



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 8, 2019**

Present: Moses Bell, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Doug Pauley, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator, Tommy Morgan, County Attorney; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

Absent: Bertha Goins, 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, The Fairfield Times 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 Bell and seconded by Council Member Pauley to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

Chairman Robinson reported Vice Chair Goins is out with continuing family medical issues, and Council Member Trapp will also not be present.

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Pauley led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 25, 2019. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. 1ST PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, FOR WHICH NO PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED OR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.

- Shirley Greene - Section 30-4-70 (a)(5) S.C. Code of Laws
- Jeff Schaffer - Budget

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. Third and Final Reading: Ordinance No. 711 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Lease Agreement Between Fairfield County and The Community Health Foundation of Fairfield County; and Other Related Matters. Chairman Robinson stated this item will be tabled tonight because more information had been received late today. He asked Mr. Morgan to further explain. Per Mr. Morgan, this ordinance, for third and final reading, is an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a lease agreement between the County and The Community Health Foundation. This lease is commonly known as the Martin Primary Care Clinic. Approximately 2:00 p.m. this afternoon, their counsel reached out to Mr. Morgan with some additional provisions they would like included in the lease terms. Given that it was too late to go forward at this meeting to make sure the terms are favorable for the County as well as to give the Council plenty of time to review, Mr. Morgan spoke with the Chairman to indicate it would be best to table this item until the next meeting. This would be appropriate so that all the changes could be included and reviewed before final approval. Motion made by Council Member Bell, properly seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to table Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 711. ***The motion to table carried unanimously 5-0.***

B. First Reading (By Title Only): 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. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, properly seconded by Council Member Bell, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 720. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

C. Resolution No. 2019-04: A Resolution Affirming Fairfield County's Commitment to Fair Housing. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, properly seconded by Council Member Douglas, to approve Resolution No. 2019-04. Chairman Robinson asked Mr. Taylor to explain the Resolution. Per Mr. Taylor, the federal and state government puts forth certain requirements for counties and municipalities to meet in order to qualify for federal and state funds. This is one of those requirements. This is something that should be confirmed, but it is also required to be done on a yearly basis to be eligible for federal and state funds. ***Motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Minutes from Disabilities and Special Needs Board were received as information.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorizing Fairfield County to Accept One Acre, More or Less, Situated at 1622 Scott's Crossing Road, Winnsboro, South Carolina, Tax Map No. 179-00-01-013, from CDS Company. Council Member Douglas recused himself from the meeting and left the room. Motion made by Council Member Bell, properly seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve receipt of the property to the County. Council Member Pauley requested to go on record to explain who owns CDS Company. Per Mr. Taylor, CDS Company is owned by Council Member Douglas, and the property adjoins one of the County's properties used for waste collection/recycling. The property is being given to the County. ***Motion carried 4-0 with Council Member Douglas recused.*** Council Member Douglas then rejoined the meeting.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Mr. Larry Salley, Executive Director, Benedict-Allen Community Development Corporation - Transportation Careers Training Program

(TCTP). Mr. Taylor introduced Mr. Salley, who is the Director of the Benedict Allen Community Development Corporation. Mr. Salley thanked Council for the opportunity to present this information and recognized Mr. James McGraw, who is one of his board members. The Transportation Careers Training Program (TCTP) will be operated in Fairfield County. It is funded by the Department of Highways and SCDOT in an attempt to identify individuals 18 years of age and older who are interested in careers in construction, particularly highway construction. Funding is available to train up to 10 people through the program, which will last about 8-9 weeks. Mr. Salley has spoken to Midlands Technical College and Fairfield County School District Adult Education for a possible training site. The program is set up for the students to receive three phases of training, to include employment training focusing on soft skills, resume writing, obtaining a job, flagger training, CPR, etc.; CDL training for the CDL permit; and the last phase of training, which is to operate heavy equipment. There will be a chance to learn to operate bull dozers, backhoes and a variety of other heavy equipment. At the conclusion of the program, staff would then work with them to locate employment, taking into consideration that Fairfield County has been impacted by the closure of the nuclear plant. There are a lot of individuals in the County who are seeking to gain employment in another field, and Mr. Salley believes this is an excellent program. Everything would be covered except for the pre-employment drug screen. The physical will be paid for along with materials of safety equipment and training. One must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED and be able to successfully complete the program. The program was operated in Williamsburg County last fall with six individuals being trained. Individuals will be trained using the NCCER, so they will have three credentials which would make them more employable. Mr. Salley is asking Council to help in getting the word out to the residents of the County. He has met with DSS, Workforce Investment and the Fatherhood Coalition and sent letters to various churches; however, after eight weeks of recruiting, only three applications have been received. An attempt is being made to reach every corner of the community. If the program is not successful in getting applicants, DOT will return the money. Council Member Robinson inquired where the training will be located. Per Mr. Salley, a tentative agreement has been reached with Adult Education. He would prefer to work with Midlands Tech and use their training center. Midlands Tech, however, could not provide the CDL and pre-employment training, so he has reached out to Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech for someone to do the

training. The Midlands Tech facility is excellent for the classroom training, and Mr. Fazio's warehouse has been identified for the heavy equipment training. Any help from Council would be greatly appreciated. Chairman Robinson asked Mr. Taylor to definitely assist with this. Council Member Bell inquired if the training is paid training. Per Mr. Salley, it is not. However, all of the other pieces would be paid for, and they will be appealing to SCDOT to see if individuals can be reimbursed for travel. Participants must be unemployed or under employed to participate. Chairman Robinson also inquired of the deadline, to which Mr. Salley responded May 1 with training starting the next week. Mr. Taylor stated the County will do what it can, and also if there is a problem with transportation, the transit system could be of assistance.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

- A.** Budget Work Session - The Clerk stated that as we had the first reading of the budget tonight, the first budget work session, which will consist of the departments, is planned for Tuesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. Also, Council received their budget binders tonight, and the budget in its entirety will be on the County website tomorrow.

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.

- Jackie Workman - Visions
- Chris Griffith - Schools in Fairfield County
- Jeff Schaffer - Executive Decisions

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Douglas: Council Member Douglas stated the individual who speaks during every comment session knows the Council appreciates his input.

Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert wished to bring everyone up-to-date concerning his meetings with the executives of Providence Hospital. He has informed them of the complaints that have come in concerning the new ER, and they are acting on this. He asked that everyone continue to advise of problems, because if there are complaints, the information

needs to be relayed. He will be meeting each month to discuss positives and problems. He attended his first board meeting at Providence on March 27, and in that meeting, the Fairfield County EMS was given high praise from the Providence group. The department has received nothing but good feedback on EMS, and Council Member Gilbert wanted to relay to Mr. Tanner that he is doing a fantastic job. He also agrees with Council Member Douglas that the individual's remarks previously referred to is very much appreciated. Council Member Douglas stated if Council Member Gilbert gives out his phone number, he would guarantee he would hear of problems at the new ER. Council Member Gilbert stated he does have cards.

Bell: Council Member Bell continues to be impressed by the Fairfield Post. The paper is being done by Fairfield Central High School, Richard Winn Academy and the Barclay School. He notes the County just posted the public hearing for the budget, and he would like to be sure as things are posted for the County, that the Fairfield Post is also used as another means to do this. The Voice has a large circulation in the County, but he feels people do not read the Voice. A lot of people are now reading the Fairfield Post.

Pauley: Council Member Pauley wanted to briefly speak concerning the Retreat planned for this coming weekend. Based on what he has been told, the County is committed to spend over \$900 to rent a house for the retreat. He understands the retreat is only going to last through the morning on Saturday with a possible cookout for Council members that evening; however, based on the rental requirements, it is being rented for three days as this is the policy minimum. He is not in favor of a few things concerning this. First, he feels the County owns plenty of facilities which could be utilized to hold whatever type of meeting at no cost. The expenditure of over \$900 to rent the house for the weekend, in his opinion, is not a prudent use of citizens' money. He also feels meetings like this should be held in locations familiar to the general public and citizens who regularly attend meetings. He feels holding meetings like this in locations not familiar to people is a barrier to them attending. Further, he doesn't like the idea of the County renting a private home for this purpose. Anywhere Council gathers, the public has a statutory right to attend. He doesn't feel it is a good idea for Council to rent and be responsible for a private residence when anybody who wants to come can do so by law. He would prefer meetings be held in facilities owned by the County that the public is familiar with. Council Member Pauley would also like to thank some County employees who assisted with a recent medical

emergency at his home, wherein his son suffered a febrile seizure. His wife contacted 9-1-1 and Jontay Harris of Fairfield County Dispatch assisted with getting EMS to his home in a quick manner and also kept his wife as calm as possible during the situation. He would also like to thank the first responders with EMS, Brian Earl and April Varnadore, as they did a fantastic job of getting his family to the hospital in a quick and safe manner. He feels sometimes these employees are not recognized enough for their hard work and dedication to the people of the County. Once again, he truly thanks them for being there for his family during this tough situation. Finally, Council Member Pauley disagrees with Council Member Bell in that he feels the Voice is a great newspaper, he feels a lot of people read the Voice and the County needs to continue to support the Voice. Council Member Bell then made a point of clarity that he is not against the Voice. Instead, his point is that the County should also publish in the Fairfield Post. A lot of people don't read the Voice in our community, but the Fairfield Post is free, and a lot of people get this newspaper. He feels it is well written, and it would give us an opportunity to support the schools.

Robinson: Chairman Robinson requested for Mr. Morgan to give further information concerning 30-4-70 in reference to executive session. Per Mr. Morgan, obviously this relates directly to the S.C. Freedom of Information Act. There are provisions to allow for public disclosure of information at the appropriate time and the fact that members of the public can obtain records that are routinely maintained by the County. Obviously, they can request in writing to get certain other records not available at all times, etc. The provisions specifically with regard to 30-4-70 reference those instances wherein a public body, such as Council, can go into executive session and discuss various items. Specifically, subsection 5 deals with the economic development aspect, because in these types of situations, that information can be extremely sensitive as it relates to companies who may be investing considerable sums of money in the County and the fact that the information could get out to competitors or other individuals and could compromise whether or not an industry comes and provides the investment and jobs to the County. The reasons why this type of information is discussed in executive session is to allow for Council to have that information necessary to make any decisions with regard to the expenditure of funds or any type of contractual agreements they may enter into with the prospective industry and also to allow for the confidentiality necessary for industry to share their proprietary information to Council as part of that process. Chairman Robinson also wanted to comment on the retreat. He and administration

tried to come up with a place within the County that the citizens could come to as well, to gather in a more relaxed setting to discuss things openly. Sometimes one has "writer's block" and it may be difficult to come up with ideas while sitting behind a desk. So, why not have a relaxed setting to sit down and discuss things openly. As far as the amount, this represents money that was not used by Council members who did not attend classes. Chairman Robinson also stated if there is a cookout, he would be glad to pay.

Goins: Vice Chair Goins wished to speak via telephone, and she thanked Council for affording her this opportunity once again. She stated her concern is Jenkinsville Water Company, but more so, the water that is needed in Fairfield County. This is not something new. Instead, this has been trying to happen for years, and it needs to happen. She received two letters, one went out to the members of the company, which stated, "these unfounded accusations are being aimed at the Jenkinsville Water Company". The piece the State paper did was on small rural water companies. Everything is changing and needs to change. The letter goes on to say that "Jenkinsville Water Company is not in violation of any DHEC regulation". Vice Chair Goins would advise and encourage the citizens to do their homework, check with DHEC and do research to see how many violations Jenkinsville Water Company has had through the years that affects the health and welfare of the community. The letter goes on to say "Jenkinsville Water Company won the best water in the state award by S.C. Rural Water Association". She advised everyone to check with the Rural Water Association and inquire about this process. It is a demonstration that is used in Myrtle Beach during a conference to do sample testing, but Jenkinsville Water Company was not awarded any special award for having the best water. The letter further states "the purest and most dependable in the state". Surface water and ground water have to be purified. The only difference in surface water is that it is exposed to the air and exposed to more elements, and eventually it seeps into the ground. She again urged everyone to do research on the water flow under the earth and on top and how it gets to our house instead of believing things people say. She feels the whole letter needs to be verified. In particular, "Jenkinsville Water Company is the only minority owned water company in the state." Vice Chair Goins inquired when did it become a minority owned water company. It is a public utility service that receives county, state and federal funds. If anything else is going on, there's a serious problem. It also falls under the letter of discrimination. The company is made up of 900+ members of every background, color, race, religion, etc. It was started with blacks and

whites in the community because many people had wells that were going bad. The community wasn't very large at that time. Common sense is also that if we started it, we should always be trying to improve it to make it better. Things around us are improving, and everyone in the community drinking water from Jenkinsville Water Company should rise up to say they want the best, clearest water from the best and upgraded technology possible for their family. Another statement in the letter, "the water rate increase will be 100 to 150%", Vice Chair Goins said this is foolish because the more people involved, the less the cost and the better the benefits and amenities will be. She also questioned the statement concerning DHEC monitoring the water quality. She inquired when the citizens ever receive a boil water advisory. She took out a second hot water tank after installing a completely new line from the meter to the house that had no leaks in years, but when the tank was pulled out, there was a foot of mud and crud in it. The second letter she received was personal. Vice Chair Goins then read the letter verbatim. She will be looking into whether the letter constitutes any violations. She feels Jenkinsville Water Company has had and still has management problems, water problems and the citizens in the County deserve better. There is now a unity between the Town and the County to have water service that is clean, healthy and a good pressure for the citizens. Vice Chair Goins has been pushing for this to take place for years, because she cares greatly for the people in the community.

Council Member Bell also stated he initially had some issues with the date of the retreat, but since the retreat had already been set up and scheduled, he has reorganized his schedule for Saturday. He inquired if the meeting from 10 to 2 would be without lunch since this is a County function. Chairman Robinson did not say this, and he will supply lunch.

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

At 6:56 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Pauley to go into executive session for (a) Legal Matter: Discussion Regarding Potential Changes to Contractual Provisions as to Local Industry and Receipt of Legal Advice in Accordance with Section 30-4-70(a)(5) of the South Carolina Code of Laws. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

At 7:16 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bell and seconded by Council Member Gilbert to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

18. ADJOURN

At 7:17 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Pauley to adjourn. ***The motion 5-0.***

PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

CORNELIUS ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN