



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 28, 2019**

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

Absent: Jimmy Ray Douglas.

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 and The Country Chronicle and one hundred thirty two other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robinson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Council Member Gilbert and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Pauley led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of May 13, 2019. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- A.** Chanda Jefferson - 2020 South Carolina Teacher of the Year. Chairman Robinson asked the Clerk to read the Proclamation into the record. The Council and citizens then gave a standing ovation in honor of Ms. Jefferson. Council then presented the framed Proclamation to Ms. Jefferson. She then stated it is a great honor and privilege to stand before the Council and citizens as the 2020 S.C. Teacher of the Year. She is beaming with pride to be in Fairfield County. She feels the kids of Fairfield County are the smartest she has ever taught. The most important thing she does on a daily basis is to build relationships with the students. As the school body is mourning the loss of two students in the

County, they are able to stick together as a family to push on. This shows that Fairfield County is truly a place of family and unity. She is very happy to represent the County and the great things that are happening here. Ms. Jefferson thanked the Council and thanked the community for embracing her. Vice Chair Goins stated she is overjoyed for two reasons, she sees the glory of God in what he is continuously doing in our lives, and also, Dr. Green always speaks on promotion and obtaining excellent teachers, reaching beyond to bring such an awesome person to Fairfield County. She is thankful for this and thanked Ms. Jefferson for all she is doing for the children and the County, especially with building relationships with our youth. Council Member Bell also stated he is very proud to be a citizen of Fairfield County and a member of the Council to honor Ms. Jefferson. He thanked Chairman Robinson for the Proclamation presented tonight. Chairman Robinson recognized members of the School District along with Dr. Green in attendance. Dr. Green wished to speak also and thanked the Council for acknowledging this tremendous accomplishment. He feels this is something not only the School District can celebrate, but every single person in Fairfield should celebrate. When excellence and greatness are thought of, often small, rural, high poverty communities such as Fairfield County are not given a second thought. This accomplishment is indicative of the outstanding things going on right here in Fairfield County. Dr. Green asked for everyone to embrace and celebrate this as something we all can be proud of.

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.

- Jackie Workman - Budget/Farmers' Market
- Brad Hoffman - Farmers' Market
- Lisa Brandenburg - Farmers'/Artisans' Market
- Jeff Schaffer - Ordinances
- Randy Bright - Budget

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A.** An Ordinance Certifying Property Located at 199 Maple Street, Winnsboro, in Fairfield County, South Carolina as an Abandoned Textile Mill Site Pursuant to the South Carolina Textiles Communities Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 65 of the Code of Laws of South

Carolina, 1976, as Amended. No one signed to speak for the public hearing.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Third and Final Reading: Ordinance No. 720 - 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, 2019; to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for Fairfield County for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2019; 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. It was moved by Vice Chair Goins and seconded by Council Member Gilbert to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 720. Council Member Pauley stated he cannot vote for the budget because of the 12% increase and the average over the last four years has been 5.5%. Another reason is because it takes the County back to across the board salary increases as opposed to the merit based system the last Council worked to have implemented. For these reasons, he cannot support the budget. Council Member Trapp stated he also cannot support the budget for different reasons. He feels the budget does not contain anything for the black communities in the County. Almost \$200,000 will be spent for a fire station in Lake Wateree which is predominantly white and over \$100,000 has been spent on the Farmers' Market which is also predominantly a white area. He asked for \$50,000 for one mini park or \$100,000 for two mini-parks and this was voted down. Council Member Bell asked for money for a recreation center and this was voted down. Council Member Trapp feels that every time something is requested for a black community, it is always said that the taxes would need to be raised. He inquired if the taxes will be raised due to money spent on the Farmers' Market or the fire department in Lake Wateree. Vice Chair Goins stated she would like to see the merit based system continue to be in place. She also wanted to ask, as stated by one of the citizens, if an overall view of the budget can be obtained to include checks and balances of where we are. Chairman Robinson asked Mr. Taylor to further explain the merit based system. Per Mr. Taylor, previously there was a merit based system implemented. He feels the concept of the merit based system is what we should pursue and strive toward. With the County's particular situation, it is tough to judge an EMS worker on how many people they save or a sheriff's deputy on how many people they

arrest. We are not in the situation where we make widgets and can judge someone on their production. We are also in the situation that a large number of our employees are under elected officials, and they can decide whether or not to participate in the merit based system. It is something we should strive toward, but in reality, it is very tough. Council Member Bell inquired what will happen if the budget vote is 3-3. Per Mr. Taylor, the vote would fail. Motion to amend the budget made by Council Member Bell to add the \$100,000 for the mini-parks in Mr. Trapp's district and the \$800,000 for District 1. Motion seconded by Council Member Trapp. Council Member Pauley wished to make a statement in regard to the recreation center in Ridgeway. He does not know if present Council knows or if the citizens know, but in the past couple of years, there was \$150,000 spent on the Rufus Belton Park that the County purchased, \$100,000 for an EMS station that is next to the Rufus Belton Park, a fire station that cost approximately \$1M, a library and the Council also assisted Ridgeway with sidewalks and a water tower. For it to be said that nothing was spent in Ridgeway, this is absolutely not true. Many things were done in Ridgeway. These might not have been done when the current Council Member was on Council, but the previous Council Member got things done in his area. It might not have been on a gymnasium like Council Member Bell wants, but the Rufus Belton Park, EMS, fire station, library and sidewalks serve all denominations of people, and there was money spent in Ridgeway. Council Member Trapp inquired of Mr. Taylor the amount of the fund balance. Mr. Taylor deferred to Mrs. Bass but stated this amount fluctuates. He requested Mrs. Bass to pull the current fund balance. Council Member Bell stated the numbers he has been hearing is anywhere between \$12M to \$22M. Mr. Taylor stated this is correct, and it can be high when taxes are received, and at the end of the year it can scrub bottom from \$12M to \$14M. Vice Chair Goins again stated she voted against these items not to vote them down and cast them out; however, this is why she asked for an explanation of checks and balances. At this time, she does not feel we are in a financial state to do those projects. Council Member Trapp feels we should look at the numbers before coming to a conclusion. He also inquired if we are financially sound to build the fire station or to spend over \$100,000 on the Farmers' Market. Council Member Bell stated if we make an assumption that we have about \$14M to \$15M in fund balance, if the projects are done, would taxes have to be raised. Per Mr. Taylor, taxes would not be raised if these amounts are pulled from the fund balance. Chairman Robinson stated if this is pulled from the fund balance, we are just depleting this fund.

Per Council Member Bell, he has heard that around \$2.4M will be spent from the bond, which will include the courthouse. Mr. Taylor did have discussions with Council Member Bell concerning this, and there should be about \$400,000 to \$450,000 left out of the bond. Additional money has to come from the bond to do the gas project at the airport. Council Member Bell then inquired could \$500,000 be taken from the bond to start the work. Discussions were had with Mrs. Connor from the Council on Aging, and there are some possible funding sources in the range of \$350,000 in 2020. Council Member Bell is willing to change the number to \$400,000 to start the work. Chairman Robinson stated it sounds like the Council wishes to postpone this third reading and go back to another budget work session. Per Mr. Taylor, the bond is a separate discussion from the budget. The balance can be allocated outside of the budget process. Council Member Bell is hopeful the budget can be completed tonight. Chairman Robinson stated there is a motion on the floor from Council Member Bell and further inquired where the \$100,000 for the mini parks would come from. Council Member Bell stated from the fund balance. Mr. Taylor suggested waiting for the numbers. Therefore, Chairman Robinson suggested a quick recess.

Recess 6:35 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

Chairman Robinson called the meeting back in session, and Mr. Morgan restated the motion on the table for consideration: Per Mr. Morgan, the budget was opened for third and final reading. This was properly moved and seconded and brought forward for discussion, at which point in time Council Member Bell made a motion to amend the budget on third and final reading to add, from the general fund balance, an additional \$800,000 to be used for a recreation facility in District 1 and an additional \$100,000 to be used for mini-parks in District 3. This is the motion that is currently before Council. Chairman Robinson asked if there was any further discussion. Per Mr. Taylor, the available unencumbered fund balance at this time is \$12,471,350. This is less amounts for certain things that have been agreed to in the past, such as the hospital agreement which requires the County to have \$4M always set aside in an escrow account. Council Member Bell stated it is showing a total of \$24M, less the designation for the hospital, so he questioned is there \$20M currently in fund balance. Per Mr. Taylor, there are other funds such as the library with millage rates assigned. These funds are held, but it is locked away for the library. The unencumbered funds at this time

total \$12,471,000 which are available unassigned funds. **Chairman Robinson called for the vote on the motion to amend, which resulted in a failed motion of 2-4 with Council Members Bell and Trapp voting aye.** Going back to the original third reading motion, Chairman Robinson asked if there was any further discussion and then called for the vote. **Motion failed 3-3 with Council Members Bell, Trapp and Pauley voting nay.** Chairman Robinson stated another budget work session will be scheduled, and the Clerk will be sending this out in the next few days.

- B. Second Reading: Ordinance No. 721** - An Ordinance Certifying Property Located at 199 Maple Street, Winnsboro, in Fairfield County, South Carolina as an Abandoned Textile Mill Site Pursuant to the South Carolina Textiles Communities Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 65 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as Amended. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 721. Chairman Robinson requested Mr. Ty Davenport to further explain this ordinance. Per Mr. Davenport, Winnsboro Fibers has asked the County to support the rehabilitation of the facility. There is an opportunity to get an income tax credit, and in order to do this, the ordinance is needed to prove that the facility is a textile facility and that the intention is to rehabilitate it. The County is being asked to confirm and support this intent to rehabilitate the facility. A quick overview of the plan is to demolish plant 1, leave the weave room, the clock will be rehabilitated, the admin building will remain, plant 2 will remain and a portion of plant 1 will remain with add-ons. Some of the older portions will be removed and a new building will be added, which will not be visible. At this point, the plan is for over \$6M to be spent on the rehabilitation. Currently 19 workers are employed, and hopefully in the future, there will be a second and third shift to add more workers. **The motion passed unanimously 6-0.**

- C. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 722** - An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from RD-1 (Rural Residential District) to I-1 (Industrial District) of 116.22 Acres Owned by Fairfield County (Applicant), Tax Map No. 148-00-00-015-000. Property is located at Valencia Road, Ridgeway, SC 29130. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 722. **The motion passed unanimously 6-0.**

- D. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 723** - An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from RD (Rural Resource District) to I-1 (Industrial District) of 11.32 Acres Owned by Fairfield County (Applicant), Tax Map No. 087-02-01-009-000 (Portion). Property is Located at Old Airport Road, Winnsboro, SC 29180. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 723. ***The motion passed 4-2 with Council Members Bell and Trapp voting nay.***
- E. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 724** - An Ordinance of the County Council of Fairfield County, South Carolina, to Amend and Restate Ordinance No. 717 Establishing a Tourism Development Fee Pursuant to Section 6-1-500 et. seq. of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 724. ***The motion passed 5-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***
- F. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 725** - An Ordinance of the County Council of Fairfield County, South Carolina, to Amend and Restate Ordinance No. 718 Authorizing Fairfield County to Establish a Local Hospitality Tax to Apply to All Establishments which Sell Prepared Meals and Beverages Located in the Unincorporated Areas of Fairfield County Pursuant to Section 6-1-700 et. seq. of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 725. ***The motion passed 5-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***
- G. First Reading (By Title Only): Ordinance No. 726** - An Ordinance of the County Council of Fairfield County, South Carolina, to Amend and Restate Ordinance No. 719 Authorizing Fairfield County to Establish a County Business Registration Program to Regulate Businesses Located in the Unincorporated Area of the County of Fairfield Pursuant to Section 12-37-135 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 726. ***The motion passed 5-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Minutes from the Fairfield County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, Behavioral Health and Chamber of Commerce were received as information.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

Council Member Trapp left the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Road Name Change - From Guardian Way to MLily Way - Mr. Taylor asked for Mr. Clauson to further explain. Per Mr. Clauson, this matter was heard by the Planning Commission last month and was recommended unanimously. This is in compliance with regulations, is not a duplicate and has been cleared with 9-1-1. Council Member Bell made a motion, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to approve the Request for Road Name Change. ***The motion passed unanimously 5-0.***

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Fairfield Farmers' and Artisans' Market - Per Mr. Taylor, this has been addressed already, but he did want to say that it was a very good opening event and the following weekend also did well. The building is one thing, but Mr. Brad Hoffman and Mrs. Valerie Clowney brought it to life. Council Member Bell inquired how much the County has paid for the Farmers' Market. Per Mr. Taylor, the County owns the building, and the County has about \$58,000 in the building now. Council Member Bell also inquired if the procurement process was used. Per Mr. Taylor, there are available maintenance funds which can be used for the rehabilitation of buildings, but an amount was never reached where a bid was needed. Each individual item was done, for the most part, in-house. Chairman Robinson stated he has been working closely with Mr. Taylor, and if any amount exceeded a certain threshold, he would have been notified.

B. Denise Bryan, Director, Fairfield County Airport - Update on Wings and Wheels, Fuel Farm and Upcoming Aviation Week. Mr. Taylor

introduced Mrs. Bryan. First, in reference to the fuel farm, a down payment has been made of \$59,000 to have the tanks manufactured. Mrs. Bryan has also been working with Fairfield Electric to obtain Three-Phase Electric. They have agreed to do this at no cost to the County and have also donated the needed conduit. An electrician will have to be hired to finish this aspect of the project. Mrs. Bryan also introduced Mr. Alan Blevins, who is one of the Airport's hangar tenants. Mr. Blevins thanked Council for supporting the fuel farm. He feels the airport is state of the art in that it has two precision instrument approaches and also new LED lighting. This makes approach and landing very accessible. There is also state of the art security. He again thanked Council for their support of the airport. Vice Chair Goins inquired what is the impact of the fuel farm for the County. Per Mrs. Bryan, an airport has to have fuel. For economic development, companies will not come in without fuel. The Wings & Wheels event took place on May 11, which is always the Saturday before Mother's Day. She attempted to increase the air traffic this year, so more advertising was done on radio stations. She feels there would have been more air traffic turnout if the weather had cooperated a little more. There were a total of around 900 people who attended the event. She thanked the Aeronautics Commission members for assisting with the event along with the tenants and S&S Aviation, and also thanked Council for supporting the event. The Chamber of Commerce also played a big part in making the event possible. Finally, Mrs. Bryan reported that Aviation Week will be August 19 through 24. The Governor will have a proclamation as does the Council. Mrs. Bryan is now a board member on the S.C. Aviation Association, having been elected in February, and is serving on the Aviation Week planning committee and safety committee. For Aviation Week this year, S&S Aviation at the Fairfield County Airport will offer two free 30-minute exploratory flights for high school students, one from Fairfield Central and one from Richard Winn. On the last Saturday of Aviation Week, 20 boy scouts will be attending to receive their Aviation Badge. In addition, for \$75 per student, they will get to fly in an airplane. These events will be covered by media, which will be excellent coverage for the County and the airport. Council Member Bell thanked Mrs. Bryan for her hard work, and he and his family thoroughly enjoyed the Wings & Wheels event.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. 2ND PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT CAN BE TO INTRODUCE AN ITEM NOT CURRENTLY UNDER COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OR BRING A CONCERN TO COUNCIL'S ATTENTION. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.

- Willie J. Burrell - Roads in Greenbrier
- Jeff Schaffer - Self Serving Lessons in Greed
- Randy Bright - Stuck in the Middle

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Bell: Council Member Bell stated about two weeks ago he asked Mrs. Davis to locate a public building in Ridgeway that could be used for the Council on Aging in hopes to possibly set up a satellite location. There were, however, no available buildings. Then a meeting was convened with Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Connor. The meeting lasted for about two hours with brainstorming possibilities of what could be done to help the seniors in the area. Mrs. Connor stated she really wants to do something in the area because there is a definite need; however, she stated nothing can be done without a building. There are possible grants and other funding sources, but nothing to the extent of them going it alone. Council Member Bell was impressed with Mrs. Connor's love for the work that she does and her grasp of the needs of the community, especially the Ridgeway community. On Friday, Mr. Taylor and Council Member Bell met in Ridgeway to discuss District 1 needs. Council Member Bell had planned to go through this list tonight but decided against it. He does want some of his concerns to be known on a larger level, the first being the senior citizens. Another concern is that water was brought from Ridgeway to the Gold Mine past communities without having water in the communities, especially the Mood Harrison Road area. There is another area where water is obtained at River Road up Antioch Cemetery Road. There are many more examples such as this in District 1. This bothers him, and he has spent a lot of time speaking with leaders, planners and doing some benchmarking. Last week while at the Economic Development Institute in Clinton, the mayor of Clinton stated until you meet the basic needs of the community and this is perceived to be fair for those communities, you will not be able to make steady, forward progress. Council Member Bell's goal while on Council is to make steady, forward progress. Often, if you are not vocal, you will get nothing. However, let's begin to plan and think about poor and rural communities who many times don't complain and yet they are left out. He will be

seeking solutions to these problems for poor and rural communities without water over the next months and years and exploring ways to give the seniors a better quality of life with the help of Council and staff. He supports progress and fairness for all. Everyone should share in the benefit of County government and our tax dollars. He supports planning to get water in the poor and rural communities, planning to get senior citizens services to improve their quality of life and recreation in local communities. He will continue to be a voice for the County and District 1. To those who write and try to make him the villain for bringing the concerns of District 1 to the forefront, he will proudly wear this as a badge of honor.

Goins: Vice Chair Goins hears the voice from Greenbrier. She understands and is totally in agreement. We can do better, and she asked Mr. Taylor to work with her to find out what can be done about the roads and the fire department sooner rather than later. She also inquired from Mr. Taylor of the acreage on the west side and inquired if the County has ownership of this property. Per Mr. Taylor, he rode out to the property with Brad Caldwell and Russell Price to look at and walk the property. We are in the process of looking at the legal side to make sure we know which piece is owned by the County; however, we did look at the site and the property will be cleaned up in-house and made accessible. The site has horrible erosion, which will be addressed along with an attempt to cut a road so the lake can be accessed. Further, Vice Chair Goins referred to the last Council meeting when she was awarded a plaque. She thanked Chairman Robinson and everyone for this, and she is very sincere about her comments tonight. She is not in competition with anyone, jealous of anyone and doesn't begrudge anyone, but the bottom of the plaque says "The First African American Woman to be Elected to County Council". She has never put a label on herself and never taught her children to label themselves. She never addresses others by labels. When a name or term is used, it should not make you, you should make it be something. She has to do what her heart and spirit says and go back to what she knows is right and true. We all came into this world without breath and will all leave without breath. We all share the same air while we are here and all created by the same creator. Hate, bitterness and anger were not taught in the house she was brought up in. She appreciates the thought and the love with which the plaque was given, but her love for humanity is greater, to be titled under something that she knows brings division. Racism is talked about many times, but the one who talks about it is usually the racist. Many times when division is talked about, the one talking about it is the divider. Her

purpose in life is to help build God's kingdom. This can only be built through love, compassion, integrity and honesty. She will return the plaque because by the grace and mercy of God, we are who we are and she is who she is.

Chairman Robinson stated in the next few days Council should receive an email from the Clerk concerning a budget work session.

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

No executive session needed.

18. ADJOURN

At 7:35 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Pauley and seconded by Council Member Gilbert to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

CORNELIUS ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN