



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
MAY 26, 2020**

**Present:** Moses Bell, Bertha Goins, Doug Pauley, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Laura Johnson, Assistant County Administrator; Tommy Morgan, County Attorney; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

**By Phone:** Jimmy Ray Douglas, Mikel Trapp

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 one 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 Robinson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Douglas and Council Member Trapp joined by phone.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve the Agenda. Council Member Bell stated he would like item 12-A removed from the agenda with the reason being that Drawdy Park continues to get money allocated, and the fitness center will cost approximately \$400,000 over seven years. Motion seconded by Council Member Trapp. Mr. Morgan stated Council Member Bell has made a motion to have the agenda amended to remove item 12-A, and Council Member Trapp has seconded this motion. Further, Council Member Bell stated he could not understand how recommendations can be given to allocate more money to Drawdy Park in the middle of June. This is adding more money to the budget with no other areas receiving money. Chairman Robinson asked for Mr. Taylor to further explain. Per Mr. Taylor, the County was working with an engineer on a number of projects. Once the work was put out for bid, the numbers were coming in different from what the engineer originally advised. This is one of those projects, and the overage is now being requested. Chairman Robinson inquired if this money is not allocated and instead corners are cut, would this be similar to what was done in Jenkinsville. Mr. Taylor agreed. Either the project would not be done or chunks of it would have to be cut. Curbs and gutters would need to be

pulled, which would result in the project not properly draining and starting to fall apart very quickly. Council Member Bell stated he took pictures of Rufus Belton Park today, and the pictures show the drainage here is poor. There are also rotten signs. There have been no proposals for these other areas, and Council Member Bell inquired why there have not been proposals. **Council Member Douglas joined the meeting by phone at 6:05 p.m.** Vice Chair Goins stated her understanding is this project was in progress, and finances are being requested to get it completed. The project that was in Jenkinsville required the County to pay more money to get it done right. Council Member Bell stated the request is for \$39,949 in addition to the cost of the project. In order to apprise Council Member Douglas of what was being discussed, Chairman Robinson stated Council Member Bell has made a motion to remove Item 12-A from the agenda, and this item is now being discussed. Council Member Douglas had no further questions. ***The motion to amend failed by a vote of 2-5 with Council Member Bell and Council Member Trapp voting aye. The original motion to approve the agenda carried 6-1 with Council Member Bell voting nay.***

### 3. INVOCATION

Council Member Trapp led the invocation.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Vice Chair Goins and Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to approve the Budget Work Session minutes of April 27, 2020, and the Regular Meeting minutes of May 11, 2020. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

### 5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

### 6. 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, 2020; to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for Fairfield County for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2020, 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 Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. Mr. Randy Bright submitted a statement, and this statement was read by the Clerk. Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.



- B.** An Ordinance Adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Building, Residential, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Fire Codes as the Mandatory Building Codes for Fairfield County, South Carolina. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.
- C.** An Ordinance Adopting the 2017 Edition of the National Electric Code as the Mandatory Electric Code for Fairfield County, South Carolina. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:11 p.m.
- D.** An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase Certain Real Property in Fairfield County, South Carolina; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Purchase Agreement, an Option Agreement and a Right of First Refusal Agreement; Authorizing the Expenditure of Certain Grant Funds; and Other Related Matters. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:11 p.m.
- E.** Fairfield County Sheriff's Office Application for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program FY 2020 Formula Grant Solicitation. Grant funds would be used for the purchase of nuclear, biological and chemical protection kits, license plate readers, personal protective equipment (gloves, coveralls, shoe covers, chemical tape, cloth tape and overboots), ID printer and ID covers. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m., and asked if Sheriff Montgomery would like to give further details. Mr. Taylor said there is no County match with this grant. Sheriff Montgomery stated he is happy to answer any questions. No one signed to speak; therefore, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

## **7. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

- A.** Second Reading Ordinance No. 712: An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Lease Agreement Between Fairfield County and South Carolina ENT, Allergy & Sleep Medicine, P.A.; and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Goins and Council Member Bell, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 748. Mr. Taylor stated it has taken a while to get this Ordinance completed. This is part of the property previously owned by

the hospital. ENT has been located below Dr. Gaddy's office, and there is a three year lease for \$540 per month. Per Mr. Morgan, there were some difficulties in going back and forth with this agreement. The lease terms are similar to the other tenants; and Mr. Taylor stated this lease includes 2,000 square feet. **The motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

- B.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 742 - An Ordinance Adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Building, Residential, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Fire Codes as to the Mandatory Building Codes for Fairfield County, South Carolina. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 742. Mr. Taylor deferred to Mr. Clauson for further details. Per Mr. Clauson, this should have been adopted in January, and the State had delayed adoption. Once the State adoption occurred, this was brought forward for Council. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- C.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 743 - An Ordinance Adopting the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Code as the Mandatory Electric Code for Fairfield County, South Carolina. Motion made by Council Member Douglas and Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 743. Per Mr. Clauson, this is basically the same as the previous Ordinance with a different body that puts this out. The State delayed adopting it, and now it is being brought forward. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- D.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 748 - An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase Certain Real Property in Fairfield County, South Carolina; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Purchase Agreement, an Option Agreement and a Right of First Refusal Agreement; Authorizing the Expenditure of Certain Grant Funds; and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 748. Per Mr. Taylor, this request is to purchase 66.67 acres from Weyerhaeuser. For some time, the County has looked to diversify its industrial property. Everything currently is in Dominion's territory, but it would also be nice to have a partnership with the Coop. This property is in the Coop territory, and, as a result, grant money will be able to be pulled down. Per Mr. Davenport, the County is purchasing the 66.67 acres, and the funds to be used for the purpose represent a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Commerce site enhancement fund and additional funds from the Fairfield Electric Coop to purchase the property and perform engineering studies. There is a total of around 500 acres under option for the future. Council



Member Pauley stated he received several emails from citizens who stated the County was not being transparent on the purchase of property and inquired what takes place with the process of buying land and the transparency of it. Per Mr. Davenport, the concern is if property is not under contract when it is discussed in the public forum, a speculative land buyer could buy the property out from under the County. In the past, other counties have lost projects where another buyer came in and bought the land out from under the county. As a result, they lost the project along with its opportunities and investment. He further believes in this case the County has been as transparent as it could have been. Council Member Bell stated the timber can be cut 90 days after the closing. Per Mr. Davenport, the property was clear cut three or four years ago, so the timber on about half the property is not as valuable. The other half is getting close to full grown. With no further discussion, ***motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***

- E. Emergency Ordinance No. 749 - Renewal and Combining of Ordinance No. 744 (An Emergency Ordinance to Declare a Local State of Emergency in Fairfield County) and Ordinance No. 747 (Fairfield County Emergency Ordinance Providing for Conducting Electronic Meetings for Fairfield County Council and All Fairfield County Boards and Commissions). Motion made by Vice Chair Goins and Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve Emergency Ordinance No. 749. Council Member Bell inquired concerning managing children from K-12. His question is that school is normally out sometime around the first of June and inquired if provisions are being made for this period of time. Per Mr. Morgan, the two Emergency Ordinances are being combined. The first ordinance allowed for the Chairman to have discretion to cancel meetings, etc. but the County also needed to be able to continue to conduct business and meetings and meet all applicable Freedom of Information Acts and the interest of transparency. The item in question is in subsection 1-5. This is the provision stating the administrator may modify the personnel policies for certain individuals in certain instances. This ordinance will be in effect 60 days from the date of enactment. The original ordinances expire on May 27. Given the circumstances of increased cases and deaths in the County, this is why the ordinances were continued. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

## **8. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES**

None.

**9. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- A.** Request of Action - Request Increase to Budgeted Item for Drawdy Park Parking Lot Paving Project. Per Mr. Taylor, previous estimates turned out to be incorrect on the cost of the project. It has been bid out with the lowest being Armstrong's Contractors at \$179,949. The County had budgeted \$140,000, and the bid is over by \$39,949. Several options are listed for Council's consideration, and Mr. Taylor requested for Mr. Clauson to explain these options. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve the request as stated. Per Mr. Clauson, the current engineer had estimated \$175,000 on the low end and up to \$225,000. The next lowest bid was \$196,000. The engineer of record now feels the County can proceed with this. The other options are to add a little bit in case there are any change orders. Option B is about \$6,000 over and Option C is about \$15,000 over. The engineer does not anticipate any cost overruns; however, sometimes with projects of this nature, something may be encountered in the ground that was not anticipated. Council Member Bell inquired if the drainage has been looked into at other parks. Per Mr. Clauson, this item was not directly related to an inventory of all the parks, but with some of the heavy rain events, this should be looked at. However, we are trying to ensure that this project is done properly so there will not be an issue at a later date. Per Mr. Taylor, the other parks have also been looked at and drainage does need to be addressed in a number of other parks, including Rufus Belton. Council Member Bell also inquired if mini parks have been considered in areas that do not have anything. He feels the County continues to put money in a select few areas. Council Member Pauley inquired which area most of the involvement comes from for the Parks and Recreation Department. Per Mr. Price, participation is centrally located. Council Member Pauley inquired if we would need to improve those facilities because of the higher volume of participation. Mr. Price agreed and stated this is where most of the games are played. The school system works well with the department in letting them use their field for football. The majority of the



games are played at Drawdy Park and Garden Street. Council Member Bell inquired if there were facilities in other areas, would activities be directed to those facilities. Per Mr. Price, the department tries to have activities throughout the County. Council Member Bell inquired if most of the participation is in Winnsboro because this is where the facilities are. Per Mr. Price, most people feel it is more convenient to come to Winnsboro. The people of Jenkinsville don't like going to Ridgeway and Ridgeway doesn't like going to Jenkinsville. It is just centrally located and helps with travel. Mr. Price stated they do try to go out to the surrounding areas and play games. Council Member Bell read a quote and stated if we continue to spend money in select areas and no money in other areas, we all will get the same results, and it is not fair to the County. Chairman Robinson inquired if the program is able to branch out. Per Mr. Price, the numbers do not warrant leagues, and in some areas, there are no age groups to field teams. Rufus Belton has turned out to be a nice place to play. Jenkinsville is a good place to play baseball. All football and soccer participants come into town because the games are played at the high school. This way, the players have the opportunity to be put on an appropriate sized field. Council Member Bell also stated the sign at Rufus Belton Park has rotted down. He is also thinking the goals were taken down because of COVID-19. The community spent the money to put the cement down, and it needs some attention. He is not saying the things should not be done for Drawdy Park. His point is just as it is done for Drawdy Park, do it for other parts of the County. Mr. Price states he gets his direction from the Council, and he tries to provide recreation for the young and the old of the County. Vice Chair Goins inquired if the participation is the main part of discussion over where services should be offered. Per Mr. Price, this is correct. Vice Chair Goins stated no matter what is done, everyone will not participate or be satisfied. The main thing is that there are activities for the students and seniors, and everyone must compromise. Everything cannot be put at "my back door". Sacrifices are made in order to make lives better. That responsibility falls on us and how we want to live our lives. Council Member Bell stated he used to coach little league baseball. Before Drawdy Park was in the County system, one of the most active fields was Longtown field. This was the most active field at the time because that is where everyone had to come. His point is if we have other facilities, the people will come. Vice Chair Goins further stated when you grow a town or county, you must have a centralized location, and from that point, you start moving out. All towns are built from a starting point and expand out. Council Member Bell does not feel these statements are based on data. Vice Chair Goins stated they are based on life facts. Council

Member Douglas does not feel having an overage is the way to do business. Anytime a bid is made on a job, it is up to the bidder to do research and be sure their bid is accurate. He does not feel there should be extra money included. If they are good enough to make a bid, this should be what they get paid. Chairman Robinson agreed with allowing the original overage based on the previous miscalculations by the company the County no longer does business with. With no further discussion, Chairman Robinson called for the vote. Council Member Bell made a motion for the original amount of \$140,000, seconded by Council Member Trapp. **Motion failed 3-4 with Council Members Bell, Trapp and Douglas voting aye.** Council Member Pauley made a motion to approve the additional \$39,949. In further explanation, Mr. Taylor stated the project was bid out. Options 2 and 3 are to give an additional cushion. However, Option 1 is only to meet the bid. The low bid was \$179,949 with all other bids much higher and going up to \$300,000. Option 1 is not to give additional money but instead just meets the minimum bid. Council Member Gilbert seconded the motion to approve \$39,949. **Motion carried 5-2 with Council Members Bell and Trapp voting nay.**

- B.** Fairfield County Food Distribution Project - Mr. Taylor stated there has been a food distribution working with a local food bank in Columbia, and asked for Mrs. Johnson to further elaborate. Per Mrs. Johnson, Fairfield County Council hosted mobile food pantries in partnership with Harvest Hope in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 16, the event was held at the Administration Building from 12-2. Cars started lining up early at 11:00. A total of 101 cars were serviced supplying food to 197 people in the households. They received a Fairfield County tote bag of nonperishable items, a bag of greens (leeks or turnips) and a bag of corn on the cob. On May 23, the event was held at the Ridgeway Fire Station. A total of 100 cars were serviced supplying food to 227 people in the households. They also received a Fairfield County tote bag of nonperishable items, a bag of grapefruit and two small plastic containers of tomatoes. They also started lining up early as well. Coming up on May 30, the event will be held at Jenkinsville Fire Station from 12-2. Mrs. Johnson stated she is looking forward to that success as well. Hopefully in June, there will be more food distributions in collaboration with Fairfield Forward, possibly using the same locations. This would be only fresh fruits and vegetables. This process is still being developed in conjunction with Fairfield Forward. Per Mr. Taylor, this is made possible by a Duke Endowment Grant, and thank you to Harvest Hope Food Bank.
- C.** Fairfield County Internal Safety Precautions During the Coronavirus Pandemic and Economic Assistance - Mr. Taylor stated he thinks it was



prudent for Council to vote to extend the emergency measures because the County's numbers have spiked. At present, there are approximately 160 cases and 3 more deaths today putting the County at 11 deaths. Unfortunately, our numbers have not leveled off and continue to rise. Employees are returning in a phased approach and taking precautionary measures such as masks, cleaning, social distancing, etc. There were a number of Plexiglas barriers that have been installed, but bringing the public back will be delayed with the numbers rising.

- Mr. Brad Caulder, Human Resource Director - Per Mr. Caulder, the County's number one objective is to protect the employees. Employees were removed from the work place in phases, and they will be brought back in phases. Most employees have been brought back. A meeting was held with the Department heads going over some policies and other things needed in order to get ready for the return to work. There has been a huge demand on the maintenance staff, and the departments are picking up more responsibility in cleaning their work stations. Everyone has been very good about this. Each department turned in an action plan as to how they will operate and what measures will be taken. High risk employees are being accommodated along with employees with child care needs. Some employees are continuing to telework. There are a lot of safety concerns with allowing the public to return, such as traffic flow, barriers, etc., and we will continue to work on this. We want to be sure everyone is protected. The DHEC reports are being monitored on a daily basis. The inmates have not been allowed to return to work; therefore, there is some labor shortfall. Some of the temporary staff will be transitioned to other departments in order for them to get some hours. Council Member Douglas inquired how many reported cases are there in the County. Per Mr. Taylor, he believes we are at 160 and it tends to grow every day. Chairman Robinson inquired how the employees are feeling about returning. Per Mr. Caulder, there was a lot of interaction leading up to this with everyone, so it was a pretty quiet day. In addition, Mr. Taylor stated when meeting with anyone, we will be keeping a list of who we meet with just in case someone comes down with the virus and others can be notified of possible exposure. Council Member Bell inquired if masks will be required when citizens go to the County offices. Per Mr. Taylor, it will be heavily encouraged but not a requirement. Someone will need to be posted at the doors to keep a record of people coming in and going out, taking the traffic flow under consideration. Per

Mrs. Johnson, departments have been supplied with masks, hand sanitizers, cleaning solutions and gloves. She has been going around to the different departments to discuss needs, putting up guards, etc. Administration is trying to make the employees feel as comfortable as possible when things are opened back up to the public.

- Mr. Jason Pope, Fire Services Director - Several changes have been made mainly related to medical response with the department cutting back on most of the support to EMS. A policy has been enacted for the institutions, such as assisted living, nursing homes, etc. If the department responds to a fire alarm, once the building is approached and nothing is seen or smelled, entry will not be made unless the department has to enter. A staff member will be required to meet the Fire Service outside. They will not be going inside unless they have to.

**Mr. Trapp exited the meeting at 6:56 p.m.**

- Mr. Mike Tanner, EMS Director - Per Mr. Tanner, he has been in EMS since 1984, and he has never seen anything like this. As a result, some policies and procedures have had to be changed. Over the last 30 days, the department ran 350 calls, and of those calls, 46 were COVID related outside of the nursing home. An additional 38 were COVID positive patients in the nursing home. The EMS workers are exposed on a daily basis to a potentially fatal disease which then impacts the employees and their family. Mr. Tanner has not seen his mom and dad for over three months. Some employees are living in campers or hotel rooms so they do not take this home to their families. There is significant risk because they are in the back of the ambulance for an hour or more with a known positive patient. They are taking the proper precautions that have been implemented, and full protective equipment must be utilized on each call, mask, goggles, gowns, etc. Mr. Tanner has had one employee who tested positive, spent six days in the ICU, two weeks in the hospital and she missed three weeks of work. Other employees tested positive, but they were asymptomatic. Some employees have been in quarantine, self-isolation, etc. Chairman Robinson inquired concerning asymptomatic. Per Mr. Tanner, the asymptomatic patient is carrying the virus until the body gets rid of it. Council Member Bell inquired if they test positive, do they self-quarantine or go back to work. Per Mr. Tanner, they cannot return to work. They must



remain out of work for a certain amount of time and also must have a doctor's release to be able to return to work. In the last 30 days, the department has used over 700 masks. Because of this, Mr. Tanner would like to get washers and dryers for every substation. The stress is real because they are dealing with it on a daily basis. Chairman Robinson inquired if the Fire Service has been updated on decontamination, and per Mr. Taylor, we are working in that direction. The additional help is definitely missed also with the Fire Department and Rescue Squad not providing help due to the pandemic. Council Member Bell thanked Mr. Tanner for all the work his department does, and he realizes the sacrifice. He also stated wearing PPE keeps them safer, and they should have this equipment readily available. Vice Chair Goins also thanked the department for their sacrifice. There is a danger of being in the ambulance with known cases, but there are so many that are unknown they must also deal with.

- Sheriff Will Montgomery, Fairfield County Sheriff's Department - Sheriff Montgomery stated the officers must respond to calls, and he is very proud of the deputies. They are requested to wear the masks and gloves, etc. The office was shut down for three weeks, but workers were still inside the office to assist. The office is being kept clean, and anyone who contracts the virus is quarantined for 14 days.
- Mr. Russell Price, Parks and Recreation Director - Mr. Taylor stated Mr. Price has met with administration a number of times to try to formulate a plan. Mr. Price provided a handout for Council. The facilities and parks remain closed to the public at this time. June 1 is being looked at to reopen athletic fields, playgrounds and tennis courts. The public will assume the risk, however. Playgrounds do not have to be sanitized and no signage has to be installed. All full time staff is back, and some employees had to be maneuvered around. Some employees have been transitioned over to other departments. Daily and weekly meetings are being held and meeting regularly with Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Caulder. There is a weekly Zoom meeting with the state directors, and Mr. Price is realizing that every area is going to be different. Mr. Taylor agreed that one size does not fit all. Other counties are being looked at for their procedures. Vice Chair Goins inquired if anything has come up in Mr. Price's meetings concerning the virus and children. Per Mr. Price, nothing has come up to date. His employees are somewhat scared at the thought of opening the doors to children. Social distancing is tough with children. The

department has the policies in place, and things change daily. Summer camp was initially discussed at 5 per 1000 square feet. This would be a total of 50 kids that could be hosted. However, with the number of counselors, this would drop the total to 36, whereas the department has hosted 80 in the past. Per Mr. Taylor, the cost/benefit analysis is being looked at. If summer camp is opened up and there is a positive test, it would have to be shut down. Also, Vice Chair Goins questioned how the distinction would be made concerning who attends, when to attend, etc. Per Mr. Taylor, more people already apply than there are spots available. Reducing the amount would present a problem of how to pick and choose. Council Member Bell inquired if shorter time periods have been discussed. Per Mr. Price, Kershaw County is operating 9 to 3 Monday through Thursday. If the summer camp is done, everything else must shut down, including the fitness center, walking, zumba classes, etc. Baseball, softball and Get Fit programs were cancelled. There were almost 400 participants in those programs. Only 40 asked for a refund, and the others wanted a credit applied to their account. The summer day camps will be looked at again on June 15, but the earliest they would open would be July 6. Spring sports have been cancelled. In July, clinics are being discussed for baseball, softball, football and soccer. Pools are being opened up, but Mr. Price does not have employees ready to work at the pool at this time. Mr. Price wants to offer programs, and his department takes pride in serving the community, but right now, this is just not possible. The employees' safety and health is very important. Mr. Price feels the department is right on track with what others are doing and with what the Governor is recommending. He has also been touching base with other counties to see how they are moving forward. Vice Chair Goins pointed out as recreation is opened up more, this will also put more pressure on EMS, Sheriff's Department, etc. Her view is the County should err on the side of caution and wisdom as long as possible to protect the citizens, the employees, the children and the community. Mr. Price stated for the most part, the community is not calling about recreation starting back up, but instead he is receiving calls about the camping areas and starting to see some calls coming in about the pool. Council Member Bell agrees with Vice Chair Goins.

- Gene Stephens, Fairfield Chamber of Commerce - Mr. Taylor stated an ad hoc committee will be set up to see if there is anything the County can do to explore options to work through the Chamber to



help the small businesses. Mr. Stephens has been working with the community to help access what has been made available by the federal government. Per Mr. Stephens, as far as precautions, the Farmers' Market has been open the last two weeks, and the Chamber has been providing gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, etc. The patrons are limited to 20 at a time, and the CDC guidelines are being followed. The small businesses have taken a big hit since the pandemic started. The restaurants have been able to stay open on a limited basis with takeout and some have done very well. The Town of Winnsboro was phenomenal in supporting the outside dining for the restaurants in waiving the fee. A lot of the businesses have been reluctant to open and have been opening on a limited basis and limiting the amount of people coming in. Mr. Stephens then discussed the federal fund programs with the different phases. He has been touching base with the Railroad Museum and others to see when they would be opening and will try to keep everyone informed. Things that have jumped out to him that Fairfield County is lacking is that the businesses are not suited for this type of occurrence. He is, therefore, working with a designer for a virtual Winnsboro. Training will be offered for the business to create an e-commerce site. In closing, Mr. Stephens stated anything the County can do would be helpful. Chairman Robinson stated this is where the ad hoc committee comes in.

- Mrs. Johnson stated Chris Hill, the County Coroner, could not attend the meeting tonight, but he wanted Council to know that on all calls, they are wearing full PPE's. The deputies are part-time and cannot risk missing time from their full-time job. They are also sanitizing every day.

### **13. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT**

None.

### **14. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

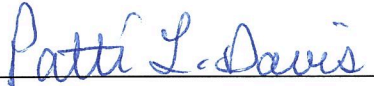
Goins: Vice Chair Goins wanted to again say thank you to the first responders and the administration staff who helps the County keep going. To all the graduates, she says thank you. However, to the parents, the grandparents, the aunties and all of those who helped them make it, good job.

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

None.

**16. ADJOURN**

At 7:34 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bell and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON  
CHAIRMAN