



**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 7, 2020**

**Present:** Bertha Goins, Cornelius Robinson, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Laura Johnson, Assistant County Administrator; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

**By Phone:** Jimmy Ray Douglas, Doug Pauley, Clarence Gilbert

**Absent:** Moses Bell, 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.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robinson called the Special Meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Douglas and Council Member Gilbert, to approve the Agenda. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

**3. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

- A.** Resolution No. 2020-12: A Resolution by Fairfield County Council Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase Real Property that Meets the Necessary Requirements for Said Property to be Used as a Suitable Location for a Wastewater Treatment Site or Other Uses Deemed Fit by Fairfield County Council, and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Douglas and Council Member Gilbert, to approve Resolution No. 2020-12. Chairman Robinson requested for Mr. Morgan to give further information. Per Mr. Morgan, this Resolution authorizes Council to expend a certain amount of funds, up to \$1.8M, to purchase a site suitable for a wastewater treatment plant. Council previously passed Ordinance No. 738, which authorized the expenditure of not more than \$300,000 for a site to be used for the wastewater treatment plant. Then, in this past year's budget cycle, Council appropriated \$1.8M for the site should something suitable be found. What has happened is Administration has found a site that would be proper for a wastewater treatment facility, and this Resolution authorizes the Administrator to move forward with contract negotiations

and enter into the Purchase Sale Agreement. Vice Chair Goins stated this is something that has been going on for a long time. It is not just a thought or an idea, but instead, it is a critical need for Fairfield County. If any area of Fairfield County is going to develop, the communities grow, production, jobs, etc. this is a critical process. For anyone to oppose this, maybe it is because there is not clear understanding of the necessity of it. Water and sewer are a necessity for a high quality of life. Some are opposing this without understanding and some are opposing it deliberately, trying to undermine the community, family and County. Vice Chair Goins encouraged everyone to be supportive of their future. Council Member Pauley inquired if the property is purchased and the penny sales tax does not pass, what would the County do with the property. Chairman Robinson stated according to the Resolution, the property could be used for "other uses deemed fit by Fairfield County Council"; however, the wastewater treatment plant is a necessity. Per Mr. Taylor, for the County to continue to grow, and we have had a good track record of bringing in new industry over the last year, we must find a way to make the wastewater treatment plant work, even if the penny sales tax does not pass. In reference to the land itself, the County in the past has purchased property and then resold property. If something else comes up that is not known now, the property could be resold. The price is such that we should have no problem recouping the money should we have to sell it in the future. Vice Chair Goins stated even with this, we would still be in the same dilemma of not having capacity and water and sewer. Even though this would be an option, it should not be the first action by no means. Per Mr. Taylor, sewer capacity is critical to the future development of the County. Also, the comparable property in this area is considerably higher than the \$8,000 per acre the County is paying. He feels the County is getting a good deal and is not in danger of losing money no matter what the outcome of the penny sales tax. Vice Chair Goins also stated that a lot of work and money has gone into this property to make sure it is the right site for the wastewater treatment plant. She feels we need to pray this does pass, but we must have a second option on the table. Council Member Gilbert hopes that people really understand the importance and what this wastewater treatment plant means to Fairfield County and the penny tax. There are those that oppose the tax for whatever reason, but without this, Fairfield County will still be stuck in the past. He has stated over and over again that the County is always reactive and not proactive. This is a vision of taking Fairfield County into the future. People ask why Fairfield County is not moving, and the reason is there are those who go against things that will make the County better. We need the wastewater treatment plant. Council Member Douglas also

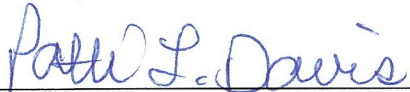
agrees with all that has been said. **Motion carried 4-1 with Council Member Pauley voting nay.** Chairman Robinson requested that the record show Council Member Trapp is not available and Council Member Bell could not be reached by phone.

**4. 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.)**

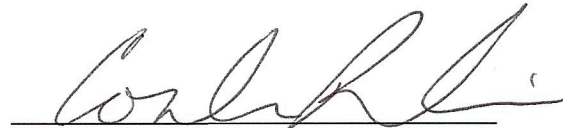
No executive session needed.

**5. ADJOURN**

At 10:17 a.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Bell and seconded by Council Member Gilbert and Council Member Douglas, to adjourn. **The motion carried 5-0.**



PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON  
CHAIRMAN