



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 9, 2023**

**Present:** Shirley Greene, Dan Ruff, Tim Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Doug Pauley, Peggy Swearingen, Cornelius Robinson (Council Members); Synithia Williams (Deputy 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 Pauley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Robinson.  
***The motion carried 7-0.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Vice Chair Gilbert led the invocation.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Chair Gilbert made a motion to amend the agenda to add the public comment section and County Council Time, seconded by Councilwoman Swearingen. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

Chairman Pauley stated he would give the citizens time to sign up to speak and they would stand down for a few minutes.

**A. Approval of 2023 Calendar Year Meeting Dates – ACTION ITEM**

Motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to adopt the 2023 calendar. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

**5. 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 6:04pm, motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Ruff, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

- A.** Discussion Regarding Proposed Contractual Arrangements Involving the Selection of an Attorney to Represent Fairfield County Council Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(2).
- B.** Discussion Regarding Proposed Contractual Arrangements Involving the Selection of an Interim Fairfield County Administrator Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(2).

At 6:54pm, motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Ruff to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Chairman Pauley said there was no action taken in executive session. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

Chairman Pauley stated they would open the public comment section and County Council Time.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION**

- Randy Bright signed up to speak

**7. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Councilwoman Swearingen said it looked very different from the dais than from sitting in the audience. She thanked everyone who supported her – her family and especially her husband. She drug him from one end of the county to the other and he rarely complained. She thanked God for allowing her the opportunity to serve. They must work together to move their county forward. Employees were leaving by the dozens, EMS stations were empty, police shortages, and a dire need for more firemen. Safety for their citizens must be their first priority. They must work as a team. The division among them must be resolved. There was no “I” in team – it must be teamwork that moved the county in the right direction again. They could agree to disagree but at the end of the day, it was all about what was best for their citizens. They must work together. They needed to be the county that raised the bar and set the standard. She encouraged the tax paying citizens to get involved with how their tax dollars were being spent. If they could not attend the meetings, watch them on YouTube. She encouraged them to call or email any of Council with their ideas. She thought town hall meetings would be an excellent way to get input from their citizens.

She was also an avid supporter of the free smoke alarm program. She spoke often about it in her campaign. The fire personnel would install at no charge. Due to the shortage of firemen, she thought it was a very good safety measure. She said her father always told her that Rome was not built in a day. She did not want them to think that they could fix the county in a day, a week or even a month but know that they were going to be a work in progress. She thanked everyone again.

Vice Chair Gilbert said thank you to the citizens for their confidence in him, the newly elected and the presently seated members. It was his desire and prayer that they work together to be transparent as a united board for the betterment of Fairfield County. They heard them during the last election. They had an uphill journey. They must review their finances, look at all outgoing projects and previous promises to see how they move forward and where the finances would come from in order to complete them. Those were some of the things he would like to see them accomplish in the next few months. He wanted to restore the confidence from their citizens in the Council, get started on the new budget, work on their wastewater treatment project, evaluate their finances, fill some of the key positions, find ways to restore employee morale, and devise a plan for the animal shelter. Everyone would not be pleased with their decisions but they must prioritize what was most important and react. They must not procrastinate on things that were important to the survival of the county. They must be very deliberate and transparent in key decisions. It was time to work on things they needed and not what they wanted. He asked for their prayers. It would be a very steep hill to climb but they would get to the top. God bless Fairfield County, thank you.

Councilman Ruff thanked all who supported him during the campaign, especially his wife. He said there was a lot work to be done but he believed it would be worth it. He thought there were many things that they needed to fix. They lost a lot of good employees in the last couple of years from Administration on down. They needed to bring employee morale up. As elected Council members, they were elected to serve and not to receive as it had happened in the past and he would not ever be a part of that. Their citizens should be their priority. They need to show that they could work together. Outside entities in the past saw them as being in disarray. They needed to be seen as a county that was working together and trying to grow together. They needed to be transparent with each other and the citizens. He thought they had taken steps backwards in some of that in the last couple of years but he believed by working together they could build the county to one that everyone would be proud of. He thanked everyone again for their support. It was great to be back.

Councilman Robinson congratulated the newly elected and the re-elected. He looked forward to working with them. He also extended thanks for the thousands of phone calls he received during the past month. It was heartfelt. He had several


incidents happen but he was back and thankful for the prayers and encouraged them to continue the work.

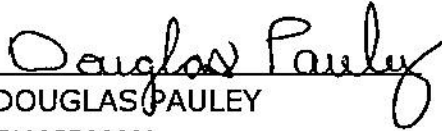
Councilwoman Greene welcomed the new Council members and thanked those Council members for supporting their work. They had a lot to do – the wastewater treatment plant, the EPA grant (they were trying revitalize Winnsboro, Ridgeway and other areas), their recreation economy and the budget. She thought they made a statement that night that they were looking forward to working together. Chairman Pauley thanked the citizens of District 5 and his family for the continuous support in his re-election. He looked forward to working with fellow Council members and the multiple surrounding municipalities over the next few years. He believed by all of them working together, they could achieve the ultimate goal, which was to help make Fairfield County a successful community to live and work in. He looked forward to the possible future they could all have with strong economic growth, improve employee morale and transparency with their fellow tax paying citizens.

Chairman Pauley then asked if there were any motions from executive session. Councilwoman Greene made a motion to authorize the Chair of Fairfield County Council to enter into contractual negotiations with Attorney Tommy Morgan of the Smith Robinson Law Firm to be retained as Attorney for and to represent the interests of Fairfield Council, seconded by Vice Chair Gilbert. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

## **ADJOURN**

At 7:08pm, motion made by Vice Chair Gilbert, seconded by Timothy Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

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

  
DOUGLAS PAULEY  
CHAIRMAN