



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 22, 2022**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Cornelius Robinson, Tim Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Doug Pauley (Council Members); Malik Whitaker (County Administrator), Charles Boykin (County Attorney); Dr. Kimberly Roberts, Clerk to Council)

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 6:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Councilman Greene led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene to approve the minutes from the Budget Work Session III May 16, 2022 and the Regular Meeting August 8, 2022. ***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.

Dr. Roberts read the following statement:

Fairfield County Government welcomes public input during appropriate times at County Council meetings. Such input will be allowed in the time, place and manner determined by the Chair of the County Council as the presiding officer. Persons wishing to speak must conduct themselves in the following manner:

Sign up at the appropriate time to speak, refrain from engaging in conduct or speech that seeks to disrupt or disturb the meeting, respect the time limit for the public comment, and refrain from personal attacks or personal statements about any individual(s). Such statements are disruptive because this part of our meeting is not conducive for such exchanges between individuals.

As stated, speakers were expected to express themselves within the time, place and manner previously described. Any violation will result in a warning from the Chair of County Council or the presiding officer. Any failure to heed the warning of the Chair or presiding officer will result in the violating speaker forfeiting their opportunity to finish speaking or to speak during the remainder of the meeting. Council welcomes the comments from members of the public and ask for the cooperation of everyone to allow for the orderly conduct of the people's business.

- Catherine Walker – RERC Grant
- John Jones – Public Hearings
- Shirley Seibles – Ordinance 797
- Sue Rex– Ordinance 797
- Jeff Schaffer

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds Received by Fairfield County from the Second Tranche of Funding Received Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and to Appropriate Unused Funds Received from the Last Tranche of Funding Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Mr. Bell opened the public hearing at 6:16pm. No one signed up to speak. He closed the public hearing at 6:16pm.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 798: An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds Received by Fairfield County from the State of South Carolina Pursuant to the Rural County Stabilization Fund Established by Proviso 113.9 of the State General Appropriation Act (H.5150). Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

B. Second Reading Ordinance No. 797: An Ordinance Authorizing (1) the Execution and Delivery of a Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina (The "County") and Fairfield County School District Education Foundation (The "Company") to Provide for Special Source Revenue Credits with Respect to Certain Property Located in the County (TM#: 144-02-02-056-000); (2) the Benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park Designation to be Made Available to the Company and Such Property; and (3) Other Matters Relating Thereto. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. Mr. Whitaker read the following statement: this was a property tax incentive asking to be granted to the teacher village project. The teacher village project would be beneficial to the County. It supported economic development in addition to the tax base of the County. The project would house teachers, faculty and administrative staff of the school district. The Fairfield County Education Foundation building the Teacher Village was seeking an allowable tax incentive that would allow them to pay less property taxes for this very important project. South Carolina law authorized counties to enter into these tax incentive agreements with businesses, which could reduce their property taxes – the Special Source Revenue Credit incentive (SSRC). Through the enactment of that agreement by an ordinance, Fairfield County would approve an SSRC, which would reduce the applicable property taxes paid by the Fairfield County Education Foundation. The Park Act was the vehicle that created a joint county business park that would allow them to take advantage of the tax credits. By show of hands – Greene, Robinson, Roseborough, Trapp and Bell voted yes; Pauley and Gilbert voted no. *The motion carried 5-2.*****

C. Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 796: An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds Received by Fairfield County from the Second Tranche of Funding Received Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and to Appropriate Unused Funds Received from the Last Tranche of Funding Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. Mr. Pauley said he thought the funds did address some of their needs but their biggest need was to increase salaries for their employees. They needed first responders – they were losing them daily, along with other county employees. He thought they needed to seriously look at what they were going to do for the employees and the first responders. Mr. Bell asked Deputy Administrator Williams to read the list of items proposed to be purchased. Mrs. Williams said the recommendations were to replace two Sheriff's department vehicles @ \$71,700, equipment for the vehicles @ \$28,447, a pre-owned vehicle for the Deputy Coroner @ \$16,000, replace an animal control vehicle @ \$36,000 and replace a vehicle for the airport @ \$30,000 – all with the current tranche of

funding received. She said the second allotment of recovery act funding, which had already been requested and should be received at the end of the month or early September, was to upgrade the Courthouse HVAC @ \$1,030,793, upgrade the Courthouse electrical @ \$492,008, replace the 35-year old tanker for fire services @ \$340,000 and replace an ambulance (Medic 1) for EMS @ \$300,000. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

None.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A.** NAACP Grant – Mr. Whitaker introduced Ms. Felicia Michael, NAACP Advocate for the South Carolina Stay Plus Program in Fairfield County. She said the Stay Plus Program was a rental and utility assistance program funded by the Department of Treasury to assist those experiencing financial hardships and housing challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Stay Plus program was administered by the South Carolina Department of Housing. She would be working with the program through the end of the year (December 23rd). The program could help impacted households get back on track by providing up to 12 months of rental and utility assistance dating back to March 13, 2020 – up to three months of future rent to stabilize those with housing insecurity and cover other housing costs. It would include moving expenses, motel/hotel stays, storage costs and security deposits for those who were displaced because of the pandemic. She wanted to note that the program was currently available to renters – homeowner's were not eligible. She said those who were eligible included those who qualified for unemployment or had experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 or demonstrated a risk of homelessness or housing instability and had an income of less than \$36,518 (adjusted by family size). She said the application was online. Her role as the advocate was to work with those needing assistance with applications including uploading the require documents. Her office was located at the Fairfield

County library three days per week. She was flexible and could move to other sites within the County but she needed access to a scanner and computer. Mr. Bell thanked her for her presentation and her work. He thanked the NAACP for requesting the grant and asked her to leave contact information with Dr. Roberts for future inquiries. She agreed to leave a flyer.

- B. Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Grant** – Mrs. Williams said they may have seen the press release that went out last week. It was the same day that ERC announced that Fairfield County was one of 25 small and rural communities chosen to receive a Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) planning grant. It was a joint effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Northern Border Regional Commission. The RERC program was a planning assistance program that helped rural communities leverage outdoor recreation to revitalize their main streets. A federal planning team would work with the Fairfield County steering committee and other community stakeholders over the course of four to six months, with a two day facilitated community workshop as the focal point. This would be to gather information, learn about the recreational opportunities in the county and identify, promote and connect those recreational opportunities. They would work together to develop an action plan to help Fairfield County grow its recreation economy. Fairfield County was chosen following a comprehensive review process from a pool of more than 100 applicants. Through the RERC grant, they were hoping to connect its communities with existing state parks and lakes along with the statewide Palmetto Trail. They wanted citizens to know about and have access to those outdoor amenities, draw visitors to the county and support tourism efforts to revitalize the various downtowns of Fairfield County. They were excited to learn that they were one of the 25 counties to receive the nationwide planning grant. Mr. Bell said it was a big deal for the county and it needed to be celebrated. Sometimes good news did not get to the public but that was a big deal. Mrs. Greene said she thought Fairfield County was a beautiful County that they all did not have a chance to appreciate it. In the last two months, she and a partner went through the entire county taking pictures and tried to document the beauty in the county. The opportunities through recreation were many – from lakes bordering the east and the west. It was quite unique – looking at all of the opportunities for visitors to swim. Their State Park was probably the fourth busiest State Park in the State as well as hunting and angling. There were people who provided services for recreation and some that were there to promote themselves and their businesses and they needed to give them the opportunity to have the economic benefit of people coming in to the

county and spending money. She said they had a lot of issues there and people would always decide where they wanted to place their values but when they valued their people and their opportunities then they grew their community. When they talked about their communities, they were also talking about their towns. They wanted to make sure they were thriving and that there were restaurants and other places for their citizenry to go. They were taking a broad brush. They were taking an opportunity to plan and to grow. For those who had questions, they wanted them to continue to ask them and provide opportunities and suggestions as to how to make their County better.

- C. Fire Services Update – Jason Pope, Director of Fire Services, said for the last three years, Fairfield County Fire Services was name “Fire Safe South Carolina Community” by the State Fire Marshal’s Office. It was a collaborative effort among many partners. He introduced Melissa Adams, a Captain at the Ridgeway Fire Station 7 and volunteer fire fighter for many years and said she spearheaded many of their efforts related to the program. Ms. Adams said she worked at the Ridgeway Fire Station 7 for 11 years and she currently worked in the curriculum department at the South Carolina Fire Academy. She was in the 2022-2023 Leadership Institute and her project was to bring awareness to rural Fairfield County and fire safety. They went into the schools and every year their theme changes. It was not just showing their gear and trucks. They also go into homes and work with families one-on-one. She loved working with families, especially the elderly. The other goal was to go into rural churches in the outskirts and that program had begun. They currently had a small community risk reduction team and they wanted it to grow. They installed smoke alarms and carbon monoxide monitors. They also did events like back to school programs and church events and they wanted to be a part of anything that was going on in the community. If anyone wanted community risk at an event, she encouraged them to call the fire office and they would be there. There were different areas within the fire academy – the fire marshal’s office, the fire academy (teaching) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). They also had the Firefighter’s Association of South Carolina. She said within the Fire Academy, they had what they called fire safe and it was lead by Chief Josh Fulbright. It was how they learned community risk reduction and prevention. South Carolina was leading the way in community risk reduction and had gone out of the country to teach in Canada. It was becoming such a big thing that it encompassed every branch of the fire service and it was being written into the curriculum. They recently updated the fire officer one and two programs and it was written into the curriculum. She took fire officer three and it was one of the chapters they learned – community risk reduction. She said they received their alarms through the State. The State

received them from the Red Cross and the Red Cross received them through grants. They relied on fire safe at the fire academy to give Fairfield alarms. Without the grants, it would not happen. Their goal was to become self-sufficient regarding the alarms so they would not have to rely on the State. The best for rural Fairfield was prevention. When she met with a family one-on-one, she brought escape plans. It was a grid that allowed the house to be drawn out. They talked about two meeting places and two ways out of each room. They suggested that the brothers, sisters, grandparents and grandchildren draw them together. She referred to bags given to Council at the beginning of the meeting and said they contained pamphlets regarding modular home safety, simple first aid, carbon monoxide safety, and a fire safety checklist. They had the fire triangle – fuel, oxygen and heat and their goal was to eliminate one those to stop a fire. They did not offer fire extinguishers as a service but she encouraged families to get one for their homes. They usually cost about \$25 and they talk about placement (about chest high) and they talk about when to use it. Firefighters had four growth stages. If you were cooking and a pan caught on fire, they called that the incipient stage and that was the time to use the fire extinguisher. If the fire grew and went into the cabinetry, it was time to use the fire extinguisher. Once it got to a certain point of heat, the fire extinguisher would run out and no longer be of use. At that point, fire services should be called – prevention and fire safe was happening. There were three types of fires – Class A fires (anything that turned to ash). In the movies, when a car caught fire it went boom, which was a Class B fire – flammable liquids and gases and a Class C fire was anything with a current (TV'S). They reviewed the extinguisher with them and show that it was an ABC extinguisher. She loved working with the elderly and children and they needed to be targeted the most. There were many elderly that could not get out of a window. They talked about two ways out and a meeting place. If a modular home was on uneven ground and one had to go out of a window that sat high off of the ground, they talked about where to get a ladder to hook to the window for an exit. She said she would rather they break a wrist while existing rather than be in a fire. With cooking safety, the Ridgeway Fire Department delivers meals on wheels in the Ridgeway area. In smoke alarms saved lives, they had two known saved lives in Ridgeway – a dryer fire and a cooking fire. When she talked to students, she referred to the glasses with the fake nose. She would put the glasses on the smoke alarm and tell them it was looking and smelling for smoke. One beep from the smoke alarm meant low battery and it was time to change and three beeps meant there was a fire and you need to get out. They installed smoke detectors in each sleeping room – not bedroom, sleeping room – one in the hallway and one in the sitting room. With a grant, they were able to get 100 carbon monoxide monitors and they

were running out. Carbon monoxide was a byproduct of burning – propane, kerosene heaters and fireplaces that burned wood were all carbon monoxide sources. In order to have Fairfield self-sufficient, they needed donations from the businesses and industries in the area, residents and County government (if they could). They needed 10-year sealed, ionized lithium batteries and she encouraged those interested to purchase them in bulk (hardware stores, Amazon, Home Depot. They accepted monetary donations as well. All donations (smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and monetary donations could be taken to the Fairfield County fire office at 880 West Moultrie Street or call 803-712-1070. They could also pick up donations. If anyone wanted to volunteer to help install alarms and work with children and the elderly they could call 803-712-1070. They could fill out the paperwork and be trained. CRR was her passion and she loved doing it. Mr. Bell said Melissa was a trainer for the Ridgeway and Southeastern volunteer fire department. She set up the training for Senator Mike Fanning and because he went through the training he better understood the need for the breathing apparatus. He was able to receive the training due to Melissa Adams. He thanked her for her work in the County and the community. Mr. Bell asked for the volunteer firefighters present to come up front for a photo.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mr. Gilbert asked Mr. Whitaker the status of the employee survey. Mrs. Williams said the survey closed last week. They extended for two more weeks because they only had about 42% participation. At the end of last week, they were closer to 50% participation. The goal was to have the results delivered in a web portal – it would not be a printed report. They would meet with Talent Keepers to go through what the data said and how to pull the data out. Once that was completed, they would be able to report the results to Council. Mr. Gilbert asked if Council would be able to get a copy of all of the results. Mrs. Williams said because it was coming to them in a web portal, she would know better how to do that once they met with Talent Keepers. They would have access to the information online so they would be able to download that information and pull it from the web portal and make it available to Council. Mr. Gilbert said he wanted to make sure that Council knew what the comments were.

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.)

At 6:48pm, motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

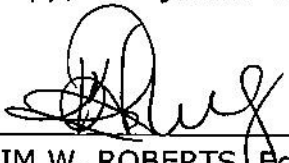
- A. Discussion of Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- B. Discussion of Staffing Needs Assessment for the Fairfield County Detention Center Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).


At 7:59pm, motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Bell said there was no action taken in executive session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

Councilman Trapp made a motion that the Fairfield County Council authorize the Chair and the County Administrator to negotiate with the Town of Winnsboro and, if necessary, the Town of Ridgeway to reach an understanding of the terms of a sewer agreement for the regional application and the supporting sewer lines. He further moved that any agreement was subject to County Council's approval and the County Chair was authorized to call a special Council meeting for such approval. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

ADJOURN

At 8:00 p.m., motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Trapp, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***


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


MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN