



**MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 250 NORTH WALNUT STREET
WINNSBORO, SC 29180
AUGUST 26, 2022
6:00PM**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Timothy Roseborough, Cornelius Robinson, Mikel Trapp (Council Members); Charles Boykin, Kenneth Davis (Attorney's); Kim W. Roberts, Clerk to Council.

Absent: Doug Pauley, Clarence Gilbert

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bell called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Councilman Robinson led the invocation.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION (ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS, IF ANY)

At 6:01pm, motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

- A.** Discussion of Proposed Agreement for Interconnection Project Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 30-4-70(a)(2) and Receipt of Legal Advice Pertaining Thereto Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 30-4-70(a)(2).

At 6:18pm, Councilman Roseborough entered the meeting and went into executive session.

At 6:20pm, motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Robinson 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 5-0.***

Councilman Trapp made a motion that Fairfield County approve the agreement discussed during executive session. The agreement discussed addressing the creation of a new regional pump station to the Winnsboro wastewater treatment plant and the pump station near Ridgeway to the Fairfield Commerce Center Industrial Park, as well as all of the associated lines. The motion was seconded by Councilman Robinson.

Mr. Whitaker introduced Ann Broadwater, Economic Development Director, to do a brief presentation. Mrs. Broadwater said she wanted to talk about how important regionalism and economic development was and the issues surrounding their organization. She said the Town of Winnsboro currently had about 500,000 gallons per day of excess capacity at their existing wastewater treatment plant. Due to the size of the existing pipe in the Fairfield Commerce Center, they could only transport another 175,000 gallons per day of a fluent from the Fairfield Commerce Center to the existing wastewater treatment plant, despite the ability to treat more than that. Their new industrial park alongside Peach Road currently did not have sewer access. She referred to a chart displayed on the screens. They put together a list of companies who looked at Fairfield since January 2022. It showed what they could handle that day and what they could handle with the interconnector and what they could handle if they were on the Broad River. She said never before had there been investments of that level looking at Fairfield County and if they wanted the County to succeed, they could not wait until the Broad River plant was online to start recruiting industry. Instead of waiting three years or more with limited wastewater capacity, the interconnection would allow them to access half a million gallons per day before a company could finish building their facility. The Peach Road Industrial site, because the interconnector would run directly beside it, it could be considered fully served since they would have sewer performance before companies would have finished going vertical. The development of the park was critical because it was wholly located in Fairfield Electric Co-op territory and they could provide users with competitive electric rates. Because companies needed large amounts of electricity, price was a driving factor for where they chose to locate. By having the ability to offer competitive rates, they could be well positioned to win a large project. She mentioned again that they were experiencing an unprecedented level of interest in Fairfield County by prospective investors but without the necessary

utilities, they could not win. Almost every week, they had to turn down prospective investors because they were not able to provide the sewer capacity they needed. In order to stay competitive, they had to be prepared and getting the interconnection project completed would get them one-step closer. She said in the past week, they were at the I-77 Alliance's Annual Summit. There was a site selector there speaking about what it took to win projects. He had been in the business 30+ years, worked with large companies and understood what it took. When he talked about regionalism and cooperation Statewide, he mentioned their mega site as being the only one in the U.S. on the east coast of its size that had direct international access. That was huge. He worked for companies that were looking for a location like the one they had. He had a connection to South Carolina and he knew all about their site. She was excited and thought they were on the cusp and they were in a position to bring big companies to Fairfield County. She referred to and played a video about the mega site. After the video, she said daylighting had started and they could see earth moving on the site. One of the things that Mark said that people did not consider the things that could make a difference in winning a project – was there an available building or site, were there utilities in place, was there a trainable workforce, were there financial incentives and what was the feeling that the company had when they came into a community. She asked what kind of feeling did they want to portray – pride, hope and togetherness. She asked them to think about that as they went through their daily work. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

Mr. Bell said the agreement with the Town of Winnsboro allowed the joint system to connect to the Town of Winnsboro's wastewater plant as an interim solution and/or as a means to fast track needed sewage capacity for Fairfield County to grow and prosper. In itself, it was transformational. The agreement alone was sought after since 2017 and discussed at the Council of Government since 2013. He thanked Mr. McMeekin and his team, Mr. Cookendorfer, their administration staff and attorneys but especially the County Council team for all of the work and resources that went into the agreement. The agreement was one of his most rewarding experiences since becoming Chair of Council. They were able to get that done. The impact was long-term and as Fairfield County grew and prospered, it would be due to that agreement. He asked Mr. McMeekin to stand and said they were classmates of 1972. When he became Mayor, he was the Chair of Council and they decided they would work together to ensure the County moved forward and it was evidenced by that day's agreement. He asked Mr. Jason Taylor to stand and said the joint system had been an idea of his for quite some time. He thanked him for his previous work. He thanked Jack McKenzie, the attorney for the Dominion settlement. He said he worked with all of them to get the agreement done. He said Dominion

Energy was a good partner for Fairfield County – because of them and the projects that were developed, the County would be significantly changed for the better through growth and prosperity. He thanked Walt Cartin, their attorney, as well as County Administrator Malik Whitaker and Deputy County Administrator Synithia Williams. He especially thanked the County Council and those who believed in the work and entrusted their leadership. He said some weeks he and Vice Chair Greene met daily with others and many nights he stayed up thinking about how to accomplish it. He thanked their attorney's Boykin and Davis for the wisdom they provided along the path. He said it was teamwork that made it happen. The meeting that night was an inconvenience for everyone but they met because the agreement was that important to them. The agreement would help them grow Fairfield County to prosperity and the impact was long-term. He thanked Mr. McMeekin for his help.

5. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDERS

A. Resolution No. 2022-06: To Expend \$5.1 Million of Dominion Settlement Proceeds Authorized For a Sewer Treatment Plant, For Use as Local Match Funds For SCIIP Program Grants For Which Fairfield County and the Town of Ridgeway Are Seeking to Construct Sewer Line Connections Generally Described as the Ridgeway Connector and the Winnsboro Connection, Respectively, Which Are Necessary Components of the Sewer Treatment Plant. Mr. Bell asked Dr. Roberts to read the resolution in its entirety. She read:

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement with Dominion Energy included a payment of \$45,690,118 to the County for a sewer treatment plant, which was approved by the County Council on July 12, 2021;

WHEREAS, the County has engaged in discussions with the Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer System, the Town of Winnsboro, and the Town of Ridgeway regarding establishment of the sewer treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina through the Rural Infrastructure Authority has created an opportunity for the County to leverage some of its existing funding to obtain additional grant funding to support necessary components of the sewer treatment plant.

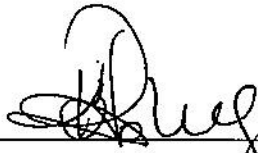
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a portion of the unexpended approved funds from the Dominion Energy, South Carolina, Inc. Settlement Agreement, not to exceed \$5,100,000 in the aggregate, shall be used as local match funds for SCIIP Program Grant applications submitted through the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority, as follows:

- (1) Ridgeway Connector, approximately \$1.564 million; and
- (2) Winnsboro connection, approximately \$3.527 million.

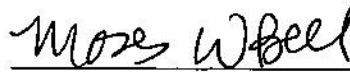
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the use funds to be set aside herein is contingent upon the approval of the grants. If one of the grant applications is not approved, the funds set aside shall not be used for any other purpose and shall remain with the settlement proceeds. Motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Trapp. Mr. Bell said that was an interim step. The wastewater treatment plant would be built but as they looked at the chart, that would get them to 63.1% of all the prospects they were getting. He said he remembered Mr. Bill Bingham, Mr. Taylor and himself talked about how to get the wastewater treatment system and where it would be best placed. They all agreed that it would be the Broad River. That was still the goal – to make the sewage plant on the Broad River but this agreement was an interim step to getting there. He wanted to make sure everyone knew that. Mr. Whitaker said they also wanted to thank their friends from Ridgeway. Mr. Bell agreed and said Ridgeway was a significant help in the process. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

ADJOURN

At 6:42 p.m., it was motioned by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***



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



MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN