



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 13, 2019**

Present: Moses Bell, Jimmy Ray Douglas, 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.

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 Trapp and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Vice Chair Goins led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Council Member Bell, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 22, 2019, and the Budget Work Session minutes of April 16, 2019, April 23, 2019, and April 25, 2019. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

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.

- John Jones - Budget
- Carol Turner - Discretionary Funds
- Jackie Workman - Employee
- Jeff Schaffer - Budget
- Randy Bright - Budget

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Application and Expenditure for the Rural Development Community Facilities Programs Grant Funds. Chairman Robinson requested for Mr. Taylor to give a brief description of this matter. Mr. Taylor reported one of the old buildings downtown is being refurbished to turn it into a Farmers' Market. The original concept included placement of a certified kitchen which would give added value to the products from the farm, with cooking and canning demonstrations. Moving forward, Mr. Taylor hopes to locate a grant toward this. He then invited Mr. Clauson to the podium for further details. Per Mr. Clauson, USDA is the provider of the funds, and this is open to a number of different community facilities, one of these being in line with the Farmers' Market. The plans are being finalized involving the market itself, and a list is being formulated of what will be needed for the community kitchen. This would be an 80/20 grant and is typically funded up to \$50,000, which should more than cover the equipment needed for the kitchen. Vice Chair Goins inquired how this will be managed, and per Mr. Clauson, these details have not been formulated yet, but it will not be a business incubator type situation. Per Mr. Taylor, it will include such things as canning and cooking demonstrations. When some people come to the Farmers' Market, they don't know what to do with the produce. Therefore, the cooking classes, canning demonstrations, etc. should be well received. Per Mr. Clauson, the public hearing is to seek information from the public for their thoughts on this subject. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:19 p.m. Mr. Randy Bright signed to speak; however, when called on, Mr. Bright stated his questions had already been answered. Chairman Robinson then closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

B. A Resolution 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. Chairman Robinson reported that this public hearing has been cancelled due to the fact that the matter is being handled by way of Ordinance instead of Resolution.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

A. First Reading (By Title Only): 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 Trapp, properly seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 721. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Minutes from the Library Commission were received as information.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- A. Assessment Appeals Board - Appointment of Mary A. Moore, District 1.** Motion made by Council Member Douglas, properly seconded by Council Member Bell, to approve appointment of Ms. Mary A. Moore, representing District 1 to the Assessment Appeals Board. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Budgetary Amendments:

- Vice Chair Goins made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$12,000 for Fairfield County Disabilities and Special Needs. Motion seconded by Clarence Gilbert. Council Member Pauley made a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry. When motions are made to amend the budget by adding additional expenditures, he feels the motion needs to include where the revenue to cover the expenditure will come from. Whether they come from the fund balance, from additional property tax or elsewhere, this needs to be included in the motion for it to be proper and in order. Council Member Pauley also wished to go on record to say that he is going to vote no on many of the amendment motions, not because he doesn't think they are worthy of funding, but because he doesn't think the Council has done a good enough job on this year's budget. He feels we need to focus on cleaning up the County business before new things are considered. Over the past four years, the average budget increase has been 5.5%. This year, before anything else is added, it is up almost 12%. This might be able to be accommodated by pulling the extra from the fund balance this year, but he thinks this is a big mistake because before long, property taxes will have to be increased if we continue on this

path. Also, in the past few weeks, many things have come to light in the County that need to be corrected and cleaned up, and the focus should be on this before looking at anything new and finding more ways to spend money. Chairman Robinson requested for Mr. Morgan to explain the Point of Parliamentary Inquiry for the chambers. Per Mr. Morgan, this is used in a situation where there is a question about the procedural aspects, i.e., if this action is undertaken, what steps are necessary. Council Member Pauley is now questioning the sources for the increased funds because typically on a line item budget if there is an expenditure it will show where the funding will come from, in other words the funding source. Council Member Pauley is asking for a description of where the funds, if approved, would be coming from. Chairman Robinson asked Council Member Pauley if he would like this in writing or if a verbal explanation from Mr. Taylor would suffice. Council Member Pauley feels as we go through each motion that Mr. Taylor can inform us of where the money will come from. Council Member Bell expressed that he doesn't know if this needs to be answered in this discussion; however, Mr. Taylor stated he has no problem answering the question. Per Mr. Taylor, there would be a couple of options. A tax increase would raise money. The County keeps a healthy cash reserve, and this is where the spending would come from if taxes are not raised. Of course, we cannot continue to hit the cash reserves year after year because this would run out. There is some money that may come from the bond depending on what the courthouse renovations will cost. This would have to be bond related, such as purchase of the land for the sewer plant, because all of the bond money is set aside for specific things. To answer the question overall, outside of that one issue, the rest would come from cash reserves, unless Council elected to do a property tax increase. Typically taxes can be raised 3 mils which would generate around \$450,000. Council Member Douglas inquired why are certain positions being funded with the current budget that may not be needed, and Chairman Robinson requested all statements be kept to the point at hand. Chairman Robinson asked if there was any further discussion concerning the motion and also inquired of Council Member Pauley if Mr. Taylor had answered his question. Council Member Pauley was satisfied with Mr. Taylor's answer. **Chairman Robinson called for the vote on the first motion and the motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

- Council Member Trapp made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$100,000 for two mini-parks in District 3. Motion seconded by Council Member Bell. Vice Chair Goins would like to state before the vote that she is not against this item, but at this time, she feels it should be held because of the financial situation of the County and what is trying to be done with water and sewer. **Chairman Robinson called for the vote on the motion and the motion failed by vote of 2-5 with Council Member Trapp and Council Member Bell voting aye.**
- Council Member Bell made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$800,000 for a District 1 Sports Complex. Motion seconded by Council Member Trapp. Council Member Pauley is interested in where the idea originated, from what kind of study or market analysis showing this is necessary, how the location was selected, determination of the cost of equipment and staffing for the facility, operating hours and expected participation rates. He is basically asking the same questions that are routinely asked by a special interest group in the County who has been quiet on this issue. There are too many unanswered questions on this item to proceed. A measured approach must be taken. **Chairman Robinson called for the vote on the motion and the motion failed by vote of 2-5 with Council Member Bell and Council Member Trapp voting aye.**
- Council Member Douglas made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$1,000 to the request of Transitions. **Motion failed for lack of a second.**
- Vice Chair Goins made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$25,000 to the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce request. Motion seconded by Council Member Douglas. Chairman Robinson asked Mr. Taylor to further explain. Per Mr. Taylor, this should have been put in the budget in consideration of the passage of the new Accommodations and Hospitality Tax. A certain portion must be given to an entity that promotes tourism. The Chamber is typically that entity. When the numbers were run for the new taxes with the Department of Revenue, they estimated the County would receive about \$249,000. A certain percentage based on the formula must be given to an entity that promotes tourism. Council Member Trapp inquired if the County has reached out to any other

entities that promote tourism. Per Mr. Taylor, there is also the Old English District, which may be one of the few others available. The \$25,000 is just an estimate at this time. **The motion passed by vote of 5-2 with Council Member Trapp and Council Member Bell voting nay.**

- Council Member Pauley made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$400,000 toward land purchase for water and sewer. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Goins. Council Member Bell inquired if the land has been identified, and per Mr. Taylor, the County is working with the engineers at the present time to identify a suitable area. This decision is driven by a body of water and will be very specific. Council Member Douglas added that the Department of Commerce is assisting the County with this. Per Mr. Taylor, Commerce has provided the County \$2M to hire the engineers to identify the appropriate site. Council Member Trapp inquired if the plant will service the rural areas. Per Mr. Taylor, initially it will serve the area closest to it, the mega site, and lines will have to be placed to take it out to rural areas in the future. Per Vice Chair Goins, there must be a starting point, and it will spread out in the future. She also feels this item is a need and not a luxury as it will serve the citizens of the County in the future. Council Member Pauley inquired if the money could be pulled from the bond, and per Mr. Taylor this particular item could be pulled from the bond if available. Council Member Bell inquired of the money that was in the bond for recreation for all seven districts. Per Mr. Taylor, he believes this was originally in there, and Council Member Trapp stated it was \$500,000 per district but believes District 1 used it for something else. **The motion passed by vote of 6-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.**
- Council Member Pauley made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$16,700 for Fairfield County E911 Dispatch. Motion seconded by Council Member Trapp. **The motion passed by vote of 7-0.**
- Vice Chair Goins made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$1,200,000 for an Economic Development office. **Motion failed for lack of a second.**
- Council Member Gilbert made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$75,000 for the Fairfield County Promise Program. Motion seconded by Council Member Bell. Council Member Pauley

inquired if these funds could be pulled from the municipality grant funds, and if so, the motion could be amended to include this language as the funding source. Council Member Pauley believes this is important and can be a big help to our youth. Council Member Douglas also pointed out that classes need to be taught at the facility. He inquired if this will be a contingency on the funds being given. Chairman Robinson stated this is correct, and previously it was discussed that a campus advisor is needed at the facility along with basic classes. Chairman Robinson also asked Mr. Taylor to expound on the municipality grant. Per Mr. Taylor, a sidewalk project for Ridgeway is being pulled from the grant with this being previously voted on by Council. The towns must come to the County with any possible projects. Per Mr. Morgan, there are certain conditions and projects by way those funds can be expended. Council Member Douglas requested to make a motion to table this matter or to amend the motion, and Chairman Robinson stated the motion on the table must be addressed first. **Motion carried 5-2 with Council Member Douglas and Council Member Pauley voting nay.**

- Council Member Pauley made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$100,000 for SRO Officer vehicles. Motion seconded by Council Member Bell. Council Member Douglas suggested letting the SRO officers drive the vehicles that are closer to retirement age. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**
- Council Member Bell made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$100,000 for the Vehicle Replacement Program. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Goins. Council Member Douglas inquired concerning this item as the previous item was just passed for SRO vehicles. Chairman Robinson stated this had previously been discussed in the work sessions. **The motion failed by vote of 3-4 with Vice Chair Goins, Council Member Douglas and Council Member Gilbert voting aye.**
- Council Member Douglas made a motion to amend the Fairfield County Budget for its upcoming 3rd and Final Reading to add \$10,000 to the request of Good Samaritan House. **Motion failed due to lack of a second.**

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Grand Opening of Fairfield Farmers' and Artisans' Market - May 18, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Taylor invited Mr. Stephens from the Chamber to give the list of events happening at the grand opening on Saturday. Mr. Stephens welcomed everyone to come out on Saturday for this event, stating the building is beautiful inside and will be a facility that Winnsboro and the whole County can be proud of. The main function is to have the Farmers' Market. Mr. Stephens then went through the list of the food and other vendors and entertainment that will be offered on Saturday. He also recognized Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Vickers for doing a phenomenal job of taking something that didn't look like it could be great from the outside and making it into something that will be a real asset to Fairfield County, something that can be celebrated and we can take pride in. Also, Brad Hoffman and Valerie Clowney are the co-directors for the Farmers' Market and have put a lot of work into the grand opening. Council Member Douglas requested Mr. Taylor to report on the work that has been done to the building. Per Mr. Taylor the work was mostly done in-house. Some outside labor had to be utilized, but for the most part, this was done with the County crews. Council Member Bell inquired of Mr. Taylor the total amount that has been spent on this renovation. Per Mr. Taylor, \$30,000 to \$35,000 was given by the Chamber and the County has matched that at least. Council Member Bell inquired if this was authorized by Council, and per Mr. Taylor, this was pulled from funds that are used for basically maintenance and up fitting of buildings. The work was authorized, but he does not believe it was ever taken to a full vote by Council.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

A. Regular Scheduled Meeting May 27, 2019: The Clerk reported that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 27, which is Memorial Day and a County holiday. She inquired if Council would be agreeable to moving this meeting to Tuesday, May 28. Motion made by Council Member Bell and seconded by Council Member Gilbert to move the next regular scheduled meeting to Tuesday, May 28, due to the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. ***Motion passed 6-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay because he will not be available.***

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.

- Randy Sisk - Airport
- Shirley Greene - Journey
- Jackie Workman - Visions
- Jeff Schaffer - My Opinion
- Randy Bright - Employee

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Goins: Vice Chair Goins would like to comment on some of the budget amendments that did not make it through tonight. She is not against any of the items, but she believes the greatest need for the County at this time is infrastructure. She would support a sports complex but feels there are people in the community who would like nice, affordable housing, care facilities for seniors, and these are things infrastructure will bring. She is not for raising taxes, but instead, she feels if wisdom and discretion are used and the Council stays focused, people will come in to help bring the recreation complex, mini-parks and all the other things. First, we need to take care of business, infrastructure, housing and schools. These are the needs of the County to assist with growth. She feels when people are looking at the area to live, they are not looking at how many ball fields we have, but instead they are looking at our schools, housing and what amenities we have. First, we must focus on the need, and then everything else will come into place. Vice Chair Goins also wants to thank Code Enforcement, and on Fish Hook Road something is being done about the blight and grass is being cut in neighbors' yards. She urged others to do the same.

Council Member Douglas left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert stated that back in November when he was elected, he made a promise to himself to get his feet wet before he spoke out of turn and to learn how to conduct himself in this official role. Now that he has water on his shoes, he feels it is time to make a statement. With the upcoming budget, he would like for the Council and staff to seriously work on things that are priorities for the betterment of the County, needs before wants. He feels we must take this seriously. Our needs should be in the best interest of the County. He agrees with some of Vice Chair Goins' thoughts in that he is not against these items; however, he wouldn't put a playground in his backyard if he knew he

needed a refrigerator in his house and he didn't have enough money for both. He feels our needs are more important than our wants. In the future, he will support the wants. However, with Mr. Taylor stating taxes would have to be raised if the reserve funds are depleted, he does not want this. He wants the public to know that he is about what is right for Fairfield County.

Bell: Council Member Bell congratulated Ms. Jefferson for being named Teacher of the Year. He went to the parade and was so excited for the County and the School District. He also congratulated the Airport Commission for a great show on Saturday. He is really disappointed for the recreation center in District 1. He spent a lot of time talking with members of Council to get their support for this project, and he was assured the votes were there for this to move forward. To the question of was there a study done, some years ago Wayne Schuler did a study and also looked at the location, and he believes this study was done by the COG. Dr. King always spoke on the urgency of now. The reason for the location was again, in the study, based on the proximity to Geiger School to have an aftercare program. He spoke with the Council on Aging to also use this facility to have a venue for the seniors. He feels we always talk about the people who don't have anything, but you never will have anything if you have no vision. On 11/8/18, former Council Member Ruff went to the Ridgeway Town Council meeting and reported the recreation center was already approved, all that was needed was to choose a location. On 6/19/17, there was a meeting held by Fairfield United, and Mr. Ruff along with other Council Members and County staff were in attendance. Mr. Ruff stated at that time that recreation in Ridgeway had been approved. Council Member Bell now questions what has changed. The constituents are the same, and the district lines have not been moved. The only difference is he now occupies the seat. He does not feel this was right and feels many of the Council had agreed beforehand. He is also disappointed that Council Member Trapp did not get the mini-parks in his area. Decisions are made around how we get things, for instance, the Mt. Zion building with only one procurement bid. Over \$24M was borrowed to build recreation centers in every district, and he feels Ridgeway's money was taken.

Robinson: Chairman Robinson stated he had an award drawn up for Vice Chair Goins which reads: Presented by Fairfield County Council and Citizens of Fairfield County on February 25, 2019, to Mrs. Bertha Goins for being the first African American female elected to County Council. As this is historic, he wished to present this to Vice Chair Goins.

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

At 7:10 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bell and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to go into executive session for (a) Contractual Matter: Discussion Concerning the Potential Sale of County-Owned Real Property Identified as Fairfield County TMS #126-03-01-001-000, Formerly of Fairfield County Hospital Board a/k/a/ Fairfield Memorial Hospital, and (b) Personnel Matter: Discussion Concerning County Employee Personnel Matter. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

At 8:27 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to come out of executive session and return to open session. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

No action was taken in Executive Session.

18. ADJOURN

At 8:28 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Trapp and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN