



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 10, 2020**

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

**By Phone:** Mikel Trapp, Bertha Goins (joined meeting at 6:16 p.m. due to technical difficulties).

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 YouTube page in order to keep citizens informed. (Note: Live stream did not work due to Web-Ex meeting licensing, so meeting was recorded and posted the following day.)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robinson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He wished to extend his condolences to Council Member Trapp along with his family for the loss of his mother, Mrs. Johnson and family for the loss of her mother-in-law and to Mr. Chip Jackson's family. Mr. Jackson was a County Council Member in Richland Council. He also requested for everyone to keep these families in prayer.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Bell, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

**3. INVOCATION**

In Vice Chair Goins absence, Council Member Gilbert led the invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 27, 2020. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***

## 5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- A. Phyllis Watkins:** Recognition of 30 years of service. Chairman Robinson thanked Mrs. Watkins for her service to the County. He stated she was definitely an asset to the County. He remembers when he started with the Sheriff's Department, and he believes Mrs. Watkins set the tone for everyone. Per Mr. Taylor, it has been a pleasure working with Mrs. Watkins during his tenure. He also thanked her for the almost 30 years of service working for the County. During this time, she has been a dedicated employee and has worked hard to keep the people of the County safe. Council thanked Mrs. Watkins for her service and offered congratulations on her retirement. Council Member Bell stated her professionalism and expertise have been great assets. Chairman Robinson then presented Mrs. Watkins with a plaque and a commemorative clock, and photographs were taken.
- B. Proclamation:** Recognizing August 15-22, 2020, as South Carolina Aviation Week. Chairman Robinson introduced Mrs. Denise Bryan, Airport Director. Per Mrs. Bryan, Aviation Week 2020 is August 15 through August 22. The theme this year is helping aviation take off again in South Carolina. South Carolina Aviation Week is an annual event held in conjunction with Orville Wright's birthday on August 19, 1871. The weeklong celebration promotes aviation events to highlight airports' educational and economic impacts throughout the State. The purpose is to educate the public and government officials on the importance of aviation and the role it plays in our State's booming economy. This year, Mrs. Bryan volunteered to be the head of the committee for Aviation Week, and there was certainly no anticipation for the many problems that would come. The committee decided to try and promote events that did not include group gatherings due to the pandemic. Flying healthcare workers was to be one of the main goals. The aviation magazine was produced for this quarter featuring Mrs. Bryan on the front of the magazine with her daughter, who is an RN. The fly healthcare provider initiative, however, was thought to possibly put healthcare workers and flight instructors at risk. This risk could create a negative impact for flight schools, airports, the association and South Carolina aeronautics. So, the committee discussed this and decided to pivot to a social medial legislative campaign to demonstrate aviation as helping South Carolina take off again. Companies were identified and interviewed that use South Carolina airports for transportation and the supply chain, and this highlights the impact airports have on their communities across the State.

(Vice Chair Goins and Council Member Trapp joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.) A video is being produced with interviews from companies in the State and how aviation is used in the State. Some of the companies being interviewed are Mid-Center Air in Rock Hill, Senator International at Greenville-Spartanburg International, Medical Transport in Healthcare Systems in Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport, UPS at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, FedEx at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, Medical Transport at Sumter County Airport, cargo companies in Myrtle Beach International, Work Force Development PIA, Work Force at Trident Technical College and Work Force Development Lockheed Martin. The video will be placed on the S.C. Aviation Association website. Aviation Week will include a few physical events in the State. On August 15, downtown Spartanburg will have a community aviation capstone program at the airport. On August 15, Beaufort County Airport will have an open house for their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On August 15, Rock Hill/York County Airport will have a tour York aerial parade. On August 17, Fairfield County Airport will fly the two senior discovery flights again this year that are donated by S&S Aviation. This will include one senior student from Fairfield County High School and one from Richard Winn Academy. On August 20, the aircraft technician of the year will be presented at the S.C. Aeronautics Commission. On August 22, downtown Greenville will have a FOD (foreign object debris - picking up trash on the runway). Some virtual events will include: Georgetown County Airport with an economic impact on Facebook presentation, S.C. Aeronautics charts and directory photo contest and Greenville downtown airport will also have an art contest. Aviation Week this year will look a lot different than it did last year. The events were very successful last year, and the types of events this year had to be changed due to the circumstances of the pandemic. Mrs. Bryan feels the committee did a good job in spite of the constraints. The video on the South Carolina companies should be very effective in trying to show that aviation economically in the state is still positive. General aviation, which is the classification for the Fairfield County Airport, is actually helping to support commercial aviation. The taxes from fuel sales in general aviation, which has increased during COVID, is helping to support aviation in the State of South Carolina, and this is something to really be proud of. COVID has not really affected the Fairfield County Airport, and the airport has not been closed. Instead, general aviation has actually increased.

Mrs. Bryan reported during the pandemic, some people come in with masks, and some do not; however, contact tracing is done if needed. Hand sanitizers and masks are also available at the airport. The

pavement rejuvenation project lined up for this year will begin with the pre-construction meeting on August 12, and the project should not take more than a month to complete. The food drive has been held at the airport, and over 200 people were served during the last drive. The airport received \$30,000 from the CARES Act. The intention is to try to use this money to cover the CIP project that was approved. The hangar maintenance door, which was approved in the budget, came in at \$29,000. However, this should be covered by the money received through the CARES Act. Mrs. Bryan states the airport is in need of hangars and that every airport in the State has a waiting list for hangars. Hangars are the only thing the Fairfield County Airport receives income from. One more building is needed with nested T-hangars. Chairman Robinson inquired of the waiting list for our airport. Since Mrs. Bryan has been at the airport for three years, she has not had one available hangar more than a day, and she currently has a 27-person waiting list. One must have an airplane available to go into the hangar to get a hangar, which is FAA regulation. The County is in desperate need of more hangars and could use this income. Mrs. Bryan stated it should be somewhere around \$400,000 for this project and would take about 20 years to start making a profit at our current hangar rent. There is very little cost to support the hangars. Chairman Robinson inquired if we are in line with the State as far as hangar fees. Mrs. Bryan reported we are, but this can be increased. Council Member Douglas inquired if there may be grants available for this project; however, Mrs. Bryan stated anything revenue generating, the FAA does not like to invest in. The initial research shows it would probably make more sense for the County to invest in this, and this way, we would start making a profit quicker. Chairman Robinson inquired if county residents have priority. Mrs. Bryan stated there are a lot of airports that do not do the waiting lists correctly, but she strives to do this correctly, first come first served, whoever has an aircraft when the hangar is available. Currently, there is no County resident priority, but this can be discussed if Council wishes. If you are a tie down customer, this would move you to the top of the list. Mr. Taylor can put together a full proposal on what it would take to build the 10 unit hangar system. Mrs. Bryan stated she has had about 12 hangars come available in the last three years, and she has filled these empty hangars in the same day as the hangar was given up. Mr. Taylor stated the airport is a vital part of economic development in the County also. The more traffic we have, Mrs. Bryan stated the more federal and state funding would be available. Vice Chair Goins inquired if we should look into Fairfield County preference and how many resident pilots are located in the County. Mrs. Bryan stated there is a small number of pilots in the

county; but Mr. Taylor has been contacted by a pilot who is a Fairfield County resident and would like a hangar. The FAA does not dictate any type of restrictions on this type of preference. Vice Chair Goins then inquired how this would affect the profit. Mrs. Bryan stated she does not believe this would matter as there would not be very many pilots living in Fairfield County. However, the more hangars available, the more that can be offered. Mr. Taylor stated it is a good argument for people who live here to move to the top of the list because they are tax payers, and they help support and fund the airport. Council Member Gilbert inquired how many hangars would be in the new building. Mrs. Bryan stated there are 10 hangars per unit, and that would apply if we go with standard units. She would suggest, as part of getting the quotes, to cut the number down to four and have a larger hangar door entrance on one of the hangars. This way, larger aircrafts could be accommodated. The airport currently has a pad that is about 95% prepared to put a hangar on today. However, if a couple of other things could be accomplished with planning for the airport, there would be room for more. Council Member Pauley inquired if the planes in the hangars are used on a regular basis. Mrs. Bryan stated they are, and the airport currently has the option of 1, 2 and 3 year leases. There is no financial break from doing a 2 or 3 year lease, but seasoned pilots know if they lock down a 2 or 3 year lease, the rent cannot be changed. Chairman Robinson then presented Mrs. Bryan with the Proclamation Recognizing August 15-22, 2020, as South Carolina Aviation Week, and photographs were taken.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A.** Application and Expenditure for the 2020 JAG (Justice Assistance Grant) Funds. At this Public Hearing, Fairfield County will provide information concerning the proposed use of the funds in an identified program purpose area. Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:29 p.m. No one signed to speak. Chairman Robinson then requested Sheriff Montgomery to give further information for the grant. Per Sheriff Montgomery, the department is looking to acquire a speed trailer (\$10,442) which comes with a solar panel and a data box and two body cameras (\$1,438). The grant amount is \$10,015, and anything over the amount of the grant would come from the department's budget. Chairman Robinson then closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

## **7. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS**

**A.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 751: An Ordinance Approving the Agreement to Share Costs and a First Supplement Thereto by and Between Fairfield County, The Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer System and the Town of Winnsboro, and other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Council Member Pauley and Council Member Douglas, to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 751. Per Mr. Taylor, the change is being prompted by the fact that more money is being spent than initially thought to work through the permitting process with the COG. Per Mr. Morgan, attorney C.D. Rhodes gave a very in depth briefing about this Ordinance at the second reading. The changes are basically allowing for the sharing of the costs between the County, the Town of Winnsboro and the Water and Sewer System. It is a graduated scale with more of the cost being picked up by the County, which could be changed in the future. Council Member Bell inquired if the County is still paying 75% and the Town 25%, and Mr. Taylor stated this is correct. ***The motion carried 5-2 with Council Member Trapp and Council Member Bell voting nay.***

**B.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 752: 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 Six (6) Acres Owned by Healthcare US Co. Ltd, Portion of Tax Map No. 164-00-00-002-000. Property is Located at State Highway 269, Winnsboro, SC 29180. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve Third and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 752. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**8. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES - Received as Information**

**A.** Hospital Board

**9. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** Consideration of Approval of Application for 2020 JAG Grant Funds. Motion made by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Gilbert and Vice Chair Goins, to approve the Application for 2020 JAG

Grant Funds. Council Member Bell thanked Sheriff Montgomery for always looking for these type grants. Council Member Pauley inquired once a certain area is monitored, will we have deputies to enforce speeding in the area. Sheriff Montgomery stated this will be enforced by the deputies. The vehicle from Ridgeway is already equipped with two radar units and will be used along with another vehicle. Council Member Pauley inquired how much a radar unit usually costs. Per Sheriff Montgomery, the cost is roughly \$5,000 to \$6,000 depending on what you get. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

## **12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- A.** Maria Calloway, RN, MVA, DNP, NE-BC, Market Chief Nursing Officer, Providence Health. Mr. Taylor gave a brief update for the County, stating currently the state has 100,431 confirmed cases. Fairfield County has 573 confirmed cases with 6 new cases as of today. We are currently promoting and encouraging testing. There was a testing event at McCrorey Liston today, at Fairfield Memorial on the 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-2, and then at Fairfield Medical Associated on the 25<sup>th</sup> from 8-12. If symptomatic, citizens are encouraged to attend one of these testing sites and follow through with quarantining. Council Member Bell inquired if we were able to get possibly a 5-8 p.m. time period for testing. Mr. Taylor will check with Mrs. Johnson and get back with Council.

Mrs. Calloway thanked Council for inviting her today. She will be keeping her mask on because she spends 15-20 hours with just COVID patients every other day. To start the discussion, Mrs. Calloway started with the history. COVID is taking us through a pathway in which we think we have never been before. She has actually been around many pandemics and epidemics since 1980. In 1980, there was the AIDS epidemic from the Republic of Congo. In spring of 2009, H1N1 occurred, which originated in the U.S., and Mrs. Calloway was with the United States Army at the time. In 2016, the Zika virus occurred, originating in Brazil. From 2014 to 2016, Ebola occurred. From December 2019, most of those in the healthcare field had already heard about Coronavirus 2019 or COVID-19. All hospitals in all the states have Infection Interventionists. These nurses along with the epidemiology teams started to get information about COVID-19. At the same time, they were preparing for a five flu process. For this reason, Providence had already increased its supply of PPE about 10%. After hearing about COVID, the PPE supply was increased again

another 15% for a total increase of 25%. She feels Providence was very prepared with PPE because a lot of steps had been taken early to prepare. This is done every year as they look everywhere around the world for what is going on and what might impact Americans. Right now, it is known that COVID was discovered in Wuhan, China in late 2019. What is known about the spread now, and is very important, is that COVID-19 is a droplet type of virus. This means when we talk, when we scream, when we yell, when we sing, we always expectorate droplets. What we know about COVID-19 is that the droplets stay in the air, and the smaller the droplet, the longer it stays in the air. The droplets can be expectorated up to 13 feet. In the hospital setting, there are a lot of humidifiers with hydrogen peroxide in the room to be sure that between patients, the droplets are in a hydrogen peroxide environment to kill them. This is done in order to care for the patients and also care for others and the staff safely. The other new thing known about COVID is the cytokine storm. When we get sick, every immune system has white blood cells and other cells fighting the infection. What is known from COVID, and has seen in other diseases but not as impacting, is that the immune system becomes irate and starts acting in a way that hurts the host instead of the virus. We have seen that the virus attacks blood vessels, but how it attacks is still a mystery. More knowledge is being obtained through autopsies, studies from China, Spain, France and the European Union and our own studies, that show it has a great effect in the blood vessels. We are also seeing patients being attacked with pre-existing conditions. Patients with cardiovascular disease have a 10.5% death rate; patients with diabetes have a 7.3% death rate; patients with chronic respiratory diseases have a 6.3% death rate; patients with hypertension have a 6.0% death rate and patients with cancer have a 5.6% death rate. Patients with no pre-existing condition have a 0.9% death rate. So, the risk factors seem to be vascular, which is diabetes, obesity, aging and hypertension. It was also thought at one point that part of the blood vessels affect the brain, and this was the reason for the loss of taste and smell. That is no longer what is thought. It does not affect the central nervous system, but instead affects the vessels that support those nerves in the central nervous system. It is devastating for families not to be able to visit the patients. It is also devastating for the patients and the healthcare team. In the beginning, everyone was placed on a ventilator. It was learned the hard way through New York and some other states that this was not the right way to treat these patients. Now, they are placed on CPAP machines and other high infusional oxygen. Remdesivir is also used



along with steroids and utilizing convalescent plasma. There are some great success stories with some patients that were thought would not make it, but they are successfully discharged. There is concern about the children with some children experiencing the storm with their immune systems, and more is being learned about this. Every day, more is learned, and we are getting educated about these patients. Chairman Robinson inquired if the virus has mutated, and Mrs. Calloway stated this is not known yet. Still, nursing home patients are so vulnerable. Working in conjunction with Prisma Health, Providence has started a swing bed process. These are usually not an urban city hospital process. It is known that any patient after surgery or after COVID would not be able to go back to the nursing homes. The first evaluation of swing bed patients started last week, and patients can now be kept for skilled care up to 20 days in the facility. Council Member Bell stated he heard on the news that some are getting away from the temperature checks. Mrs. Calloway stated temperatures are still being checked because the immune systems makes people be febrile. Also, Council Member Bell requested for Mrs. Calloway to go back over the percentages given earlier in the presentation. Chairman Robinson thanked Mrs. Calloway for attending the meeting tonight and for the information. Mrs. Calloway feels that Providence is very well prepared for these patients, and 3% or less of people will get exposed. Most of the healthcare exposure is community, including husband, wife and other members of the family. Thus far in the United States, over 600 healthcare personnel have died from COVID. However, not every state assesses how many healthcare personnel contracts and dies from COVID. Most healthcare workers are pretty well versed in how to protect themselves. Every immune system in all of us is like DNA, and all are different. She told the story of all the diseases at the beginning of the presentation to show that she has been through all of these diseases, and she is still here. The key is that not every immune system works the same. This disease is so contagious, and at first, it was not know just how contagious it is. One of the physicians from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee is one of those working on the vaccine, so once more information is known about this, Mrs. Calloway will be glad to bring back more information on the vaccines, including the pros and cons. Vice Chair Goins also thanked Mrs. Calloway, and she thanks God for those who have this knowledge at this time. She and her family are going through this situation with her sister, and it is very devastating. She asked that everyone use all the precautions available. Council Member Bell and Mr. Taylor also thanked Mrs. Calloway for the presentation.

**B. COVID Update** - See above.

**C. Food Distribution Update** – Per Mr. Taylor, the food distributions are continuing. There will be five separate locations on Thursday, August 13, starting at 5 p.m. These sites are McCrorey Liston, Fairfield County Airport, Fairfield Middle School, Geiger Elementary and Mitford Fire Station.

**13. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT**

None.

**14. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Goins: Vice Chair Goins thanked Cooperative Healthcare for doing the COVID-19 testing at McCrorey Liston School of Technology today. She also thanked Mrs. Johnson for setting this in motion along with the food share. She is able to do this with all the help of the volunteers, and she thanks God for this. So many citizens have responded that they truly appreciate the food share. She also shared her thoughts on the recent protests in the U.S. cities and feels it is rebellion against God and his word. She feels we all need to read the Bible, believe it and obey it, then we can all learn something and what is going on now would not be happening. She encouraged the young people and the older people to not go along with the agitators to do harm. She commended the police officers for what they have to go through, knowing that they are not all bad.

Robinson: Chairman Robinson again offered condolences to the Trapp family and the Johnson family. He also just received a message that WellVista will be a partnering agency with WIOA, and they will be offering prescription medication for the uninsured. Finally, Chairman Robinson recently rode through some of the rural areas, and he could not help but notice that we still have a long way to go with blight. He spoke with Mr. Taylor to try to figure out how to partner with other people and agencies and possibly work something in conjunction with Fairfield Forward, CDBG or others for a possible match fund for beautification projects. Council Member Bell stated what Chairman Robinson just said is very powerful. He agrees that there is so much going on in our communities, and we must help to alleviate some of these things because we can. Even if we can only do a little bit at a time, we must think about this. Mr. Taylor stated he can come up with something to present to Council to hopefully

partner and work with some of the existing groups, especially with housing since the County does not have a housing authority. The Zion Hill project is wonderful, and we are thankful for this. However, working with the grant is a slow cumbersome process. If we can come up with some way to set aside funds and run this in house, it would move along quicker and maybe achieve more targeted goals. The CDBG process is usually two years. Vice Chair Goins also stated we need help from the community also to be active in doing this, including the owners of the properties. This is important for the County to grow and be progressive. Other people are riding through the County also, and they may be considering coming here to live or do business. These are the things they see, and this may not be what they are looking for. She feels this is a very good idea, and she would love to help.


Council Member Trapp left the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

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

No executive session was needed.

**16. ADJOURN**

At 7:10 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bell and Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 6-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON  
CHAIRMAN