



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 26, 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 Roseborough 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 April 12, 2021, and the Budget Work Session of April 13, 2021. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. 1ST 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.

- Tony Armstrong - Fairfield County

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.)

At 7:06 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, 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.** Economic Development - Discussion of Matters Related to Proposed Location or Expansion of Industry in the Area Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(5).
- C.** Contractual Matter - Discussion of Negotiations Concerning Proposed Contract for Sale of Property Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- D.** Legal Matter - Receipt of Legal Advice and Discussion Concerning Consultation with Additional Bond Attorney Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(1).

At 7:13 p.m., motion made by Vice Chair Greene, seconded by Council Member Trapp, 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

- A.** An Ordinance 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.

At 7:13 p.m., Chairman Bell opened the public hearing. Mr. Thomas Armstrong signed to speak. With no further citizens wishing to speak, Chairman Bell closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Second 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. Chairman Bell stated a motion will be needed, with a second, to approve the budget ordinance second reading. Then, the motion list must be gone through with each item being passed or failed. Motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 767. The following motions were made in connection with Ordinance No. 767:

- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to include trash fees for the Town of Winnsboro and the School District and Detention Center fees for the Town of Winnsboro. Mr. Taylor stated staff would like for Council to go down the list to take action yay or nay on each item listed. Chairman Bell stated Council will complete this item and then go back to the beginning of the list. Council Member Robinson stated a concern was brought to him by a few constituents that the County will be charging County citizens who live in the City limits. The concern is that this will be a double charge. The County does not charge County citizens for trash services; however, the City residents will be charged with this item. Chairman Bell stated this is an item that Council Member Robinson initially brought up, and the Town of Winnsboro charges for trash pickup. They will now have to pay the County fees like any other business owner. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- Council Member Trapp made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to decline the millage increase of 5 mils. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- Council Member Trapp made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to decline the millage increase of the current CPI (1.23%=2.24 mils). ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- Council Member Trapp made a motion, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to decline the millage increase for the Library. Council Member Pauley requested for Mr. Taylor to further explain the millage for the Library. Per Mr. Taylor, the Library operates from a

millage, and Council must vote when there is a request made for additional funding. Council Member Robinson inquired where the additional funding would be going. Per Mrs. Bass, if the Library's revenues do not meet their expenses, they have to dip into their fund balance. For around the last three years, they have dipped into this fund, and it is getting close to being gone. Mrs. Bass stated they are due a millage increase, and she cannot remember the last time they received a millage increase. The 1 mil would get them to where they need to be. Council Member Gilbert inquired if 1 mil would be around \$4, and Mrs. Bass stated the average \$100,000 primary residence property would be around \$4. ***Motion carried 4-3 to not fund the Library with the additional 1 mil with Council Members Pauley, Robinson and Gilbert voting nay.***

- Council Member Trapp made a motion, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to decline the reduction of agency budgets by 30% and leave as is. Council Member Robinson stated unless the rest of Council knows something they do not, this was repeatedly discussed in connection with cutting the budget. Vice Chair Greene stated she believes when the pandemic funds are looked into, this money might be able to be used for non-profits. In speaking with some of the non-profits, Vice Chair Greene was told they will not be allowed to get the money on their own. She believes there will be other ways to assist the County in funding the non-profits. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to fund Fairfield County Behavioral Health at 2021 adopted budget amount. Chairman Bell stated since no reductions were applied to the agencies, it would already remain the same, but this item will also be carried through. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0 (audio and video recordings appear to show 1 nay vote but unable to give further info).***
- Council Member Trapp made a motion, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to decline the Personnel Request for the Sheriff's Department Evidence Officer. ***Motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Robinson voting nay.***
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to include a newsletter for County Council up to \$20,000. ***Motion carried 4-3 with Council Members Pauley, Robinson and Gilbert voting nay.***
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to reduce Council travel to make the newsletter a budget neutral item. Council Member Pauley is

assuming the Hilton Head trip will be removed since Council is spending \$20,000 on a newsletter. He would encourage Council to not participate in the Hilton Head trip this year. Vice Chair Greene feels Council does not need to decide how the money will be spent here tonight. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to remove furniture from the budget. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to remove the vehicle allowance. Council Member Gilbert requested for Mrs. Bass to explain the difference between a County car and this allowance. Per Mrs. Bass, it was about a year ago that Council opted for the vehicle allowance instead of a County vehicle. The cost is not that much different in total dollars and is essentially whether the individual receives an automobile or buys and maintains an automobile with gas and maintenance. With the allowance and a personal automobile, it would be the individual's responsibility. However, if it is a County vehicle, the County would provide gas, maintenance, insurance and all other associated costs. Vice Chair Greene inquired if there is a car currently that could be used. Per Mrs. Bass, the employee would definitely have to be given a car, but she is not sure if there is anything available at this time. Mr. Taylor stated there are automobiles that would have to be shuffled, and someone would probably lose an automobile. The only extra vehicles the County has are the old Crowne Victoria's which are not suitable for use on a daily basis. This would probably mean that Mrs. Johnson would lose her vehicle. Council Member Gilbert stated when companies are visiting the County and the Economic Development Director is driving an old car with a lot of miles, this will put a bad appearance on the County. Mr. Taylor stated we do want to put our best foot forward with Economic Development. **Motion carried 4-3 with Council Members Pauley, Robinson and Gilbert voting nay.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to cut recycling by one day per week. Council Member Robinson stated to clarify, is this just for one day or for an additional day, and Chairman Bell stated this is for an additional day. It is already closed on Wednesday and part of the day on Sunday, and this would give an additional day. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to set Recreation back to FY2021 adopted. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to set Fire back to FY2021 adopted. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to remove the Transit Administrative Assistant from the budget. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to remove the Tax Assessor temp from the budget. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to remove the Building Maintenance temps from the budget. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to remove the Animal Control temps from the budget. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Member Trapp, to reduce the limb site hours. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Trapp made a motion to decline having the Recycling Center hours seasonal, seconded by Council Member Roseborough. **Motion carried 4-3 with Council Members Pauley, Robinson and Gilbert voting nay.**

Council Member Pauley made a motion to remove funding for the Hilton Head trip, seconded by Council Member Gilbert. **Motion failed 3-4 with Chairman Bell, Vice Chair Greene and Council Members Trapp and Roseborough voting nay.**

Council Member Trapp then made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 767 as amended, seconded by Council Member Roseborough. Council Member Pauley wished to put on the record why he is voting no on the budget reading tonight and will vote no on the final reading as well unless some changes are made to the budget and the way Council is currently doing business. He is voting no on the budget because it is misguided in terms of where it places the priorities, which should be on the citizens and employees.

This budget asks the employees to bear cuts in their departments which then results in reduced services for the citizens. Council Member Pauley stated a reduction in Council's reimbursements and benefits for certain Council Members is in order as Council is asking others to sacrifice. Furthermore, after what he views as buying positive coverage in one newspaper, Council wants to spend \$20,000 on a newsletter to citizens, which he is sure the four Council Members behind him will completely craft and control the content of. Therefore, he cannot vote for the budget as presented. He will be completely transparent in that as long as the budget prioritizes the wrong things and the four Council Members are unwilling to work with the other three on anything except what they want or when they need another vote for a super majority requirement, he can promise that he will not be that vote. Council Member Pauley is happy to work with anyone on doing the right thing for the citizens and the County, but it has to be a 2-way street with some give and take. Vice Chair Greene stated when we take a look at this budget and say we have not considered the citizens of the County, we must take a look at the fact that we have kept the agencies fully funded. A lot of things have happened in the County that depend on someone else helping others, whether this involves food, medical care or taking someone in when they are on drugs or other kinds of things and providing services. She wants to make sure that when someone says we are not providing services for the citizens, we need to take a look at what has been prioritized in the budget. Concerning the newsletter, Vice Chair Greene stated this was presented by someone else, and she does not remember one Council Member who brought the newsletter up. This was something that evidently was either in a prior budget, but many people voted for removing the \$20,000 out of the Council budget. Because we did not specify where that will be, she believes we should not act as if it is a divisive amount. We acted and took that money out. Most of the time we want to have a balance, but look at three people not even making a motion or not even coming up with anything else except at the end to make a statement. When the questions were asked for discussion, there was limited discussion. Vice Chair Greene stated not to have grandstanding, and it is so much better to have leadership rather than showmanship. Council Member Pauley inquired if Vice Chair Greene is aware that she just voted to take a luxury trip while Council is requiring departments to cut back. Vice Chair Greene stated she did not vote for a luxury trip but to not specify. She needs to go some place because she has not had training at all. Council Member Pauley suggested virtual training, and Vice Chair Greene stated she has done this. ***Motion carried 5-2 with Council Members Pauley and Gilbert voting nay.***

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES - Received as Information

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

11. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Mrs. Angi Connor, Director Council on Aging – Use of County Building for Meals on Wheels. Per Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Connor has a request to make to Council for the use of a County building. Per Mrs. Connor, Council previously made the generous contribution toward the ongoing grant project to renovate the Senior Center. That construction is underway and has unfortunately been delayed. The project was supposed to be completed by July 1 and now will not be completed until mid-August. All participants in the home delivered meals program have been switched to frozen, and they are not currently receiving hot meals because the agency does not have a kitchen. They would, therefore, like to use the Behavioral Health building temporarily to house the kitchen to enable the Meals on Wheels to start back up. Those participants who live within 10 miles would be able to start receiving hot meals again. The expectation is to be back in their building by August, so everything would be moved out by then or the middle of September. Chairman Bell thanked Mrs. Connor for her creative thinking and being sure the seniors are taken care of, and he feels this is a good idea. Council Member Pauley inquired how this would work if Council on Aging and the Fire Service are required to share the same building because of the potential to sell the piece of County property that houses the Fire Administration. Mr. Taylor stated it has been looked into to move the Fire Service into this building, but the building is large enough that he does not feel there would be a problem. It is almost like two separate buildings the way it is set up with one area with offices and other areas with large open space with a kitchen. Mr. Pope really would not use the space being requested by the Council on Aging initially, and Mr. Taylor believes by the time the deal is made on the hospital buildings, the Council on Aging would probably already be moved out. Motion made by Vice Chair Green to approve the request from Council on Aging, seconded by Council Member Trapp. Council Member Robinson inquired of the length of time.

Per Mrs. Connor, they would like to move in as soon as possible, by the middle of May at the latest, and the hope is to be out of the building no later than mid-September. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- 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. Taylor reported that the representative of Element was not able to stay to this point in the meeting, and they have requested that this be deferred until the next meeting.
- B.** Food Share Scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Mr. Taylor stated the County has done a number of food shares to distribute food in the past, and the next is scheduled for April 28. Per Mrs. Johnson, this will be held at four separate locations: McCrorey Liston, the Airport, Geiger Elementary and Mitford Fire Station. This is only for Fairfield County citizens, and an I.D. must be shown. If someone is a new resident, they are asked to bring a tax receipt to show the new address. Chairman Bell thanked Mrs. Johnson for leading this effort and inquired concerning the one per household rule. Per Mrs. Johnson, as long as the people in the same car have a different address on their I.D., then they can get a separate box.
- C.** Update on COVID Vaccine - Mr. Taylor stated Mr. Brad Douglas is here tonight to update Council and answer any questions on the COVID vaccination process in the County. Mr. Douglas thanked Council for allowing him to speak. The COVID numbers are down significantly from the beginning of this year. Over the last 7-day period, Fairfield County has averaged 4.14 cases per day. To put this in comparison, Chester County is 5.86 and Newberry County is 8.14. As far as the vaccinations, the County's vaccination rate, according to the DHEC website, is about 7,640 County residents who have had at least one vaccine dose. This represents about a 40% rate and is pretty consistent with other counties. Chester County is at 43.9% and Newberry County is at 40.2%. The County has been hosting a drive-thru vaccine site, and this is being done in partnership with Fairfield Medical Associates. They are a very valuable and able partner in this because they have the medical license and the ability to get the vaccine. S.C. National Guard has been a big help, the Sheriff's Office helps with traffic and EMS is there because of the 15-minute monitoring period afterward. There have also been various volunteers. The first site was done on March 31, and a total of 244 vaccines were administered. The

second site was done on April 14, and a total of 60 vaccines were administered. The third site was conducted this past Saturday, and only 33 vaccines were administered. This coming Wednesday is a second dose day for those who came on March 31. The next site to be advertised will be May 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mr. Douglas had a conversation with Pastor Bell of Gethsemane Church today to explore possibly having a vaccine site in the Blair area in an attempt to get the vaccine into the rural areas to those who may not have access. Pastor Bell stated they are partnering with possibly Prisma Health in a week or so, and Mr. Douglas is waiting to see what the response is going forward. There has also been a discussion to possibly have a site in the Mitford area. Mr. Douglas welcomes any volunteers. Prisma Health has had one vaccine site at BoMag, and Mr. Douglas believes there is another scheduled for May 8 at BoMag. Hawthorne Pharmacy also recently held a vaccine site at the Old Armory. Advertisement for the next site on May 5 will be rolled out shortly. Council Member Robinson stated he was there for the first one and saw there was a good turnout. He rode through on the second one, and inquired if there is anything else, other than promotion, that Council could do to try to assist. Mr. Douglas stated there was an attempt with the first site to only advertise locally, because the concern was having a big turnout from other counties. That did not seem to be the issue because other sites were open also. All Department Heads put the events on their social media, the School District is very good with communication to get the information out and Mr. Douglas has also reached out to Senator Fanning with his large network to get the word out. He feels good at this time about how the information is getting out. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Douglas for all this work, and appreciates him looking for opportunities to take the vaccine to the rural communities. Mr. Douglas also stated that the County Transit provides free transportation to the sites, and it was reported that 10 or 15 people did reach out for this transportation. If the need and demand is there, he would like to see more outreach to the corners of the County that may find it harder to get here. Fairfield Medical Associates has been great about providing their manpower for this effort and obtaining the vaccine.

15. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

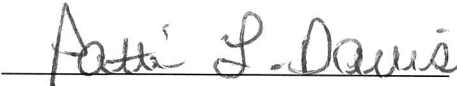
Trapp: Council Member Trapp stated he has had many people call him concerned about the finances of the County, and it may be worthwhile to look into the audit suggestion.

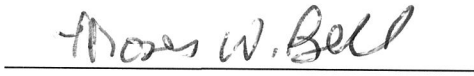
17. EXECUTIVE SESSION (SUBSEQUENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION).

No additional executive session needed.

18. ADJOURN

At 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