

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 18, 2021**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Timothy Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Mikel Trapp, Cornelius Robinson, Doug Pauley, (Council Members); Kenneth Davis (Attorney); Kim W. 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.

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 unanimously 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Councilwoman Greene led the invocation.

4. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDERS

A. First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 780: An Ordinance to Adopt a Redistricting Plan for Fairfield County, South Carolina Utilizing the 2020 Census Results. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. ***The motion carried 5-2.***

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.)

A. Personnel Matter – Regarding County Administrator Candidate Vacancy, Introduction and Possible Action Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(1).

At 6:02 p.m., motion made by Councilman Trapp seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to go into executive session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

At 6:30 p.m., motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Chairman Bell reported no action was taken in executive session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

Councilman Trapp made a motion to offer the position of County Administrator to Mr. Malik Whitaker, contingent upon finalizing the contract, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. Mr. Pauley stated he wanted to put on the record that we started looking for a County Administrator back in May 2021. After many failed attempts, we hired Mr. Brad Caulder (he believed around June 7th) in an interim role as County Administrator. He thanked Mr. Caulder for his time as the Interim County Administrator. We retained the services of the Mercer Group many months ago to help us find a possible candidate for County Administrator. The Mercer Group bought us several candidates but not a large pool to choose from. He asked about bringing in more candidates and he was told they would be looking at another six months. He thought the candidate before them did not have all the qualifications they were looking for but we are in need of a County Administrator and he was willing to work with him and give him a chance. He thought they owed it to the citizens of Fairfield County to work together and move this County forward. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

Mr. Bell asked Mr. Whitaker to stand. He proceeded to read Mr. Whitaker's bio. He read - Malik Whitaker is a native of North Columbia, growing up just off the Richland County side of Monticello Road. He graduated from Eau Claire High School in 1990 and then earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of South Carolina in 1994. He continued on and graduated from the University of South Carolina's School of Law in 1997. While serving as a law clerk, he joined the Richland County Planning Department to ensure the County was following legal processes to remove unsafe homes in the County. He eventually became the Unsafe Housing Official and the Assistant Zoning Administrator for Richland County. Malik is an administrative leader with over 24 years of professional experience in county, non-profit and state government settings. He has extensive training in strategic planning, policy review and development as well as program management. He is currently the Senior Director of Education and Resilience at the United Way of the Midlands and prior to that, spent almost a decade in state child welfare leadership in both Florida and South Carolina. Malik Whitaker is married to Dr. Stacey C.

Whitaker, a veteran school administrator. They are the proud parents of a daughter, Ty (a freshman at Clemson University) and a son Jay Whitaker, a junior at Richland Northeast High School. Mr. Bell then asked Mr. Whitaker to introduce his family. He did so off mic. Mr. Bell welcomed him aboard and thanked him for considering us and giving up what he was currently doing to come and lead this County. As we have said, there are a lot of challenges but there are also a lot of opportunities. He thanked him for coming to Fairfield County.

6. ADJOURN

At 6:35 p.m., it was moved by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

KIM W. ROBERTS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN