



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 12, 2021**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Doug Pauley, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Laura Johnson, Assistant County Administrator; Charles Boykin, County Attorney; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

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 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Pauley led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2021, and the Budget Work Sessions of March 23, 2021, and March 30, 2021. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- A.** Recognition of Miriam Woodard for 41 years of service to Fairfield County. Mr. Brad Caulder stated Mrs. Woodard, at the time of her retirement, is the County's longest serving full-time employee with nearly 42 years of service. Mrs. Woodard began her career with the County on July 2, 1979, being classified as a Clerk/Typist 1. She was later promoted to the position of Tax Collector on July 26, 1982, where she served until her retirement. The County sincerely appreciates her service and dedication

and wishes her the very best in her retirement. Council thanked Mrs. Woodard for her service to the County. Council Member Bell stated Mrs. Woodard worked with his friend, Mr. James Vanderhall, and he remembers visiting the office in the past. He also thanked Mrs. Woodard for her service to the County. Mrs. Woodard was presented with a plaque and a picture was taken with Council.

6. **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.

- Jeff Morris - Executive Session and Public Comment
- Yvette Howard - Courthouse Renovations
- Thomas Armstrong - Public Hearing
- Randy Bright - Public Comment and Executive Session

7. **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.** Legal Matter – Receipt of Legal Advice and Discussion Regarding Pending Litigation Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- B.** Contractual Matter - Discussion of Negotiations Concerning Proposed Contract of Sale of Property Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70 (a)(2).
- C.** Personnel Matter - Discussion of a Personnel Matter Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(1).

Chairman Bell shared some information regarding executive sessions for the benefit of the public as well as members of Council. The Freedom of Information Act in Section 30-4-70 (b) as adopted in the County Council By-Laws states: Before going into executive session, the public agency shall vote in public on the question, and when the vote is favorable, the presiding officer shall announce the specific purpose of the executive session. As used in the Freedom of Information Act, specific purpose means

a description of the matter to be discussed as identified in items (1) through (5) of the Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a). Chairman Bell further stated some of the items have been listed on the agenda; however, the State Supreme Court has stated that the Freedom of Information Act does not require that an agenda for an executive session be posted or that the news media be notified of the agenda of an executive session. At 6:20 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to go into executive session. Chairman Bell then read items A, B, and C and also added Item D to the list of Executive Session items:

- D. Contractual Matter** - Receipt of Legal Advice and Discussion Regarding Construction Contract Involving the Administration Building Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1).

The motion carried unanimously 7-0. At 7:08 p.m., motion made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.*** Chairman Bell reported that no action was taken in executive session.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A. Resolution No. 2021-02:** A Resolution Affirming Fairfield County's Commitment to Fair Housing. Chairman Bell requested for the Clerk to read the Resolution. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve Resolution No. 2021-02. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES - Received as Information

- A. Disabilities and Special Needs Board
- B. Chamber of Commerce

11. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

12. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Acceptance of Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP) Grant Offer,** Grant No. 3-45-0058-021-2021 for Fairfield County Airport and

Giving Authority to Authorized Representatives, to include County Administrator and County Attorney, for Execution of Documents. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve the Acceptance and Authority to Execute Documents. Mrs. Denise Bryan stated this is the second Cares Act Grant. Last year, this grant was received in the amount of \$30,000 by the Airport with the grant this year being in the amount of \$13,000. The paperwork must be turned in by April 30. Chairman Bell thanked Mrs. Bryan for her work at the Airport. Mrs. Bryan further stated that the grant money must be used for certain purposes and can be used to offset her salary. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Update on Courthouse Renovations. Per Mr. Taylor, Mr. Bryant Brown from GMK Engineering will give Council an update on the courthouse renovations, which are being done to bring the building up to modern standards with ADA, etc. There is some money in the previously issued bond to cover this. Mr. Brown thanked Council for the opportunity to work on this project. The courthouse was erected in 1822, so the 200th anniversary is coming up soon. GMK has worked on several Robert Mills courthouses, and the County has a very unique building. An evaluation was done of the building since October of 2020 looking at the mechanical, electrical, walls, structure, ADA compliance needs, safety needs, etc. The vast majority of the changes needed are mechanical because of the age of the building, the electrical needs to be upgraded, elevators, etc. This study was completed last year, and the first phase will begin with work on the bathrooms. The second phase will be to build a new addition to the back of the building. One key during the construction and upgrading renovations is to keep the building open so services can be ongoing. There is also a mold problem that has to be addressed. Mr. Brown then showed the rendering of the building and pointed out the addition to the back of the building. Council Member Pauley inquired of the cost of the project. Per Mr. Brown, the budget for the project is around \$5.3M. Council Member Gilbert inquired how long the project will take to complete. Mr. Brown stated Phase 1 will start in the next two to three weeks, which will take a year to a little over a year to complete. It is phased due to trying to keep the building open during the renovations. This building is in very good shape and just needs to be updated. Chairman Bell inquired concerning the mold. Mr. Brown stated the mold is at a minimum. The humidity must

be controlled, which will then take care of the mold. The new air conditioning system and humidity control will make a huge difference in addressing this situation. Chairman Bell also inquired concerning more work being needed after the project is completed, and Mr. Brown stated there is a GMP (guaranteed maximum price). All the research has been done with all the mechanical, electrical, etc., and the building will be upgraded to the current standards and codes. Chairman Bell requested for Mr. Taylor to discuss how much is left in the bond. Per Mr. Taylor, there is \$4.2M to \$4.3M left assigned for the courthouse. What is being presented tonight is above this amount, so other avenues are being investigated to fill that gap. If this cannot be done, the project may have to be cut back to keep it within budget. Chairman Bell stated since the building was built in 1822 and coming toward 2022, he requested for the Clerk to make plans to celebrate 200 years for the courthouse. Chairman Bell also thanked Mr. Brown for his time tonight.

- B.** Element TV – Recipient of WalMart’s Supplier of the Year in the Categories of Entertainment, Toys and Seasonal Supplies as well as Consumer Electronics. Mr. Taylor reported that a representative of Element could not attend the meeting tonight, so this will be deferred until the next meeting.
- C.** Update on Food Share - Per Mrs. Johnson, a date has been secured for Wednesday, April 28. The logistics are still being worked out, and she will keep Council apprised.
- D.** COVID Vaccinations - Per Mrs. Johnson, there was a drive-thru vaccination held on the grounds of the former Fairfield Memorial Hospital. The first drive-thru was March 31 with around 250 vaccinations administered. The next will be held on April 14 between 10 and 3 p.m. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson will be offered. Appointments will be made for the second dose at the same location. Council Member Pauley inquired if this can be advertised on the billboard. Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Johnson stated this could be advertised. Vice Chair Greene inquired if this is by appointment only, and Mrs. Johnson stated no appointment is needed. Chairman Bell inquired if this is on the County website, and Mrs. Johnson stated the information is on the website and Facebook.

15. CLERK TO COUNCIL’S REPORT

- A.** Budget Work Sessions Update – The Clerk stated Council has a third Budget Work Session scheduled for tomorrow, April 13, beginning at 6:00. There was a final work session scheduled if needed on Thursday; however, this is

being rescheduled. Per Chairman Bell, the Thursday Budget Work Session is being rescheduled for next Wednesday. Also, Mrs. Greene has her report from the Ad Hoc Committee and stated she could present this on Wednesday also. Chairman Bell requested for the Clerk to check with Mrs. Bass and other staff to be sure Wednesday will work for the last Budget Work Session. The Budget Work Session will be at 7:00 p.m. with the Special Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert requested that Council be provided with a monthly finance report from the County Attorney dating back to his starting date.

Trapp: Council Member Trapp stated, along the lines of Council Member Gilbert's request, he would also like a monthly report concerning the previous attorney in order to have comparison.

Robinson: Council Member Robinson inquired how much is currently in fund balance. Per Mr. Taylor, this is a snapshot and changes day to day. This can, however, be pulled for information. Chairman Bell stated Mrs. Bass recently gave Council a report, and on the right hand side, the fund balance was given.

Bell: Chairman Bell stated he looks forward to seeing everyone tomorrow. There are some difficult decisions to make and some immediate challenges, but there is nothing that cannot be accomplished. He instructed Council to be prepared to discuss the budget in detail and decide where to make cuts, because the Council must have a budget that can be sustained. Every decision must be looked at in detail. Chairman Bell stated he and Vice Chair Greene have been discussing how a system can be put in place to help going forward to not find ourselves in this shape again. Chairman Bell has been looking into things from the Comptroller and financial planners. Something must be done, and Council should be thinking about what it can do to help so as to never again land in this type of financial peril.

Trapp: Council Member Trapp requested all information that had been requested from the last Budget Work Session to be emailed sometime tomorrow before the meeting. Per Mr. Taylor, he believes this information has already been collected, and it will be sent to Council. One particular item would be the ongoing capital projects.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION (SUBSEQUENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION).

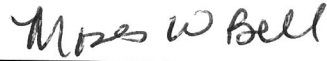
No additional executive session needed.

18. ADJOURN

At 7:32 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL



MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN