



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 23, 2020**

Present: Moses Bell, Jimmy Ray Douglas, 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.

Absent: 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.

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the meeting is being live-streamed through the County's Facebook page in order to keep citizens informed.

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 Vice Chair Goins, to approve the Agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

Chairman Robinson stated Council Member Trapp had contacted the Clerk prior to the meeting, and he would not be in attendance due to an abundance of caution in reference to the coronavirus.

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Gilbert led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Douglas and Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 9, 2020, and the Special Meeting minutes of March 18, 2020. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A.** To Solicit Public Input on Community Needs and Priorities for Housing, Public Facilities and Economic Development. At this Public Hearing, Fairfield County will Provide the Results of its Needs Assessment and the Activities which Might be Undertaken to Meet Identified Needs, Including the Estimated Amount Proposed to be Used for Activities that will Benefit Persons of Low and Moderate Income. Chairman Robinson requested for Mr. Taylor to give further information. Per Mr. Taylor, in order for the hearing to meet the requirements of the Community Block Grant, the public input must be given. Therefore, this hearing will be put off until a future date.

7. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 741: 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, 2020; to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for Fairfield County for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2020; 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 County Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 741. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***
- B.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 742: An Ordinance Adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Building, Residential, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Fire Codes as the Mandatory Building Codes for Fairfield County, South Carolina. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Council Member Douglas and Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 742. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***
- C.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 743: An Ordinance Adopting the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Code as the Mandatory Electric Code for Fairfield County, South Carolina. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 743. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

- D.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 745: An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-in-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and Incentive Agreement by and Between Fairfield County, South Carolina and Project Cooler to Provide for Payment of a Fee-in-Lieu of Taxes; Authorizing Certain Infrastructure Credits; Authorizing the Provision of a Grant; Approving the Transfer of Certain Real Property and Other Related Matters. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 745. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***
- E.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 746: An Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of All or a Portion of that Certain Real Property Located at 93 Commerce Blvd., Ridgeway, South Carolina, with TMS #184-00-00-071-000, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 746. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***
- F.** Resolution No. 2020-04: A Resolution Amending and Ratifying Article III of the By-Laws of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Memorial Hospital and Appointing New Members Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve Resolution No. 2020-04. Per Mr. Taylor, the County thought there was an impending sale of the hospital, and to facilitate a smooth sale, the Hospital Board was looked at. The situation was possibly that there would be no duly constituted board to facilitate the sale. Right now, a board is not needed to run the hospital, but instead, a board is needed to oversee the sale of the assets and settling of the debts. The By-Laws are now being modified to reduce the amount of board members from seven to five. The recommendation is for Council to ratify this Resolution. Per Mr. Morgan, this Resolution was drafted in conjunction with Mr. Mitchell from the hospital along with their legal counsel. This allows for the continuation of the term of the members of the board to continue to go forward on an automatic basis for up to three 1-year periods. The hospital is currently winding down operations, and this was based upon their advice. Council Member Douglas inquired if the Chairman of the Board would be over the hospital. Mr. Morgan stated this is not the intent, and the Chief Executive Officer is the one who is winding down the day to day operations. This board is needed to help facilitate the winding down and, in particular, for the sale of any assets and payment of any debts. Council Member Douglas inquired the salary of the director at this time. Mr. Morgan does not know this information. Chairman Robinson believes this is set by

their board. Vice Chair Goins inquired if this is being put in place just for the duration of the sale of the hospital and if the names can be changed if needed. Per Mr. Taylor, there will be debt also included as well as some possible assets, and the names can be changed if needed for any reason. Council Member Pauley asked for the names to be published for the record. Per Mr. Taylor, the names contained in the Resolution are Catherine Fantry, James McGraw, Ron Smith, Cynthia Simpson and Laura Johnson. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

8. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES - Received as Information

- A. Library Commission
- B. Behavioral Health Board

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- A. Appointment of WillieMenia Robinson to Behavioral Health Services - District 3. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the appointment of WillieMenia Robinson to the Behavioral Health Services Board. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Request of Action: Public Works Road Maintenance Unit. In the current situation, this item was not taken before the Committee as usual. Presently, there is a 2012 Ford F750 single axle dump truck and the engine has gone out. The estimate is for \$28,268. Council Member Douglas inquired if a new engine could be purchased only, and Mr. Taylor stated this is what the request is for. A new truck would cost in excess of \$150,000. Council Member Douglas also inquired if the same thing can be done as was discussed with the ambulances that are being purchased in the future. Chairman Robinson stated we will let Mr. Hartzog do his presentation and then open up for questions. Per Mr. Hartzog, the body and overall condition of the truck is in good shape. This is a substantial cost savings and comes with a 2-year or 100,000 mile warrantee. Chairman Robinson

inquired if this is the same type of vehicle the County has been having problems with. Per Mr. Hartzog, his department has several different types of trucks, and they come with different engines. Most of this is purchased under state contract with a substantial savings associated with this; however, sometimes you get what you pay for. There is money in the department's operating budget to cover this expense. Council Member Bell inquired who will be doing the work to replace the engine. Per Mr. Hartzog, the repair will be done in Columbia. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Pauley, to approve the Request of Action as stated. ***Motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

- B.** Update on County Departments during Coronavirus Outbreak. Per Mr. Taylor, as demonstrated by our meeting tonight, a lot of things are being reorganized in the face of this emergency. Public access has been limited to most of the buildings, drop boxes have been placed and interdepartmental business is being done by phone or email. All of these procedures have been put in place to follow what the President and the Governor are instructing local governments to do. One question he is getting is how the County can help small businesses. Once a package is passed on the federal level, it may be hard for local businesses to access and navigate this new system. The County is trying to set aside some resources and staff to become experts in what is available so the businesses can be assisted. Council Member Bell spoke with Mr. Taylor concerning this, and he feels this is absolutely needed. Chairman Robinson asked if we are presently able to give a time frame when citizens could inquire concerning this. Mr. Taylor stated they can inquire, and their name will be taken down with their needs. Right now, there is some information from the Small Business Administration and Mr. Taylor, along with Mr. Clauson, have been looking into this. He hopes to understand the process as it is set up in the near future. Vice Chair Goins stated this is a first for everyone, and we are all navigating as we go along with the process. Council Member Pauley inquired if the business fee will be postponed. Per Mr. Taylor, this has not been discussed, but it could be done. Hours and nonessential staff have been dealt with. Per Mrs. Johnson, last week a department head meeting was held to instruct the department heads to start thinking about and planning for a staggered work week. High-risk employees were offered the option of leaving. High risk is defined as the elderly 60 and over and anyone who has any type of medical issues. The County facilities were closed to the public, but the public can still call, email and fax. The offices are still

running, and citizen contact is being limited. Council Member Douglas inquired if the County would consider closing in the future, and per Mrs. Johnson, this would be considered based on the situation. Mr. Taylor also had a conference with DHEC today with updated numbers. Chairman Robinson also inquired concerning the manufacturing companies as he has gotten some phone calls. Per Mr. Caulder, there have been some extensions federally to FMLA, but this would apply to employers with more than 50 employees. There are some exceptions for childcare, and employees must be paid for a certain amount of sick time. These are all covered under some federally mandated laws. Council Member Douglas stated the restaurants in town have transitioned to take out. Council Member Bell stated it is very important to have those people quickly identified who can help us related to the Coronavirus and benefits related to it. Per Mrs. Johnson, the services to the citizens are still available for the most part. The after school daycare at the recreation facility has stopped and all other recreational activities have been postponed. Some of the fitness instructors are transitioning to virtual classes. The museum is closed for now. The recycling centers will be open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. because most of these employees are in the high risk range. However, these centers do still need to be kept open. Per Mr. Caulder, the County has tried to keep all the services available. Everyone has remote access of some type. Everyone has a way to check voicemail from home. Most of the directors have laptops and can access remotely. IT has been a huge help in assisting with this, and this process was begun a couple of weeks ago. Council Member Pauley thanked Mr. Caulder for all his efforts. Vice Chair Goins inquired if anything is needed at the Emergency Room, and Mr. Taylor stated this is handled by Providence. Mr. Taylor has maintained a direct line of communication with Mr. Joe Bernard from Providence.

The Clerk updated Council on the budget work sessions: The first reading of the budget took place tonight. The work session scheduled for Monday, March 30, has been cancelled. Finance will be preparing the budget books, and these will be delivered to Council as soon as possible. The work session scheduled for April 6 will tentatively go forward, but this will be limited to only departments with capital requests or new positions. The work session scheduled for April 20 will tentatively go forward, but this will be limited to only those agencies requesting an increase in their allocation along with any final questions. April 27 is the second reading and public hearing, and May

11 is the third reading of the budget. When the budget schedule was made, there was a cushion of time included, so if the schedule needs to be changed, we can certainly do this. Once Council gets their budget binders, it will be very helpful if questions can be put in the form of an email. Mrs. Bass stated her staff will attempt to get these out by next week, hopefully a week ahead of the first planned budget meeting.

13. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

14. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Bell: Council Member Bell stated the coronavirus is serious. It is very important to communicate to everyone that we need to be safe and to do the things the CDC has asked us to do with washing hands, sanitizing, etc. He received a call today with information that he had not thought of concerning pumping gas and to make sure to take precautions. He thanked administration for what they are doing to keep the County safe.

Goins: Vice Chair Goins also thanked everyone for what they are doing. Life has changed completely, and it is an uncertain time. We are going through the process, we will adjust and we will make it. She also reiterated the hand washing, and this should be something we shouldn't have to stress. This is a part of daily life that should be taught when children are little. Hand washing and hygiene are so important. Vice Chair Goins thanked all the County workers on the frontline in this emergency. The buses came through today and were dropping off lunches for seniors, and she thanks God for people like this who care and go out of their way to do these things. This is not our first pandemic. God brought us through it then, and he will do it again.

Robinson: Chairman Robinson inquired when the modified work schedule will be implemented. Per Mrs. Johnson, this has already started. Chairman Robinson stated he has been in contact with Representative McDaniel. He feels everyone is taking the social distancing seriously because this is something that could really affect a lot of people, and we need to follow the Governor's directives, which are steadily changing from day to day. He encouraged everyone to heed these warnings and instructions.

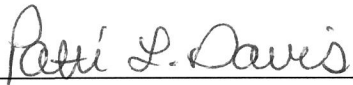
Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert had a message for the young people in the County to please take this seriously. Some young people are now getting the disease, so please discontinue the social gatherings for right now. You could also take it back to grandparents and parents.

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

None.

16. ADJOURN

At 6:40 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Gilbert and seconded by Council Member Douglas to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN