



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
MAY 10, 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 Council Member Roseborough, 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 Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Council Member Trapp, to approve the minutes from the Budget Work Session of April 13, 2021, the Special Meeting of April 21, 2021, and the Budget Work Session of April 21, 2021. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

- A.** 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. Davenport stated Mr. Kennedy from Element sends his apologies. They are onboarding 45 new employees, so he will be working late tonight. This is a good reason not to be able to make it. Mr. Kennedy has extended an invitation to Council to do a plant tour in the near future.

**6. 1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, FOR WHICH NO PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED OR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.**

- Jeff Schaffer - Peanut Gallery
- Randy Bright - Personnel Matter

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

- A.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 771: Authorizing Amendments to a Redevelopment Agreement Providing for a New County Administration Building so as to Provide Support for the Erection of a Monument to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or a Similar Historic Figure, and to Provide Support for the Use of the Teacherage as a Museum Memorializing African American Heritage in the County. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 771. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- B.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 767: To Establish Operating and Capital Budgets for the Operation of the County Government of Fairfield County for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2021; to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for Fairfield County for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2021; to Provide for the Expenditure of Tax Revenues and Other County Funds; to Provide for Other County Purposes; to Provide for Certain Fiscal and Other Matters Relating to County Government, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 767. ***The motion carried 4-3 with Council Members Pauley, Robinson and Gilbert voting nay.***
- C.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 769: To Establish the Millage Rate for Fairfield County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 769. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- D.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 770: An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Add New Fees for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Motion

made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance 770. ***The motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Pauley voting nay.***

**9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES**

None.

**10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- A.** Recognition of Mr. Chris Netherton, Building Official, for Achieving the Distinction of General Contractor and Construction Manager by South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, and Master Code Professional (MCP) through the International Code Council. Mr. Taylor stated anytime an employee gets this level of training and certification, it helps the County tremendously, and Mr. Netherton has been a great asset to the County. Mr. Netherton has helped to oversee many of the projects that have been done, such as the expansion of the sleeping quarters at the Lebanon Fire Station. Being able to do these in-house has saved the County a tremendous amount of money. Mr. Clauson further stated Mr. Netherton also oversaw the fitness center construction. The Master Code Certification has, by latest numbers, a total of 66 who hold this distinction in the State. So, Fairfield County has one of the 66. This is as high as it goes for a code professional. Council Member Trapp congratulated Mr. Netherton and stated he knows the tests can be challenging. Chairman Bell and Council Member Robinson congratulated Mr. Netherton. Mr. Netherton stated he, as a building official, was not required to go after the MCP, and instead, it was something he wanted to do on a personal level. A picture was then taken with Council, Mr. Netherton and Mr. Clauson.
- B.** Furman Miller, Trail Coordinator of Palmetto Trail – National Trails Day and Special Farmers' Market at Alston Trailhead. Mr. Taylor introduced Mr. Miller stating the Alston Trailhead is a very popular site. Mr. Miller appreciates being able to speak tonight on the Palmetto Trail and Fairfield

County's partnership with this effort. The Palmetto Trail is South Carolina's only cross State hiking and cycling trail and one of only 16 in the entire country. It has a 500 mile footprint with the low country terminus at Awendaw on the coast and the upstate terminus at Walhalla. A little over 400 miles of the trail is in place. It was built in a series of passages, and one passage near and dear is the Peak to Prosperity passage, which has the trailhead at Alston. That particular passage is the most popular passage in the entire trail system. Counters were installed last October, and the trail is averaging over 75 people daily, resulting in about 28,000 people per year. The majority of these folks use the Alston Trailhead as their starting point. The partnership with the County in the past has been great in trying to improve the area to make it an enjoyable experience for everyone. The hope is to continue this partnership in the future. Many different events happen to bring awareness to this trail and this asset. Today, Mr. Miller had 35 students and three teachers from the Midlands Stem Institute, and he hiked 6.5 miles with them in a combined nature/history hike. June 5 is National Trails Day, which is a nationwide effort to get folks outside to experience the trails. An event is being sponsored on National Trails Day, in conjunction with Fairfield Forward and Fairfield County, at the Alston Trailhead with a local farmers' market, local artisans, potentially a health fair and also a guided hike (2 miles) to show folks the beauty of the trail. Mr. Miller is here tonight to extend a personal invitation to each and every Council Member to please come out, not just June 5 but anytime, and hike the trail. By doing this, hopefully, Council will see what a huge asset this trail system at Alston is, not only for the State of South Carolina but for Fairfield County. Council Member Robinson inquired of the hours for the event. Per Mr. Miller, the farmers' market starts at 9:00. The guided hike starts at 10 and should wrap up sometime after lunch. Council Member Robinson is very much in support of this, and he likes the idea of bringing the farmers' market to the western part of the County. Mr. Miller is hoping this will be successful and hopes to possibly have this more in the future. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Miller and stated Council is in full support of all the work that is being done and the trailhead itself.

- C. Request of Action:** Transit Bus Video Camera System for Eight (8) Cutaways and Three (3) Mini-Passenger Vans. Mr. Taylor stated Mrs. Diana White went before the Finance Committee earlier tonight to present the request for the transit bus video camera system. This is an item that was bid out with six bidders. The low bid was \$67,339.57 and is completely grant covered. This item just went to the Finance Committee and was recommended to full Council for approval. Council Member Trapp made a

motion to approve the request of action, seconded by Vice Chair Greene.  
***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT**

None.

**15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert wished to commend Mr. Tony Armstrong and Pastor Hughes for organizing a diverse group of citizens for a kickball game in front of the statue on Sunday a week ago.

Robinson: Council Member Robinson received phone calls about the kickball game, and it is nice to see citizens of all races get together. Council Member Robinson also inquired if it would be possible to have legal look at possible ordinances pertaining to other counties in reference to naming buildings after people. Chairman Bell stated now that the budget is done, there is work needed by Council on the By-Laws and the Procurement Manual. It can also work on this request. Council Member Robinson also inquired, for transparency, if the County is now giving out ice to constituents who request it, because every Council Member gets these type of phone calls. Mr. Taylor stated everyone has to be treated in the same way.

Bell: Chairman Bell would like to thank the Administration and Finance group as the budget was worked on this year. Last year, the budget was proposed at \$46.7M with \$5.5M fund balance needed; this was reduced to \$46.4M with \$5.2M from fund balance, which was about a \$300,000 reduction. This year, the proposal budget was \$44.6M with \$3.5M from fund balance. The ending budget that has passed is \$42.6M, which from last year is about a \$4M reduction, and only \$1.4M coming from fund balance, representing a \$2.1M reduction. A lot of work went into trying to achieve this, and Chairman Bell understands there is more work to do. He thanks everyone for their efforts in trying to get us where we need to be.

**16. 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 6:27 p.m., motion made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items.  
***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

- A.** Personnel Matter - Discussion Concerning the Position of County Administrator Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(1).
- B.** Legal Matter - Update on Litigation Against SCANA/SCE&G in Reference to the Abandoned V.C. Summer New Nuclear Project Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- C.** Legal Matter - Receipt of Legal Advice and Discussion Concerning Pending Litigation Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).

At 7:25 p.m., motion made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, 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.

Council Member Trapp made a motion to authorize the Chairman of Fairfield County Council to enter into a settlement agreement with Dominion Energy of South Carolina on behalf of Fairfield County, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. Chairman Bell then read the agreement into the record.

In exchange for full and final resolution of pending litigation between Dominion Energy S.C. and Fairfield County, the County agrees to the following:

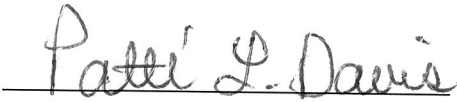
Sewage Treatment Plant	\$45,690,118
Grading of Megasite	6,475,000
Grading of Commerce Center	3,196,000
Escrow for Rate Relief	1,750,000
Spec Building Parcel 9 Commerce Center	2,000,000
Teacher Village	2,200,000
Bond Payment	7,550,920
Ridgeway Park	2,500,000
Martin Luther King Monument	1,000,000
Cash	<u>27,112,500</u>
Total	\$99,474,538


Council Member Pauley stated, except for the wastewater treatment plant, he feels current Council leadership did not prioritize the items in the settlement for the benefit of all the citizens in Fairfield County. Council Member Robinson states he is okay with the settlement, and the wastewater treatment facility is a big game changer for the County. Also, he would love to see exit 32 come to fruition. Chairman Bell stated the sewage plant will be on the upper Broad River and has an opportunity to serve the entire County. This is absolutely a

good thing for the County. This deal is transformational, an excellent deal and he is very proud to be a part of it. Chairman Bell thanked the attorneys, Mr. Taylor and his staff for their work and Mr. Davenport. It was an honor for him as a member of Council to be in the midst of this intense negotiations and to see, not only the intensity, but the comradery of it all. This will put Fairfield County 15-20 years ahead of its time. This is absolutely a good deal for the County and is something we can celebrate from all ends of the County. **The motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Pauley voting nay.**

**17. ADJOURN**

At 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

  
PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

  
MOSES BELL  
CHAIRMAN