



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 12, 2022**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Mikel Trapp, Tim Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Doug Pauley, (Council Members); Malik Whitaker (County Administrator), Kenneth Davis (County Attorney); Dr. Kimberly Roberts (Clerk to Council)

Absent: Cornelius Robinson

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 6:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried 6-0.*** Mr. Bell stated Councilman Robinson had surgery and was not feeling well. Therefore, he was unable to attend the meeting.

3. INVOCATION

Councilman Roseborough led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting November 28, 2022. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

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. EACH SPEAKER IS ALLOTTED (3) MINUTES FOR COMMENTS. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES. THOSE WISHING TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS 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 (15) FIFTEEN MINUTES PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED START TIME OF THE MEETING.

Dr. Roberts read the following statement:

Fairfield County Government welcomes public input during appropriate times at County Council meetings. Such input will be allowed in the time, place and manner determined by the Chair of the County Council as the presiding officer. Persons wishing to speak must conduct themselves in the following manner:

Sign up at the appropriate time to speak, refrain from engaging in conduct or speech that seeks to disrupt or disturb the meeting, respect the time limit for the public comment, and refrain from personal attacks or personal statements about any individual(s). Such statements are disruptive because this part of our meeting is not conducive for such exchanges between individuals.

As stated, speakers were expected to express themselves within the time, place and manner previously described. Any violation will result in a warning from the Chair of County Council or the presiding officer. Any failure to heed the warning of the Chair or presiding officer will result in the violating speaker forfeiting their opportunity to finish speaking or to speak during the remainder of the meeting. Council welcomes the comments from members of the public and ask for the cooperation of everyone to allow for the orderly conduct of the people's business.

- Carl Bell – Ordinance 806
- Roberta Gay – Ordinance 806
- John Jones – Ordinance 806
- Jeff Schaffer – Ordinance 806
- Randy Bright – Ordinance 806

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

An Ordinance to Appropriate \$1,027,000 to the Economic Development Department to Use as Additional Funds for the Construction of a Speculative Building on Parcel 9 of the Fairfield Commerce Center (TMS#: 184-00-00-096-000) for Future Economic Development Needs, Derived from a Portion of the Proceeds Received from the Sale of the Fairfield County Property to Oldcastle APG South, Inc. in 2021, Which was Approved by the Fairfield County Council in Ordinance 754 as Part of the Project Windsor Agreement, and from a Portion of the Proceeds Received from the Sale of Fairfield County Property to Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center in 2022, Which was Approved by the Fairfield County Council in Ordinance 775.

Mr. Bell opened the public hearing at 6:21pm. Willie Burrell, Carl Bell and Roberta Gay signed up by mistake. Jeff Schaffer and Randy Bright spoke. Mr. Bell closed the public hearing at 6:29pm.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 807: An Ordinance to Adopt the 2021 South Carolina Modified Codes as Follows: the 2021 International Building Code With SC Modifications; the 2021 International Residential Code With SC Modifications; the 2021 International Fire Code With SC Modifications; the 2021 International Plumbing Code With SC Modifications; the 2021 International Mechanical Code With SC Modifications; the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code With SC Modifications; the 2020 National Electric Code (NFPA 70) With SC Modifications; and the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (Energy Standard Act). Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried 6-0.***
- B.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 808: An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds Received by Fairfield County from the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Guaranteed Political Subdivision Fund, to be Allocated to Establish a Five Year Agreement with Fairfield Behavioral Health Services for Use in Accordance with the Technical Proposal Submitted to the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board on November 16, 2022, to Support the Fairfield Opioid Response Team Developed in Partnership with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department, Winnsboro Public Safety, Fairfield County EMS, 911 Dispatch and the Fairfield County Coroner's Office. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. ***The motion carried 6-0.***
- C.** Second Reading Ordinance No. 805: An Ordinance to Amend Section 2-291 of the Fairfield County Code of Ordinances, as and if Amended, so to as to Provide for Purchasing and Procurement Authority and to Approve a New Procurement Manual for Fairfield County; and to Repeal Sections 2-292 Through 2-303 of the Fairfield County Code of Ordinances, Relating to Provisions Made Obsolete by the Adoption of the New Procurement Manual. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Bell said the Administration and Finance Committee met and recommended approval to full Council. ***The motion carried 6-0.***
- D.** Second Reading Ordinance No. 806: An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds from the Local Hospitality Tax Special Revenue Fund Established Pursuant to Ordinance Number 725 of 2019, so as to Provide Funding

for Tourism-Related Cultural, Recreational, and Historic Facilities, Including the South Carolina Railroad Museum; the Teacherage Located on the Grounds of the County Administration Building (Formerly the Mt. Zion Institute), and the Cultural Memorial Wall to be Established on the Site of the Historic Martin Blue Moon Property in Jenkinsville and a Proposed Amendment (Section A) to Appropriate General Fund Revenues in the Amount of \$922,022 to Provide a One-Time Retention Incentive Payment As Follows: (1) Full-Time Employees and Volunteer Firefighters With At Least 20 Accrued Points – a One-Time Payment of \$1,500; (2) Part-Time Employees, As Needed Employees and Volunteer Firefighters With Fewer Than 20 Points – a One-Time Payment of \$750. The Funds Appropriated In Subsection A Shall Be Disbursed After December 31, 2022 to County Employees Who Are Actively Employed on the Date of the Third Reading of This Ordinance. For Purposes of This Ordinance, Elected Officials Are Not Considered County Employees. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. Attorney Kenneth Davis said Council would need to first vote on adding the amendment. Whether that vote passed or failed, they then needed to vote on the full ordinance. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene to approve the amendment. Mr. Bell read the amendment again. **The motion carried 4-2.** Mr. Bell read the ordinance again, including the approved amendment. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Pauley asked if someone could be hired that day with the County, work two weeks, get a \$1,500 bonus and quit the next day. Mr. Whitaker said they would hope that their HR process would operate better than hiring someone and they quit the next day. Mr. Pauley asked if could happen and Mr. Whitaker said of course. Mr. Pauley said he thought when dealing with \$1M out of the budget that it should have been a supplemental appropriations request with three readings and a public hearing. Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Pauley and said there would be a public hearing on December 19th (Dr. Roberts agreed). He said they could not approve ordinances without public hearings. **The motion carried 4-2.**

- E.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 804: An Ordinance to Appropriate \$1,027,000 to the Economic Development Department to Use as Additional Funds for the Construction of a Speculative Building on Parcel 9 of the Fairfield Commerce Center (TMS#: 184-00-00-096-000) for Future Economic Development Needs, Derived from a Portion of the Proceeds Received from the Sale of the Fairfield County Property to Oldcastle APG South, Inc. in 2021,

Which was Approved by the Fairfield County Council in Ordinance 754 as Part of the Project Windsor Agreement, and from a Portion of the Proceeds Received From the Sale of Fairfield County Property to Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center in 2022, Which was Approved by the Fairfield County Council in Ordinance 775. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. Mr. Bell asked Mr. Whitaker or Mrs. Williams to state monies that were coming from other sources and include the County so the citizens would be informed. Mr. Whitaker invited Mr. Willoughby from Economic Development to the podium. Mr. Willoughby said current funding allocated for the spec building was \$2.5M in a grant from the Department of Commerce, \$2M from the Dominion Energy settlement, \$500,000 previously allocated from County Council, \$200,000 in a zero-interest loan from Central South Carolina Economic Development Alliance and \$50,000 in Dominion Energy utility tax credits. Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Willoughby. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

Councilman Trapp left the meeting at 6:41pm.

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES (For information only)

None.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Disabilities & Special Needs Board – Bydester Hall (District 5)

Motion made by Vice Chair Greene to appoint Ms. Hall, seconded Councilman Roseborough. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

Disabilities & Special Needs Board - Nancy Gerber (District 7)

Motion made by Vice Chair Greene to appoint Ms. Gerber, seconded by Councilman Gilbert. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. River Road Fire Station Update – Mrs. Williams said they had a pre-construction meeting last week with Hillman Construction (the contractor who won the bid for the fire station). In attendance were the architect and the engineer with infrastructure consultant engineering ICE (the consulting group that designed the fire station). As well in attendance

were the superintendent, representatives from Hillman Construction and the County's Fire Chief, Jason Pope. The goal of the meeting was a typical pre-con as to go over their permitting, project schedule and any other procedures as they prepare to start work. Hillman Construction was given a notice to proceed and they had 240 days to complete construction, which was about 8 months. They were waiting to hear from a subcontractor, who was responsible for the erection of the building, to finalize the actual start date. The goal was to start construction in February 2023. If for some reason that projected date changed, she would make Council aware.

- B.** Herman W. Young Detention Center Ribbon Cutting – Mrs. Williams said they reached out to the family regarding a ribbon cutting dedication ceremony and they requested it take place in March/April of 2023. They would work with the family to coordinate a date best suited and then send out invitations.
- C.** RERC Follow Up – Mrs. Williams said they had a two-day workshop for the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant. She announced that there would be a third workshop (virtual) on the forthcoming Thursday, December 16th at 6:00pm for those who may not have been able to attend the previous one. Those who participated in the first workshop(s) should have already received an invitation to register and attend the virtual workshop. Otherwise, those who might be interested in the virtual workshop could find the registration link on the County's Facebook page. At that workshop, they would finalize any action items associated with the five goals that derived from the last week's meeting. The planning partners from EPA would transcribe all of the information and present a draft plan to the County. Once they received that, they would be seeking Gold Champions (those who participated in the whole planning process) to serve on subcommittees to work with each goal and finalize the plan. The plan would be finalized from people who had been involved, the County and the EPA would facilitate the final drafting of the plan. Mr. Bell said the grant was significant to Fairfield County. Their federal partners and citizens were very engaging and they needed to continue to engage in the process. He said other grants could possibly be available on the other side of this process so they could take advantage of the work they were currently doing. It made the grant so important because it put them in position to do additional work that would help the County grow and prosper, especially as it related to recreational opportunities. He encouraged them to take advantage of it. He asked Mr. Whitaker and Mrs. Williams to try to get more people involved – maybe via churches. He and Mr. Roseborough talked about ways to increase community involvement.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL REPORT

Special Call Council Meeting – December 19, 2022 @ 6pm.

Dr. Roberts announced the special call Council meeting on 12/19/22 beginning at 6:00pm. Mr. Bell asked if it would include public hearings and Dr. Roberts said that was correct.

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Vice Chair Greene thanked the public for their participation in the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities. They had a wonderful array of attendees, they were interested in the second day, and they contributed greatly to the information that was shared. Carolina Adventure World provided lunch and they participated as well – it was very nice. She hoped that those who were interested would participate in the meeting they would have on Thursday. She thanked the community for participating.

Mr. Pauley said there they were again with no plan. They received an agenda on Friday stating they were voting on a retention bonus for employees and firefighters. Retention usually meant there was a goal or set time to be met in order to get the bonus. He said to Mr. Bell that it would probably go over better as a Christmas bonus. He said keep in mind that in April during the budget, they had no money for employees and they also cut departments by 10%. Since then, they gave a bonus to the employees (that they were getting in quarterly installments because Chairman Bell stated they could not give it all at one time), a raise on their paycheck the coming Friday and now a retention bonus. The bonus could be received in approximately two weeks and the employee could walk away the next day from Fairfield County. He guessed he had to make sure he (Bell) received his \$1,500 before he left. Mr. Bell said he guessed his (Pauley) wife did too. Mr. Pauley said not to get him wrong. He would say that night and he had numerous times, along with Councilman Gilbert, that they needed to take care of their employees and First Responders but they needed to do it in a way that was productive for the long term. A bonus did not do anything for an employee's overall salary. If they had \$1M to use for employees, why not implement a cost of living for the next couple of years or pay more towards their insurance premiums. There were many ways employees could benefit if there was a plan. If remembered, on November 8th, the citizens of District 1 and District 3 spoke that they were not in favor of their Council member's decisions in the past two years and there he (Bell) was again making decisions with no plans and rushing things thru before the end of the year. He said in closing to the citizens of District 1 and District 3 – he thanked them.

Mr. Bell said WOW. He thanked the citizens of District 1 also for doing what they did. When people get used, things happened. He said the County

Administrator in his report at the last meeting talked about the new website. He wanted to follow up. Their new slogan was "Fairfield County –getting better every day". Within the website, there was a place for news of the County so that their communities could get factual news without bias and falsehood – prepared in truth. His hope was they could use the website and other means from the County to publish their ads. Other counties were also seeking that advantage. However, with Fairfield County, it was imperative. Their local "whatever", sometimes it was called a paper, had a sole purpose to hurt the County or mainly folks they could not control or if the work was not done by a certain sect in the community or if they themselves did not bring it forward. Fairfield County should not engage in publishing ads in a paper or tabloid that was more expensive, that provided negative, unwarranted commentary, the absence of facts and was simply biased. An example was just last week they wrote an article about their County Administrator (Fairfield County Council employee as a finalist for Chester Town Manager) and an article about another finalist. In the articles, the Council employee was the villain and the other finalist was the saint with a very positive article. People of goodwill should stop accepting that garbage. He pleaded with them to look at the difference. He believed if they had a sense of right, they would say no more. Moving along, he said the data from the COG concerning counties of the Midlands region that they received last week, revealed Fairfield County was dead last on the median income. Before continuing, the source of the data came from the US Census Bureau 2016-2020 Community Survey, United Way Association of SC, and The Self Sufficiency Standard for SC 2020. The median income for Fairfield was \$36,294, Newberry \$42,765, Richland \$53,992 and Lexington \$59,503. In those years, Fairfield County's increase was 0.8%, Newberry 6.5%, Richland 10% and Lexington 11%. In other words, Fairfield stayed the same. As he told them before, people made up stuff and got their friends to write it in a paper. So now, when their regional and state leaders see Fairfield County's progress over the last couple of years and the building blocks that were established, yes they say they made significant progress. At the COG, they established objectives for the benefit of Fairfield County and it was written down so they could take advantage of future grants, especially coming from Economic Development Administration from the federal government. It read as follows: "improve water and sewer capacity in rural areas to support new industrial, commercial and residential development to include the development of a new wastewater treatment plant in Fairfield County". Mr. Whitaker along with their consultants and engineers developed timetables for completion. So, when you hear people say they have not done this or that, these people made up stuff to hear themselves talk. They did not know what they spoke of nor did they know the process. In saying these

comments, his hope was that the citizens were mature enough to understand the comments without an attack to the messenger or being upset – it was not his intent. His comments were just a mirror. While some may not believe it, he really hated conflict - however, he did not have a spirit of fear. The foundation for growth and prosperity had been laid and based on what they were able to do in only two years, he believed the lack of growth and prosperity was deliberate. The County and Town, knew Fairfield County needed infrastructure years and years, did nothing and allowed their systems to go into decay. Twenty-four million dollars was borrowed and spent and did they build a wastewater treatment plant? Wants vs needs. There were many who would not support their public schools system. They pretended to be their colleagues and their friends, while preventing their kids from going to the same public schools independent of the quality of the education. The counties around them such as Kershaw, Richland and Lexington had totally integrated schools. They were told that it was an impediment to economic growth. The example used was large businesses with progressive leaders strived to be a part of the total community and with a school system divided not by programs or functions with specific interest but by something else, although not a showstopper, indicated a divided community – not my language but theirs. The developed work around was to sell the broader area. A local paper perpetrated in the minds of many a status that was unhealthy and unwarranted. These things hurt the County. Why would every article concerning public schools be negative or with a negative slant? Why was there such an obsession and desperate need to do that? The County must look at who or what institution was praised. As a matter of fact, (he talked about me losing) the current Council was targeted negatively with bias and falsehoods for 23 months and that paper was sent out free to citizens to hurt the County and to prevent growth. Regardless, the Council made improvements. Although I sometimes said to Mr. Whitaker and Mrs. Williams “in manufacturing this would have been done earlier”, as he reviewed, the Council and Administration made significant progress, especially if you saw where they started. Representative McDaniel (a former Council member), the state NAACP and he drove through to look at the housing in the County with a focus in Winnsboro. To the surprise of none, they felt uneasy about the sub-standard housing that existed. Both Representative McDaniel and he talked to the COG about grants for those efforts. The following comments were his and not theirs and they were free. The government of Fairfield County must be careful in its deliberation of a state-of-the-art animal shelter while not understanding the needs of her citizens. Many would advocate for air conditioning for the animals yet would not advocate for a fan for their seniors. Please do not let that be divisive. Currently, the local “whatever” made it their business to engage in conflict


to keep a myth alive to prevent the total citizenry from working together. Their commentary was that a certain sect was right and others were wrong. It was their commentary, not truth or factual. They were so familiar with manipulation - they posed themselves as mind readers. Fairfield County must rid themselves of that cancer. He challenged the next Council, especially District 1 and 3, not to go backwards to a place or a person with ballooning budgets, a lack of fiscal responsibility, the selection of projects and contractors based on friendships, an organized attack system to prevent projects in certain communities and the status quo as was shown in the data from the COG. Let's follow through and get the work done and move forward with the work that was already started. Their future was bright - Fairfield County..getting better every day. Let's imagine Fairfield County in her greatness. Their location was a gift, their total citizenry was a gem and their coming together as equals would be the baking powder in the pound cake, meaning they could rise together. He said Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

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.)

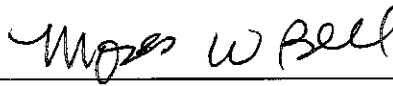
None.

ADJOURN

At 7:02pm, motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Vice Chair Greene, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 5-0.***



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



MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN