



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 9, 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 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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 November 11, 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.

- Jeff Schaffer - Ordinance 4th Reading
- Randy Bright - Ordinances

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from I-1 (Industrial District) to B-2 (General Business District) of 21.4 Acres Owned by Gerald and Kathleen Shannon (Applicant), Tax Map No. 184-00-00-053-000. Property is Located at Cook Road, Ridgeway, SC 29130. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. The following individuals signed to speak:

- Christopher Scott Fowler
- Jeremy Lee Shannon

Following comments, Chairman Robinson requested for Mr. Chris Clauson to give further information on this rezone. Per Mr. Clauson, the Planning Commission did approve for this property to be classified as B2, which is consistent with the overall plan. The question raised by the citizen was whether this was properly notified. Noncertified and certified letters were sent for the Planning Commission to all adjoining property owners. The issue is the owner of record, and the notice went to a post office box in Blythewood that is not Mr. Fowler's mailing address. He was not notified because his address was not the address on the tax roll, and there were no additional mailing addresses available. The property was posted for the Planning Commission meeting and also for the public hearing tonight. Vice Chair Goins inquired if the surrounding properties will be affected by the rezone. Mr. Clauson is not an appraiser; however, according to the future land use map this could all be business/industrial, so B2 is one of the acceptable categories. There are other properties in the immediate area as well that are currently B2. He does not foresee that it would negatively affect their property. Council Member Douglas and Council Member Pauley questioned the designation, and per Mr. Clauson, this goes along with the future land use map. The Comprehensive Plan lists all the zoning districts that should be in the area. B2 is the only district that would allow residential, and this is why B2 was requested. With no further comment, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

B. An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase a Portion of Real Property Identified as Fairfield County TMS #134-02-00-002-000, Containing 2.224 Acres, More or Less, Said Property Now or Formerly of the Chapel at Lake Wateree Presbyterian Church (USA), for Public Use or Other Uses Deemed Fit by Fairfield County Council, and Other Related Matters. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. No

one signed to speak; therefore, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

- C.** An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 714 to Establish the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Animal Control in Fairfield County and Revise Chapter 4, Animals, of the Code of Ordinances, Fairfield County, South Carolina. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. The following individuals signed to speak:

- Randy Sisk
- Kathy Faulk
- Randy Bright

Chairman Robinson requested for Mr. Innes to come to the podium to give further information. Per Mr. Innes, he has been working for Fairfield County for three years with a very out-of-date ordinance. The ordinance was improved last year; however, more changes were needed. Mr. Innes went over the problems the County is currently facing, including backyard breeders, amount of the hold period (from 10 days to 5 days), injured animals from embedded chains/collars, unwanted pets, hoarding of animals and many other issues. Many other counties have the same problems, and Mr. Innes speaks to the different directors searching for answers to these problems. Currently, the Committee has discussed harnesses on a runner rather than anything around the dog's neck. Vice Chair Goins stated in the current ordinance, there will be a no tethering law. Mr. Innes stated any changes contained within the new ordinance need to be publicized at great length before being enforced. We must come up with a way where every resident knows the changes that are being made. In his opinion, we need to do what is best for the animals and what is best for the taxpayers of the County. Vice Chair Goins agreed that education is very important, and it will take some time to get everyone aware of the new rules. She thanked Mr. Innes for the hard work and also Hoof & Paw. Council Member Douglas stated he feels the best way to get the word out is through the churches. Following comments, Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

- D.** An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase Real Property Containing at Least 50 Acres and Not Costing More Than \$300,000 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. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. No one signed to

speak. Vice Chair Goins inquired if the amount is definite. Per Chairman Robinson, this is correct. Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A. Second Reading Ordinance No. 733:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina, and Victory Boats, LLC, to Provide Certain Incentives, Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Real Property in the County; and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Bell, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 733. Per Mr. Taylor, the County is always actively trying to recruit industry. In order to do this, incentive agreements must be put together, and this is an agreement to lure an industry to an existing building located in the County. The County and the State will be offering incentives and will be placing this in a multi-county park. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- B. Second Reading Ordinance No. 734:** An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from I-1 (Industrial District) to B-2 (General Business District) of 21.4 Acres Owned by Gerald and Kathleen Shannon (Applicant), Tax Map No. 184-00-00-053-000. Property is Located at Cook Road, Ridgeway, SC 29130. Motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Council Member Douglas, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 734. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- C. Second Reading Ordinance No. 735:** An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase a Portion of Real Property Identified as Fairfield County TMS #134-02-00-002-000, Containing 2.224 Acres, More or Less, Said Property Now or Formerly of the Chapel at Lake Wateree Presbyterian Church (USA), for Public Use or Other Uses Deemed Fit by Fairfield County Council, and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 735. Council Member Bell inquired concerning the two readings and public hearing in the past with the Presbyterian Church giving land to the County, now the property is being sold to the County. He does not understand why at first the land was free and now it has to be paid for. Chairman Robinson stated this has been worked on for three years, and he

asked for Mr. Taylor to further elaborate. Per Mr. Taylor, this is a project we have been working on for some time. Several pieces of property have been reviewed, and we have had several false starts. One piece of property was free, and then it was found out there were deed restrictions which would prevent going forward. A strategic piece of property must be found that benefits the most residents. In working with Lake Wateree Presbyterian, at first, we were to receive a piece of property at no cost, which is what the church was willing to do. However, we could not get clear title to this piece, and it would have resulted in a lot of costs associated with the title problems. We then discussed with the church another piece, which actually adjoins a piece of property the County already owns for a trash collection site. This appeared to be an extremely good piece, met the requirements Mr. Pope was looking for to serve an appropriate number of people, and at this point, this appears to be the best option at a reasonable price. \$20,000 was budgeted to purchase the property, and it is being offered at \$15,000. Per Mr. Pope, there are 300 address points (homes) within the area that are outside the five miles of a fire station. This means those homeowner's fire insurance premiums are very expensive. This location is going to bring all 300 of those homes within the 5 road mile radius from the fire station. In addition, this piece of property is much better suited for our purposes than the first piece. As soon as this station comes on line and gets an ISO rating, the insurance premiums should come way down for the 300 citizens, which is a very big deal. ***Motion carried 5-2 with Council Members Bell and Trapp voting nay.***

- D. Second Reading Ordinance No. 736:** An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Accept the Conveyance of 1 Acre, More or Less, Located at 1134 Kincaid Bridge Road in Winnsboro, Fairfield County, South Carolina, with TMS #125-04-01-009-000, to be Used for the Public Good or Other Uses Deemed Fit by Fairfield County Council, and Other Related Matters. Council Member Douglas completed a Statement of Potential Conflict concerning this matter, which will be made a part of the minutes. At this time, Council Member Douglas left the dais. Motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 736. Council Member Bell inquired concerning Dominion Energy's offer of the 8.12 acres for donation; however, the County decided it would not proceed with this. However, we can take this land, which will take about \$50,000 as stated in the committee, to do work on the building. Why is it okay to be able to take this property and not receive other

properties in the rural communities? He feels we should be doing the same for everyone. Vice Chair Goins inquired if the property containing 8.12 acres has been donated to the County. Per Mr. Taylor, it has not been donated. It would be a lease agreement that would be entered into for \$1 per year. Per Vice Chair Goins, as she understands, the request was to do a recreational area right across the road from where the lake is and the recreational area and boat landings, walking trails, etc., to duplicate what we already have instead of upgrading. Her suggestion then and now is to do these types of projects when the time is right. Right now in District 4, water and sewer are vital, more than recreation because we have a lake with recreation and a recreation center. Water and sewer in western Fairfield are vital. Fire hydrants in western Fairfield are vital. When we get what is needful first, then we can work on what is wanted. Council Member Bell inquired of Vice Chair Goins if she is saying we really do not need this property that is being voted on tonight. Vice Chair Goins stated this is not what she's saying. She was speaking to the property mentioned in western Fairfield, not this particular property in this ordinance. Council Member Bell also inquired concerning language in the documents received in preparation for the meeting stating the property would be used for a fire station. Per Mr. Morgan, in section I subsection B it does state "take all steps reasonable and necessary and proper to develop real property, with indication for a fire station". This is a clerical error on Mr. Morgan's part, and he apologized for the confusion. This will be corrected prior to final reading. Council Member Bell asked again why do we want to take this property with cost of at least \$50,000 to renovate and repurpose the building and yet, we don't want to spend \$20,000 on the property in Jenkinsville. Chairman Robinson stated the 8.12 acres has been ongoing for many years and obviously is something that no Council member wanted, past or present. ***With no further questions, motion carried 4-2 with Council Members Bell and Trapp voting nay and Council Member Douglas recused.*** Council Member Douglas then rejoined the meeting.

- E. Second Reading Ordinance No. 737:** An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 714 to Establish the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Animal Control in Fairfield County and Revise Chapter 4, Animals, of the Code of Ordinances, Fairfield County, South Carolina. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Members Douglas, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 737. ***Motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

F. Second Reading Ordinance No. 738: An Ordinance Authorizing Fairfield County to Purchase Real Property Containing at Least 50 Acres and Not Costing More Than \$300,000 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 Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Gilbert and Vice Chair Goins, to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 738. Per Mr. Taylor, we have been working in conjunction with the Town of Winnsboro and the State of South Carolina to secure funds for a new sewer plant. As we all understand, water and sewer are critical for our development. The State has given the County roughly \$3.8M over the last two years toward permitting, engineering and studies of where to locate the plant. We must find a very specific location because it has to have a discharge point along a creek so the effluent can be accepted from the facility. A piece of property has been located, and a contract is in place. It is roughly 55 acres and will cost less than \$300,000. This amount was budgeted to be sure we could secure the property. Council Member Trapp inquired of the name of the agent for the sale. Per Mr. Taylor, Trip Bradley is the agent. Chairman Robinson also stated we do have a Joint Water Authority and meetings are throughout the month with more information discussed at that time. He invited everyone to attend these meetings. Council Member Trapp inquired how long it would take to benefit the western side since it is badly needed. Per Mr. Taylor, it will be a good while before sewer service will reach into the western side, and this all depends on demand. If there was a plant to locate out there that would drive getting grant money to run a line, it would happen a lot quicker. Taking a stab in the dark, Mr. Taylor is hoping 10 years would be the absolute max. It will probably take three years to get the plant built. If a company locates here tomorrow and the State will assist in paying for the plant, which will be \$35-\$40M, it would take three years. We are attempting to shave some time off in order to have the permitting done and the property purchased and hopefully reduce the time from three years to about 18 months. To reiterate, Chairman Robinson stated it has been discussed how the western side will benefit. Per Mr. Taylor, the initial discussions were to locate the plant on the western side. The problem came about when the numbers were being looked into to run the lines back to the interstate where the mega site is located. Just to run the line from the Broad River would cost about \$50M. Council Member Trapp inquired how long it would take to run

those lines. Per Mr. Taylor, this would take 2-1/2 to 3 years, but the cost was insurmountable. ***With no further discussion, motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***

G. First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 739: An Ordinance to Amend the Fairfield County Land Management Ordinance (No. 599) to Provide for the Zoning Reclassification from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-2 (Inclusive Residential District) of Approximately One (1) Acre Owned by Lucius and Shelia Sampson (Applicant). Tax Map No. 145-02-12-033-000. Property is Located at 322 Hillcrest Road, Winnsboro, SC 29180. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Trapp, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 739. ***Motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Douglas voting nay.***

H. Resolution No. 2019-13 - A Resolution Adopting a Title VI (of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) Plan for the Fairfield County Transit System. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Trapp, to approve Resolution No. 2019-13. Chairman Robinson requested Mrs. Johnson to give further information on this item. Per Mrs. Johnson, this resolution is required by the Transit Grant and should be done annually for compliance with the Civil Rights Act. ***Motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Douglas voting nay.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

- A.** Aeronautics Commission - Received as information.
- B.** Chamber of Commerce - Received as information.
- C.** Disabilities and Special Needs - Received as information.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- A.** Zoning Board of Appeals - Mr. Joe E. Wilkes, District 2. Motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve the appointment of Mr. Joe E. Wilkes representing District 2 to the Zoning Board of Appeals. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A.** Zion Hill/Fortune Springs Park Grant Update. Per Mr. Taylor, the CDBG grant has been awarded to the County for blight removal on the Zion Hill/Fortune Springs Park area. The County will receive \$487,568 which must be matched with \$48,900 for a total project of \$536,468. Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Clauson to further elaborate. Per Mr. Clauson, this was awarded earlier this month, and the paperwork is being finalized to get the acceptance. A lot of the due diligence has already begun. A review process must be done on every home which needs to be demolished. The hope is to get about 40 structures accomplished. Because of the public outreach, which is fantastic, a number of the homes have already been demolished. Chairman Robinson inquired who will be handling the bidding process. Per Mr. Clauson, the grant will be administered by the Central Midlands COG, so Mr. Gregory Sprouse and his team will be working in conjunction with the County. Federal guidelines must be followed, so any contractor who wishes to bid has to be vetted, and they must also have the asbestos abatement and lead based paint abatement. Mr. Clauson would hope the process would begin by April. Council Member Trapp inquired if someone is financially able to demolish their own house, will the grant still demolish their property. Per Mr. Clauson, the owner of the home does not have to be low to moderate income. This is solely focused on clearing and eliminating blight in the neighborhood. Council Member Bell is always excited when the County is awarded grants. He also would hope in the future that we can get something to up fit and do weatherization of homes, especially on the eastern side. He would like the County staff to be looking into this and seize any opportunities that may be available. Vice Chair Goins is excited for this, and she is very thankful for everything going on in the County. When she says something about western Fairfield or Jenkinsville, it feels like there is a negativity that flies up. There is no way she would use something happening in one part of the County to ask why is this not being done on the western side because she understands the concept of movement in the County, Town or community, and it has to start somewhere. She is grateful that it is starting there, and if we continue doing the right thing and be open minded on the western side, it will come. The problem she has seen on the western side is not that we cannot get grants or assistance, but you have to have a person who is

willing to work with other people to get things done. They must humble themselves down and put other people/citizens first in order to get things done. She is, therefore, waiting patiently for things and is thankful and glad for Zion Hill. Council Member Trapp agrees 100%. Council Member Pauley is in favor of the grant and getting rid of blight, and he hopes this does not open a door for homeowners to let their property go and think the County will do this on a regular basis. He hopes we are enforcing and making sure homeowners are taking care of their property. Chairman Robinson also stated the next meeting should take place in January.

B. Jennifer Stevens, 4-H Update. Mrs. Stevens thanked the Council for the opportunity to present tonight. She presented a brief update of 4-H activities over the last year:

- 4-H continues to serve children and youth ages 5-18 throughout the County, partnering with Fairfield County schools, school programs, daycare centers, home school association and other agencies. 4-H wants to be wherever the children are.
- Mrs. Stevens is proud to say over the last year there have been participants from the County in the following State 4-H projects:
 - Pinkney Leadership Program
 - State 4-H Congress
 - 4-H Club Camp Sessions 1 and 2
 - 4-H Engineering Challenge
 - 4-H Legislative Day
 - 4-H Junior Weekend
 - 4-H Healthy Habits Summit
- Students are also participating in the 4-H shooting sports competition, which is a new program.
- 4-H participants have also been involved in the following individual projects:
 - Rabbit Project
 - Poetry Project
 - Photography Project
 - Presentation Competition
 - Wildlife Food Project
- This past summer was the first Cooking Like a Chef cooking camp where a group of 20 youth explored the culinary arts by cooking a variety of foods, including Asian, American Indian, African and Latin. This camp will be conducted next year, and Mrs. Stevens invited everyone to attend the closing ceremonies.

- There is now a youth 4-H Shooting Sports Club in the County. The youth in the club are age 13-18 and will participate in 4-H shooting sports competitions across the state, consisting of archery, rifles and shotguns. The focus of this club will include gun safety and education.

The goal of 4-H is to continue to provide programs for the youth throughout the County. A great need exists for volunteers and locations to hold 4-H community programs. Mrs. Stevens thanked Council for their continued support in serving the children and youth of Fairfield County. Mrs. Stevens then introduced Jhalyn Cumbee, age 15, who then gave her thoughts concerning 4-H. Chairman Robinson thanked Jhalyn for giving her thoughts and also thanked Mrs. Stevens for all her hard work. Vice Chair Goins stated she is very proud of Jhalyn and her new business. Council Member Bell stated 4-H and the children make the County proud. Mrs. Stevens also wished to thank Jhalyn's mom, Mrs. Rochelle Guinyard, who is also a 4-H volunteer. Chairman Robinson inquired how do citizens contact her if they wish to volunteer. Per Mrs. Stevens, she is located just across the street from the new Burger King. Council Member Bell suggested adding this information to the County website.

- C.** Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, Request for Additional Funding - Administration and Finance Committee Does Not Recommend Approval. Per Mr. Taylor, a while back we learned this organization had lost the majority of their funding. Currently, the County allocates \$40,000 per year to this organization, which is a very good organization and does wonderful things for the County. However, they lost their funding, and they came to the County requesting additional funding in the amount of \$60,000. Upon review of their finances, which was taken to the Administration and Finance Committee, they could not recommend providing the additional funding. Council Member Bell has been thinking of what we can do because this is a very good organization. The County is moving forward, but we continue to have a disadvantaged population that benefits from these services. He wondered if this service could be added to an existing group already in the County. In order to open the item up for further discussion, motion made by Council Member Pauley and Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve the decision of the Administration and Finance Committee of not recommending the additional funding for Midlands Fatherhood Coalition. Chairman

Robinson asked Mrs. Johnson to further elaborate, and this was a hard task because we all know this organization does great work in the County. Per Mrs. Johnson, the Committee met three times. The Midlands Fatherhood Coalition administration stated DSS was cutting their funding. The reason was that more funding was needed for foster care. The current Fairfield Midlands Coalition budget is \$213,000. Our part is probably about 15% because we were allocating \$40,000. The Administration for Children's Funds are federal dollars the organization was receiving on top of DSS funds on top of a State appropriations grant, and when DSS cut their funding, ACF also cut their funding. Therefore, the County's decision would be whether the County would be funding the organization 100%. Council Member Bell inquired how much 100% would be. Per Mrs. Johnson, right now this figure would be \$213,000. Council Member Gilbert inquired if we did this, should we be doing this for other organizations that might have funding problems. Per Mrs. Johnson, the County does not presently fund any outside entity 100%. We supplement, we don't supplant. This would be a first if the County decided to do this. Council Member Bell is not requesting the County do this, but simply how this can be added to another agency in order to keep Mr. Rudolph and these much needed services. Mrs. Johnson did reach out to another grant source to see if they could give additional grant funding; however, at the time, this did not fit into the particular grant objectives. In order to handle the current programs, the organization has three employees. If the County decided to take this on, these employees would need to remain in order to run the programs. They are losing all their funding with the exception of the County. The original request was \$60,000 on top of the current \$40,000 the County gives the organization to take them through to June 30. For any years after that, the whole amount would be requested. They are set to close December 31 without the additional \$60,000. Council Member Gilbert inquired if the additional would just cover the salaries. Per Mrs. Johnson, a majority of it would cover salaries and fringe. If this were taken on by the County, personnel and programs would have to be scaled back; therefore, it would not have the full impact as it does now. This would be a significant budgetary impact, and Council would have to consider being the sole source of funding, which would include any unforeseen or unexpected expenses that may come up, for which the County would also be responsible for. Other programs in the County were explored to see if there would be a good fit; however, Fatherhood is a specialized organization. Council Member Bell inquired if this decision needs to be made tonight or could more brainstorming

be done realizing the answer may be the same. Per Mrs. Johnson, without the additional \$60,000, the closure date is December 31, and they have already started telling staff and clients. Council Member Gilbert stated this was one of the hardest decisions he has had to make thus far, but even though we may want it to remain, eventually you have to give it up. It's a great program, and he thinks the world of Mr. Rudolph, but the feeling in the last committee meeting was that all at the table understood where we were coming from and the decisions that had to be made. Council Member Pauley inquired if Mr. Morgan could confirm what Council is voting on before proceeding with the actual vote. Per Mr. Morgan, there was a motion made to discuss the recommendation of the Finance Committee, with that recommendation being to not approve the additional funds as requested. At this point in time, a vote in favor of the motion would be a vote to not grant the funds. A vote against would be a vote to go against the recommendation of the committee and for the full Council to go forward and grant the funds as requested. Council Member Bell inquired if he votes in favor and it is decided to do something else, could this item be brought back up at a future meeting. Mr. Morgan stated the vote would have to be on the prevailing side in order to make a motion to reconsider. ***Motion carried 6-1 with Council Member Trapp voting nay.***

- D.** Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Update. Per Mr. Taylor, this was passed at the County level; however, there was an issue where the Town of Winnsboro had to be approached in order to do a resolution in order to fully implement. The Town has voted to approve the resolution to allow it to be collected by the County. This was the last obstacle toward implementing this tax, and this will move forward shortly. Mr. Taylor thanked the Town of Winnsboro for approving this request.

- E.** Economic Development Update. Mr. Taylor introduced Mr. Sam Hodges for this announcement. Per Mr. Hodges, Project Lite, which has been on the agenda in the past few months, has finally announced. The company name is Pharmacy-Lite Packaging and is based out of Ohio. They have announced plans to establish operations in the County with \$2.9M investment that is expected to create 33 new jobs. Both the investment and job number should increase in the future. This is a family owned business based in the US. This business will be located at the former Wal-Mart Building, 721 U.S. Highway 321, and operations will begin this coming week with

distribution. The initial hiring is slated to begin in the spring of 2020, which Ready SC will be assisting with. We are thrilled to have this group in the County. Mr. Hodges then read the statement from the company president, Jack Brennan. In other news, the wastewater treatment plant is moving forward with studies being performed by Thomas & Hutton. There are also two other projects the department is continuing to work on. Council Member Pauley inquired where applications will be sent for the new company. Per Mr. Hodges, the company closed on the building on December 6. On December 13 they will start distribution, and they will simultaneously be doing some work inside the building getting it up fit for the coming manufacturing, which will start next spring. Ready SC will be assisting with the hiring. Council Member Douglas inquired if this company will be using the whole building. Per Mr. Hodges, they do plan to use the whole facility. Chairman Robinson thanked Mr. Hodges for the effort his department has put in.

- F.** Mrs. Denise Bryan, Fairfield County Airport – Fuel Farm Update. Per Mr. Taylor, the airport fuel tanks had several problems, and we have taken measures to remediate all of this and make sure they are properly licensed. It is something the County can be proud of. Per Mrs. Bryan, this has been a two year project and has finally come to fruition. Some photos were shown depicting the old fuel farm and the new fuel farm. The first plane to use the new equipment was two weeks ago. There is a card reader display, which is able to be seen from the other side of the airplane. Both tanks are 12,000 gallons which allows us to purchase a whole truck load of fuel, which can be bought at a cheaper rate and can be sold at a cheaper rate. We now must let everyone know that we have fuel again. Mrs. Bryan invited Council and the public to come out and tour the airport. Mr. Taylor agreed it is very impressive.
- G.** Jonathon Lorie/Jerel Hall: ArcLabs Welding School. Mr. Lorie is the Director of Education and Training and Mr. Hall is the Student Recruiter. ArcLabs is a fully functional welding school, and they serve the State of South Carolina with three facilities. Mr. Hall stated the school does get a good amount of students from this area; and they wanted to make Council aware of their presence. There are not many schools that teach welding in the area. The program is a 900 hour program where students learn from the ground up. Welding is the #1 trade and is a very good field to work in. He has enrolled students from this area who attended Fairfield Central who were well prepared.

They are located in Columbia right off the zoo exit past Fortis College. The next classes begin January 6. Council Member Pauley asked for any brochures, which were handed out to Council. Vice Chair Goins asked for Mr. Hall to further briefly elaborate concerning training and employment and the cost associated. Per Mr. Hall, students learn everything, all skill sets concerning welding. Pipe welders tend to make the most money in this industry. This is a 900 hour class that can be completed in six months (38 hours a week). The evening schedule can be completed in nine months (25 hours a week). The tuition cost is \$15,800 which covers everything the student will need, including materials, laboratory and access to the Career and Student Services Department. The school attempts to get students hired before they graduate, and they are affiliated with many companies. Vice Chair Goins inquired if there is any kind of tuition assistance. Per Mr. Hall, there are several scholarships offered by the school, and financial aid is also provided, in addition to being veteran friendly with acceptance of VA benefits. Council Member Pauley and Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Lorie and Mr. Hall for coming to Council to give the presentation.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

- 15. 2nd PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** All public comments made during this session must pertain to items not on the agenda or under Council's consideration. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- Jackie Workman - Vision
- Jeff Schaffer - Attitude
- Randy Bright - Procuring Boundaries

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Robinson: Chairman Robinson reported that Mr. Taylor received the Ethics complaint filed November 7 stating no action will be taken. Chairman Robinson also stated he and Mr. Taylor met with congressmen and senators recently discussing infrastructure, tariffs, opportunity zones

and many other topics of importance to Fairfield County. Our County is the largest opportunity zone in the State, and we need to capitalize on this. The meeting with Congressman Norman produced information pertaining to broadband, which is an issue throughout the country. A large infrastructure package will be put together in the near future; however, in order for us to take advantage of this opportunity, we must have plans in place and be ready. Congressman Norman is aware of what we have in Fairfield County, and the talk in Washington is that South Carolina is doing great as a whole. Mr. Taylor will also have a representative from Senator Scott's office in his office tomorrow at 10.

Douglas: After the vote to do away with the second public comment session, Council Member Douglas along with Council Member Bell said it should be restored and Chairman Robinson did this. Some of the speakers are using this time for their own glorification and saying almost the same remarks week after week. They are also using names in their discussions and abusing what Council Members Bell and Douglas wanted. He thanks Chairman Robinson and Administrator Taylor for their assistance.

Bell: Council Member Bell wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Goins: Vice Chair Goins stated she heard what Chairman Robinson was saying about the opportunity zones. She will not play games and will instead focus on what is needful for District 4, District 3, for the County. She does want the western side of Fairfield to be included in whatever is going on with Fairfield County. This is the only way the western side will be involved in all the money flowing down. The more we separate and the more we break up, the less we get. It is necessary that we are included in whatever is going on and be a part of it to draw it out to western Fairfield. The only way we can do that is to work with the Chairman, the Administrator, the State, the Federal Government and those involved with the grants. This negativity has been going on for so long. She wants to see western Fairfield be the best it can be and for the citizens to do the best they can for the generations that are coming up to have the best opportunities. So many people have capabilities but not opportunities. Whatever it takes to work with Council, County, State, etc., she does not care what color you are if you're bringing the best to Fairfield County. She also thanked Chairman Robinson and Mr. Taylor for their Washington trip and how well they represented the County. She wished a blessed Christmas to everyone and a blessed New Year.

Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert would like to see the suggestion made by one of the speakers be acted upon in making the manual/guidelines become a policy. Chairman Robinson stated he, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Morgan are looking into this. This was discussed around three years ago, but it was never done.


Robinson: During the DC trip, Chairman Robinson stated he found many counties in South Carolina are in the same predicament. Some people are having overcrowding problems and some have no crowding problems, but we all have the same problems. South Carolina is on the rise right now. We will also be going back to two meetings starting in January.

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

None.

18. ADJOURN

At 7:54 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Members Bell and Gilbert to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN

Statement of Potential Conflict

In accordance with South Carolina Code Section 8-13-700, I hereby declare I have a potential conflict of interest on the following matter:

Old # 736 Kesaid Bridge Rd. Property


This potential conflict of interest is present because:

- I have
- a member of my immediate family has
- an individual with whom I am associated has
- a business with which I am associated has

an economic interest in this matter.

I request to be excused from any votes, deliberations, and other actions on this matter on which the potential conflict of interest exists.

I request this notice to be printed in the minutes of this meeting.


Signature of Official

Jimmy Ray Douglas

12-9-19
Date