



**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 21, 2019**

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

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 thirty two other individuals.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Council Member Trapp led the invocation.

**4. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

**A. Second Reading - Ordinance No. 731:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina, and New Nightingale, LLC, Providing for a Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes, and Other Matters Related Thereto. This item was deferred until after executive session.

**B. Second Reading - Ordinance No. 732:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina and [Project Reflection] with Respect to Certain Economic Development Property in the County, Whereby Such Property Will be Subject to Certain Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Including the Provision of Certain Special Source Credits; Authorizing the Provision of an Economic Development Grant; and Other Matters Related Thereto. This item was deferred until after executive session.

## 5. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

**A.** Request of Action: Information Technology - Purchase of EOY (End of Year) Patch - Tyler Technologies a/k/a New World Systems. Per Mr. Taylor, this is being brought forth by the IT Department for an unbudgeted item. Typically at the end of the year, a patch is needed for the personnel software. This year, there is a cost associated. Per Mr. Allen, each year an end-of-year patch is needed in order to process W2's and other financial information needed for end-of-year processing. We did not find out until September that the County operating system will not be compatible with the new software patch. The operating systems used are very much in date and supported well from Microsoft. However, an upgrade must be done to the next generation of operating systems in order to support the patch. The bottom line is the infrastructure is not there at the moment to support the patch. Vice Chair Goins inquired if this is a one-time cost or continuous. Per Mr. Allen, that is an unknown variable. Each year, something different may be required; however, this is not anticipated to happen. Next year, the IT Department will need to do some software upgrades anyway. In this particular year, there was no true need to do this. Council Member Bell inquired what version of Excel, Word and PowerPoint is presently used. Per Mr. Allen, the most frequent one used is 2013, which sounds outdated, but it's pretty modern. The most modern would be 2016. Microsoft assigns these dates to make the product sound antiquated. Council Member Pauley inquired if this is the first time we have had to pay for this. Mr. Allen explained that this fee is not for the patch but instead is to upgrade the operating systems so it would support the patch. Council Member Douglas inquired why does this have to be paid now when never before. Per Mr. Allen, end-of-year processing always has to be done. This particular year, the County is required to have the most recent Microsoft operating system on the servers. This was not required before. Council Member Bell made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve the Request of Action as stated. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

## 6. 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.)

**A.** Legal Matter - Receive Legal Update Regarding Opioid Litigation on Behalf of Fairfield County.

**B. Economic Development – Discussion and Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Economic Development Projects Located in Fairfield County.**

At 6:05 p.m., motion made by Council Members Bell and Pauley, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to go into executive session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

At 6:48 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

Chairman Robinson reported no action was taken in executive session. In reference to Item 4 A and B:


**A. Second Reading - Ordinance No. 731:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina, and New Nightingale, LLC, Providing for a Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 731. Council Member Robinson stated there is no discussion of this item due to the Nondisclosure Agreement. ***The motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***

**C. Second Reading - Ordinance No. 732:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina and [Project Reflection] with Respect to Certain Economic Development Property in the County, Whereby Such Property Will be Subject to Certain Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Including the Provision of Certain Special Source Credits; Authorizing the Provision of an Economic Development Grant; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 732. Chairman Robinson asked for Mr. Taylor to give further information. Per Mr. Taylor, the existing company, Mekra Lang, is investing \$7.7M in the existing facility to open up a new line and will be hiring 15 new people. Mr. Davenport further discussed the company makes side view mirrors for trucks. Inside the mirrors are parts and pieces that were put under the tariffs being imported from China. This put Mekra Lang into a tenuous situation. The company reached out to the County to discuss. They have a facility in Mexico where they could expand and not be burdened by the tariffs. An incentive package was worked out to have

the company expand here, but the big benefit is they will not reduce their labor force or their investment here in the future. Not only did the County get a \$7.7M investment, but also the current employees were maintained and another 15 were added. This was a double win for the County in holding onto a good company that has been here 25 years and is a large employer of over 200 people plus picking up 15 more with the additional investment. The incentive package was to help the company offset the burden placed on them by the tariffs. The state is also participating in this endeavor. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**7. ADJOURN**

At 6:55 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bell and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

  
PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

  
CORNELIUS ROBINSON  
CHAIRMAN