



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 10, 2022**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Cornelius Robinson, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, (Council Members); Malik Whitaker, County Administrator, Kenneth Davis, County Attorney.

Absent: Douglas Pauley

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 6:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 6-0.*** Mr. Bell read a statement from Councilman Pauley: To Chairman Bell and Councilmembers, I will not be attending the Council meeting tonight because this past weekend I was around someone who tested positive for COVID. I have not experienced any symptoms but in an abundance of caution to fellow Councilmembers and citizens of Fairfield County, I think it is best for me not to attend.

3. INVOCATION

Councilman Robinson led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Trapp to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2021. ***The motion carried 6-0.*** Mr. Bell apologized to the audience for the microphone system not working. The IT team was working to correct the problem. He stated they would try to speak loud enough to be heard.

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.

- John Jones – Ordinances
- Jeff Schaffer - Ordinances
- Randy Bright - Ordinances

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 784: An Ordinance to Grant a Right of First Refusal on the Sale of a Certain Parcel Shown as Parcel 3 on the Master Plan for the Fairfield Commerce Center. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. ***The motion carried 6-0.***
- B.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 785: An Ordinance to Approve the Termination of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restriction for the Fairfield Commerce Center as to Certain Parcels Shown as Parcels 10 & 11 on the Master Development Plan Subject to Approval of the Other Occupant of Fairfield Commerce Center. Motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman. Roseborough. ***The motion carried 6-0.***
- C.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 786: An Ordinance to Approve the Sale of Certain Parcels Shown as 10 & 11 on the Master Plan for the Fairfield Commerce Center. Motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. ***The motion carried 6-0.***
- D.** First Reading (By Title Only) No. 787: An Ordinance to Amend the Appropriation of Funds Received by Fairfield County from the American Rescue Plan to Account for an Excess Appropriation Shown by a Reconciliation Following a Third Reading Amendment to Ordinance 778. Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. ***The motion carried 5-1.***
- E.** First Reading (By Title Only) No. 788: An Ordinance to Appropriate \$500,000 to the Economic Development Department, from the proceeds to be received from a Sale of Property, to Construct a

Speculative Building for Future Economic Development Needs.

Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

- F.** Second Reading Ordinance No. 782: An Ordinance to Amend Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-1 Single Family Residential District to RD-1 Rural Residential District. Motion made by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. Mr. Gilbert stated this was the second reading of this ordinance and they did not have the property address or map number on the ordinance. He thought as the audience had said that there should be more transparency on these ordinances. Mr. Bell agreed and said although it was in the packet, he would make sure it was included going forward. Mr. Gilbert said the public needed to know and that there would be a public hearing. Mr. Bell agreed with him. Mrs. Greene asked the Chair to read the ordinance so that everyone would know the property being discussed. Mr. Bell asked if she would read it. Mrs. Greene read: Ordinance No. 782 for second reading - An Ordinance to Amend Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-1 Single Family Residential District to RD-1 Rural Residential District. The classification would rezone the 5.68 acres of wooded, undeveloped property indicated at TM#1190002021000 to match the owner's adjoining 59.89 of RD -1 TM# 1200001042000 and combine the two properties. The properties are owned by Christian H. and Amber J. Waltz. The Planning & Zoning Committee held a hearing on this property request. ***The motion carried 5-1.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Airport Commission 9/21/21

Planning Commission 12/16/21

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Wastewater Treatment Plant Update** – Mr. Whitaker read some general comments to update everyone on the status of this great opportunity to develop our sewer infrastructure with the building of a wastewater treatment plant. The comments were general in regards to where we were in the project. He read: Fairfield County is engaged in discussions with the Town of Winnsboro and the Town of Ridgeway about coming together under the Fairfield Joint Water Sewer System to develop and operate a new wastewater treatment plant for Fairfield County. It is understood that there is a great need to increase our wastewater system capacity and this project addresses that problem. It is understood that the lack of a wastewater treatment plant limits our commercial, residential and industrial growth. The construction of a wastewater treatment plant is a major infrastructure project that requires teamwork, cooperation, expertise, funding and planning. They are currently working with the teams from Winnsboro and the Town of Ridgeway to come up with a project participation agreement that will detail the individual entity and collective capacity and obligations for developing this massive wastewater treatment plant project. This is a defining infrastructure project for Fairfield County and they plan on taking every step to ensure that we do it right for this County and its citizens and they will give regular updates on the progress of this vital and very important project. He wanted to inform everyone that they were working with Winnsboro and Ridgeway to move ahead on this project.
- B. Potential COVID-19 testing/vaccine site** – Mr. Whitaker asked Brad Douglas (Director of Emergency Services) to provide information. Mr. Douglas stated he wanted to talk about a testing site. He contacted local pharmacies and doctor's offices to see the status of vaccinations and it appeared that vaccines were pretty prevalent throughout the County and the State. The testing was here for everyone but the wait was pretty long. His son had to be tested for school and he had to wait 45 minutes at CVS. The testing and vaccinations were readily available throughout the County. Our local DHEC did offer vaccines with no appointments Monday-Friday. They did not test there but did offer at-home saliva test kits at no charge. You could go by and pick them up and they were fairly easy to use and could be submitted by mail. The results were typically back within 48 hours. He said Fairfield County School District partnered with Fairfield County Medical Associates (he believed it was last week) to offer drive-thru testing at Fairfield Middle School. On that day, (he thought) they tested over 500 people and basically had to shut down the site because they ran out of time. That was a pretty successful day for them. Mr. Whitaker talked to him about the possibility of setting up some testing/vaccine

sites here in the County. He received an email from DHEC and they will be hosting a drive-thru vaccination and testing site this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (12th, 13th, and 14th) from 9a-4p at the school district office. There will be no ID, insurance or appointments required. Late last week, after talking with Mr. Whitaker, he made contact with a DHEC rep who was the coordinator for these sites and they plan to meet after this event to see how it goes and talk about the possibility of weekly sites. We did some of these back in the spring thru our Emergency Management Division. We had a drive-thru vaccination site at the old hospital site but did not have any testing at that time. When he speaks to the DHEC rep, he would push for testing because the vaccinations were readily available with no wait. The testing seemed to be more congested at sites and that was what we needed to aim for. Testing sites and vaccine sites were two different things. He was curious to see how things worked this week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on a small scale at the district office. He planned to spend some time at the site. He said that was all the information he had regarding testing/vaccination sites and asked if there were any questions before he moved to the next item. Mr. Bell said to Mr. Robinson that this was his request and asked if he had anything he wanted to add. Mr. Robinson said he had no questions but was curious if the County could use the billboard to advertise the upcoming sites. Mr. Douglas said he would call the next day to see if that was possible as well as any future site events. As Mr. Douglas concluded, Mrs. Greene asked if he was going to give information regarding the number of people affected by COVID. He said yes.

- C. COVID-19 Status Update – Mr. Douglas stated we were in the middle of a spike – this was the third spike we have had over the last year. We had one August 25th and January 6, 2021. Before he continued, he stated he did not have a medical background and the information he would give was readily available to the public via the DHEC website. If there were any errors, it came from the website. He restated that this was the third spike within a year and interestingly, the data showed that it spiked on January 6th. We were a couple of days removed from that because the data was a couple of days behind. The most recent data he had was from January 8th. It showed January 6th there was a spike and it had gone down. What was interesting about this spike that we were in the middle of, the other ones had a tendency to take about a month to come from the normal numbers – it took about a month to spike and about a month to go back down to normal numbers. That occurred with the both of the ones that happened in August and January. This one took about a week to spike – maybe two weeks. Right around Christmas was when the numbers shot up and we were only two days past the highest numbers. He could not make any assumptions as to what was going to happen but if it did follow trend with the other spikes, they would all go up and down at the same rate. We would cross that bridge and see what that spike looked like – it was on a

downward trend right now. These numbers were much higher than they were back in January – even this past August. He had found that even though the cases were much higher, the death rates were lower than during the spikes in August and January and the hospitalization numbers were significantly lower during this spike. Although the case numbers were higher, the other data was lower. The data report from January 8th, 2022 reported 12,827 cases and 12 related deaths in South Carolina. Any numbers given were confirmed and suspected cases or probable cases (as they were referred to). The things that he looked at this past winter and spring were 7-day averages. Our 7-day average currently in Fairfield County was 78.71 cases per day. For perspective purposes, about this time last year we were at 18.71 cases per day. That's a lot more cases per day. South Carolina's 7-day average was 12,377 cases per day whereas last year during this same time the average was 4,121 cases per day. The death's for a 7-day period ending on January 1st, was 62 for South Carolina. Last year about the same time, it was 232 deaths over a 7-day period so there was a significant decrease in deaths. He also looked at hospitalizations due to concerns regarding hospitals filling up with no available beds and running out of ventilators. Currently, our hospital bed utilization rate was at 77.52% and last year it was 82.66%. That number was not just COVID related hospitalizations. Of that 77.52%, 19.6% were COVID related and last year it was about 26.5% so that number was down. The ICU rate, 17.97% of the beds currently occupied were COVID related and it was 19.26% last year. The COVID related ventilator usage rate at present was 8.7% and last year it was 11.23%. The State's vaccination summary was at 52.1% and included fully vaccinated persons (2 shots of Moderna, 2 shots of Pfizer or 1 shot of Johnson & Johnson). Fairfield County was at 56.1%, which was a little higher than the State average and similar to the surrounding counties, which are around the 50% range. Mrs. Greene asked if he had the COVID related death rate for Fairfield County. Mr. Douglas stated the 7-day period ending January 1st, there were 2 COVID related deaths in Fairfield County and 62 in the State. The week prior, we had zero and in the current week we were at zero. Mr. Whitaker reminded everyone that the CDC recommended that community leaders encourage vaccination and masking to prevent further outbreaks, especially in areas of substantial and high transmission and that we encourage folks to wear face coverings. He asked Mr. Caulder to be present and give an update on what we were doing currently to keep folks safe. He said we had been dealing with COVID for 2+ years and we wanted to talk about what we have done and will continue to do. He wanted to see if Council had any recommendations to the process.

- D. Request of Action: COVID-19 Safety Measures** – Mr. Whitaker asked Brad Caulder, Human Resource Director, to give an update. Mr. Caulder stated they had recently updated the operating procedures to reflect South Carolina DHEC

and CDC recommendations. He offered to read them but said they were basically the same as the recommendations from DHEC and the CDC. He said they did add that employees with confirmed cases of COVID-19 contracted on the job would have their leave reimbursed. He said they would treat exposures the same way. If an employee had confirmed exposure on the job, the leave would be reimbursed. There were no other changes other than DHEC and CDC recommendations regarding the quarantine period. Mr. Bell stated for information he believed there was an outbreak with some employees. Mr. Whitaker stated the Community Development Department had a recent outbreak. They followed the policy and they were back at work and the office was fully operational. The Sheriff's office also had some cases. They were going to figure out how to communicate such information and how it affects the regular operations of business.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

Dr. Kim Roberts stated Council should have received a draft of the 2022 Council meeting calendar and was happy to entertain any questions, concerns or suggestions. Motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve the 2022 Council meeting calendar. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Vice Chair Greene stated she was happy that Brad mentioned the upcoming vaccine/testing sites – January 12th, 13th, & 14th at the Fairfield County School District 9am-4pm. She thought it was very important to have the sites available for the citizens of Fairfield County so they can get what they need. She appreciated the school district for their cooperation to make it happen. She thanked the South Carolina Department of Transportation – they had some issues on River Road. They scraped the road and added some foundation to the road and it became pot-ridden with potholes all over the place. It was very hazardous. This week they came out and brushed off the road, filled the potholes and added the lines in the road. She thanked them for the efforts they spent in the last few days to get that passable.

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 6:47 p.m., motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

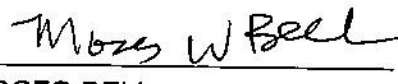
- A. Legal advice - Regarding Pending Litigation Involving Road Construction Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- B. Legal advice - Regarding Pending Sale of Hospital Property Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).
- C. Legal advice - Discussion of Proposed Contractual Negotiations Regarding Proposed Property Acquisition Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(a)(2).

At 7:00 p.m., motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Bell stated no action was taken in Executive Session. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

16. ADJOURN

At 7:01 p.m., motion made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 6-0.***


DR. KIM W. ROBERTS
CLERK TO COUNCIL


MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN