



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

Present: Clarence Gilbert, Cornelius Robinson, Dan Ruff, Shirley Greene, Tim Roseborough, Doug Pauley, Peggy Swearingen, (Council Members); Laura Johnson (Interim County Administrator); Synithia Williams (Deputy County Administrator); Alex Hooks (for 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 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

Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

4. INVOCATION

Councilwoman Greene led the invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve the minutes from Public Service & Development 9/11/23, Regular Meeting 9/11/23 and Administration & Finance 9/18/23.. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

- 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.

- Kathy Faulk
- Don Goldbach
- Randy Bright

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A.** An Ordinance By Fairfield County Council Approving the Conveyance of Property by Fairfield County to the Fairfield County Forfeited Land Commission, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Mr. Pauley opened the public hearing at 6:12pm. Randy Bright signed up to speak. Mr. Pauley closed the public hearing at 6:14pm.
- B.** An Ordinance of Fairfield County Council Authorizing An Amendment to the Agreement for Development of Joint County Industrial Park By and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina and Kershaw County, South Carolina, Providing for the Inclusion of Additional Property in Kershaw County as Part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and Other Related Matters. Mr. Pauley opened the public hearing at 6:15pm. Randy Bright signed up to speak. Mr. Pauley closed the public hearing at 6:17pm.

9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A. Third & Final Reading Ordinance No. 822:** An Ordinance Providing for the Purchase and Acquisition of Security Systems, Motor Vehicles, and Related Equipment to be Used for Public Safety and Public Works and Other Equipment; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Lease Purchase Financing of the Equipment; Providing for the Payment of the Lease Purchase Financing; and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Ruff. ***The motion carried 7-0.***
- B. Third & Final Reading Ordinance No. 823:** An Ordinance By Fairfield County Council Approving the Conveyance of Property by Fairfield County to the Fairfield County Forfeited Land Commission, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. ***The motion carried 7-0.***
- C. Third & Final Reading Ordinance No. 824:** An Ordinance of Fairfield County Council Authorizing An Amendment to the Agreement for Development of Joint County Industrial Park By and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina and Kershaw County, South Carolina, Providing for the Inclusion of Additional Property in Kershaw County as Part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Councilwoman

Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Pauley said Attorney Morgan explained at a previous meeting that when Fairfield County joined in an industrial park, they did not have to do anything but would receive 1% of the agreement. He wanted that to be a part of the record. Mrs. Williams said he was correct. Kershaw County was adding a property to the current multi-county industrial park and the agreement would allow the additional property to be added. The county would receive 1% of that tax revenue. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

D. Second Reading Ordinance No 825: An Ordinance by Fairfield County Council Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property that Meets the Necessary Requirements for Said Property to be Used as a Suitable Location for a Wastewater Treatment Site With Discharge Into the Broad River, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Mr. Roseborough, seconded by Mr. Robinson. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES (For information only)

None.

11. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sheriff's Office Radio Maintenance Agreement Renewal – ACTION ITEM

Mrs. Johnson said the request went before the Administration & Finance Committee and was approved to go forward to full Council. She introduced Terrie Smith from the Sheriff's Office to explain the request. Ms. Smith said during the budget process, the request was unintentionally left out. They needed their radios upgraded in order for them to continue to work and the cost was \$23,832.76. They also wanted to add an annual maintenance agreement that would cost \$21,024 making the total request \$44,856.76. Mr. Gilbert asked if they did not approve it, the radios would not work and she said that was correct. Mr. Robinson said he knew they were expensive – about \$8,000/radio – and he asked the current price. Ms. Smith said the walkie-talkies were about \$8,000 and the mobiles were a bit cheaper – about \$6,000. Mrs. Swearingen asked how many radios the contract would cover and Ms. Smith said 72. They had other radios but they did not need upgrading. Mrs. Greene said it needed to be stated how it would affect the budget process. Mrs. Johnson said there were contingency funds within the budget that would cover

the costs. Mr. Pauley asked how long it would be before a renewal would be needed and she said she did not know but it would probably be five years. ***The approval was unanimous 7-0.***

14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New EMS Director – Mrs. Johnson introduced Tim Martin, EMS Director. He was the former Deputy EMS Director and former Interim EMS Director. He had proven to be an effective leader and she thanked him for accepting the position. Mr. Martin thanked Administration and Council for all they had done for EMS. He said they decreased their response time by one minute and ten seconds and he was proud of his team. Mrs. Swearingen asked how many openings were in his department and he said 14. She asked if he had anyone in the substation in Feasterville. He said they changed their deployment monitoring to provide better coverage, which was why they had been able to decrease the response time. They were actively recruiting. He visited potential EMT's in their classroom settings. They received about 1-2 applications every week and they filled several prn positions. Mrs. Swearingen asked where was the closest school to take classes to become an EMT and he said Midlands Technical College offered classes and they were currently working with the SC EMS Association and the SC Fire Academy to get classes closer to their area. They were working with the EMS Association to become a training hub. She asked if they were cross training firemen and EMT's. He said he was working with Fire Chief Webb to offer EMT classes. She asked Mrs. Johnson if the Fairfield MTC offered EMT classes and she said at one time they were. Mr. Martin said they were going to be more proactive and more visible in the community. They were in partnership with the school district to start an EMT program within the school district to provide a career opportunity for graduating seniors.

B. Recognition of Animal Services Director – Mrs. Johnson introduced Mr. Bob Innes, Animal Control Director for the past seven years. She said he was leaving to enjoy his federal retirement. Prior to coming to Fairfield, he worked for a non-profit in West Columbia. He came to Winnsboro daily because of his love of the animals and the respect for the owners who truly loved and cared for their animals. His hobby was target shooting. She told him it had been a pleasure working with him. She thanked him for his commitment and dedication to the county and she would truly miss him. She wished him all the best in his future endeavors. A certificate was presented to him and pictures were taken with Mrs. Johnson and Council. Councilpersons Gilbert, Ruff, Greene and Pauley expressed gratitude for his service and wished him well in his retirement.

C. Economic Development Strategic Plan Update – Mrs. Williams said they wanted to meet with the Economic Development Committee to finalize the goals and action items in the Economic Development Strategic Plan. They would invite full Council to attend. They also would like to incorporate a standing committee meeting date with committee members to continue to work on next steps associated with any action items and goals. They would send out the request for meeting dates/times to keep the plans in forward motion.

15. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mrs. Greene congratulated Shiloh First Presbyterian Church USA in Winnsboro for celebrating their 145th anniversary on Sunday, October 1st at 3p. She announced the River Road Fire Station ribbon cutting ceremony on October 5th at 11a and the public was invited. She said she and Transit Director Diana White attended a two-day session (September 14-15) by way of Representative Annie McDaniel called "Electrifying the South Collaborative" in Savannah, Georgia. Its purpose was to get counties ready to apply for grants – some grants were cost sharing and some in the form of tax credits. She said they had to look at the infrastructure they had for electric vehicles and whether or not they could incorporate electric cars in their fleets in the future. It was an interactive session with learning opportunities regarding what other counties were doing to integrate electric vehicles into their fleet. She was honored to attend – it was very informative.

Mrs. Swearingen said they talked about electric vehicles at the Fairfield Co-op meeting earlier that day. She said there was a volt vehicle for sale for \$31,000 and the replacement battery cost \$29,800 so she was unsure about the electric vehicles and their ability to sustain them. She announced the Code RED Alert System via the county's Emergency Management Division – an emergency notification system that the county used to keep its citizens informed during emergencies, critical incidents, severe weather, etc. Messages would be sent to home or cell phone - it was a free service but registration was required. She also spoke about the Fire Department's Citizen's Academy and free smoke/carbon monoxide alarms from the Fire Department via a \$10,000 grant from Fairfield Electric. She also announced that Blair was one of five rural communities in the U.S. awarded five batteries thru the Newberry Co-op. She had maps for those who were interested in the coverage area.

Mr. Ruff asked for follow up regarding a comment made during the Public Comment Session about the removal of the second Public Comment Session from the agenda.

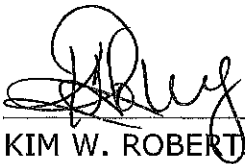
Mr. Pauley said he received an appreciation message from Mayor Greg Ginyard for their attendance at the Intergovernmental meeting the week before. He also thanked those attending the meeting and said he appreciated their courtesy.

17. 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.

18. ADJOURN

At 6:48pm, motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Councilman Robinson to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***



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



DOUGLAS PAULEY
CHAIRMAN