetto Award by Brad Douglas, Director of Emergency Management Services to Alexis Thompson, Dispatcher. Chairman Bell turned this portion of the meeting over to Mr. Brad Douglas for the presentation. Mr. Douglas stated Ms. Thompson thinks she is here to answer possible questions from Council concerning the budget, but she is actually here because she was nominated for and has received an award. Ms. Thompson and Jennifer McGriff, Deputy Director of Emergency Management, proceeded to the dais as Mr. Douglas further spoke on the award. Ms. Thompson's mother and good friend were also

present for the presentation. Per Mr. Douglas, this is the 2020 Palmetto Award given by two national organizations, The National Emergency Number Association and The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials. These are the professional organizations for telecommunicators such as dispatchers. This award is usually presented at a conference, but because of COVID, all the conferences are presently virtual. However, we wanted to make this as special as we could, and Mr. Douglas stated he appreciates being able to present this award during the meeting tonight. The award is presented to an individual in recognition of their exceptional professionalism in the field of emergency communications. The criteria is having a positive attitude toward all aspects of the job, willingness to be a team player, professionalism and pride in quality of work, ability to earn and maintain the respect and high esteem of co-workers, flexibility in task assignments and capabilities and job performance above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Douglas further stated Ms. Thompson was commended by a co-worker, and he feels this is very important when someone you work with sees you do something special. Mr. Douglas then read the nomination letter and also reported a specific incident involving Ms. Thompson. Ms. Thompson's dedication to her profession is a credit to Fairfield County Emergency Management and to all telecommunications organizations and agencies across the state and nation. Chairman Bell commended Ms. Thompson and thanked her for someone of her caliber being able to work for the County. He then requested Council Members to gather around Ms. Thompson for a photo.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Inclusive Residential District) of 1.16 Acres Owned by Russell and Marilyn McDonald (Applicants). This is Tax Map No. 134-04-02-019-000. Property is Located at 1616 Antioch Cemetery Road, Ridgeway, SC 29130. Chairman Bell opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. No one contacted the Clerk to speak; therefore, Chairman Bell closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

7. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A. Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 763: An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Inclusive Residential District) of 1.16 Acres Owned by Russell and Marilyn McDonald (Applicants). This is Tax Map No. 134-04-02-019-000. Property

is Located at 1616 Antioch Cemetery Road, Ridgeway, SC 29130. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 763. Council Member Pauley requested for Mr. Clauson to briefly speak on this matter. Mr. Clauson stated, as discussed at the last meeting, this is a request by Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, and the property is in the Egret Shores neighborhood. It is close to the lake, so this was part of the massive rezoning in 2012 which resulted in the property being rezoned to R1. R1 does not allow for mobile homes, so the McDonalds are requesting the designation of R2, which is consistent with the comprehensive plan and would allow them to have their manufactured home put on the property. Over 75% of the existing homes in this area are manufactured homes. Part of the deed restrictions include allowing campers, mobile homes and modular homes. The request went before the Planning Commission and was approved 6-0 with no public comments. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

- B.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 765: Authorizing the First Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the Forest Acres Business Park Between Fairfield County and Richland County, and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 765. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

8. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES - Received as Information

- A. Library
- B. Behavioral Health

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- A.** Aeronautics Commission – Mr. Bobby Mobley, District 4. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve the reappointment of Mr. Bobby Mobley to the Aeronautics Commission representing District 4. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A.** Request of Action: Purchase of eDraulics Tool Set, Fire Service (Budgeted). Per Mr. Taylor, this is an item that was budgeted in the amount of \$35,000 for this purchase. It was advertised and bid with two bidders, both under the budgeted amount, including Newton Fire and Safety and NES. The bids received were in the amount of \$31,079.25 and \$33,325.65. Per Mr. Pope, this is a set of eDraulics rescue tools and is normally referred to as the Jaws of Life. This is a complete set of extrication equipment and will be placed on the first out engine at the Ridgeway Fire Station for response in the Ridgeway area and the interstate area. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Pope for the explanation and stated, for everyone's information, there was an accident at the Dutchman Creek Fire Department. He then asked Mr. Pope to give further information concerning this. Mr. Pope inquired if there were any additional questions concerning the Request of Action. Council Member Robinson inquired if this was an action item. Chairman Bell stated there will be a vote on this item. This is a Request of Action, and the Procurement Manual has discrepancies concerning when a vote is needed and when it is not. Therefore, for Council to be consistent, a vote will be done. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough to approve the above Request of Action. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.*** Per Mr. Pope, there was an incident at the Dutchman Creek Fire Station located at 6 Dutchman Lane near Dutchman Creek Marina. It involved a late night response to a fire alarm call around 11 p.m. One of the volunteers was responding, and in doing so, he pulled the engine out as he had done a hundred times before. However, one of the compartment doors was open on the engine. It is an older engine, and the newer engines have roll-up doors. The volunteer failed to recognize that it was open, so as he left the building, the open compartment door caught the pillar between the two bay doors causing the pillar to fail. There was some damage to the fire truck and significant damage to the building. Building maintenance has been on site today trying to stabilize the building to prevent it from getting any worse, and they are doing an excellent job. They have a plan, working with Administration, to get it repaired as soon as possible. Chairman Bell did look at the building and agrees the work that has been done to stabilize it has left it in pretty good shape. He thanked all those involved in this effort. Mr. Pope further stated some of the equipment was relocated to the sub-station in the Dutchman Creek area. The fire engine, brush truck and service truck are still available to respond in the area. The fire engine involved in the incident was taken out of service, but all the first out equipment is still in the area and still available to respond in the area. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Pope for communicating to all the fire service personnel making sure they knew the location of the trucks.

13. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

- A. Budget Work Session Dates** – The Clerk reported the County will begin the budget process in the coming weeks with the following important dates, and an updated calendar was provided for Council:

Monday, March 15: Council will receive their budget binders.

Monday, March 22: Regular Meeting and 1st reading of the budget ordinance.

Tuesday, March 23: 1st Work Session for revenue and general fund departments.

Tuesday, March 30: 2nd Work Session for any remaining departments and special revenue agencies.

This will put us into the first of April with no scheduled budget meetings because of Easter and Spring Break.

Tuesday, April 13: 3rd Work Session for any follow up items.

Thursday, April 15: 4th Work Session, if needed.

Monday, April 26: Regular Meeting and 2nd reading of the budget along with the public hearing.

Monday, May 10: Regular Meeting and 3rd and final reading of the budget.

These dates are subject to change, but as of right now, these are the dates Administration has planned.

Council Member Robinson inquired if an alternate location is being considered. Chairman Bell stated that is a good question, and he asked Council to think about this to see what will be the best solution. Chairman Bell wanted to remind everyone to keep in mind, in speaking about the budget, that this budget year will be very lean. Last year, the millage ordinance was passed very late. On the millage itself, if there is an increase in the millage, it requires a 2/3 vote. This means it will take at least 5 votes for approval. Chairman Bell is putting this out in the beginning so everyone will know it requires a 2/3 vote if there is a millage increase. Council needs to be talking about the budget process and about the budget. Chairman Bell requested Administration to move the budget back to get it approved a little earlier so that Council will have a good understanding. Last year, Council found out that there was a \$5M net decrease, and \$5.2M was taken from the fund balance. If everyone remembers, the general fund balance was looked at during the year, and it had gotten pretty low. Again, he wants everyone to understand what is going on. The County has a tough year coming up. The budget has been increased about 8% for the last six years without a millage increase, and this is significant. Chairman

Bell further stated all of Council needs to be engaged so that it emerges with a product everyone can feel proud of.

14. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

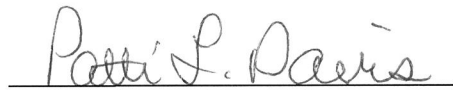
Greene - Vice Chair Greene stated she knows there has been a lot of talk about being able to attend Fairfield County Council meetings, and this is something she has encouraged. A number of things have been brought to Council's attention, including the armory, and she knows Council will take a look, over the next couple of weeks, to see how this can happen.

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

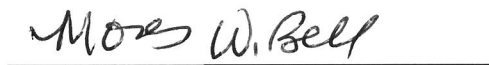
None.

16. ADJOURN

At 6:23 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL



MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN