



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 22, 2020**

Present: Moses Bell, Bertha Goins, 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: Jimmy Ray Douglas, 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 YouTube page in order to keep citizens informed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robinson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Council Member Douglas and Council Member Trapp joined by phone.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to remove Item 7(C) from the agenda. Per Mr. Taylor, Department of Commerce has asked that this item be delayed and possibly could be brought back up as soon as the next meeting. Commerce is working to possibly expand some potential incentives. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.*** Council Member Bell then made a motion to approve the agenda as amended with the removal of Item 7(C), seconded by Council Member Gilbert. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

3. INVOCATION

Council Member Gilbert led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Pauley and Council Member Douglas, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 8, 2020, and the Special Meeting of June 15, 2020. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A.** First Reading (By Title Only) Ordinance No. 750: An Ordinance Enacted Pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, Title 4, Chapter 10, Article 3 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, Providing for the Imposition of a One Percent Sales and Use Tax and the Authorization of General Obligation Bonds Upon Referendum Approval, the Form of the Ballot to be Used in Connection Therewith, and Other Matters Relating Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert and Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading (By Title Only) of Ordinance No. 750. ***The motion carried 5-2 with Council Members Bell and Trapp voting nay.***
- B.** Resolution No. 2020-08: A Resolution by Fairfield County Council Issuing Support for the Prisma Acquisition of the Freestanding Emergency Department in Fairfield County. Motion made by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to approve Resolution No. 2020-08. Per Mr. Morgan, as part of the Prisma transaction, there was some information that came about in the COPA (Certificate of Public Advantage) before DHEC that Council wished to obtain further information on, particularly as it related to indigent care. Based on not having this information at the time, Council went forward with the appeal. More information has now been received concerning Prisma's commitment to beef up the terms of the COPA to ensure quality care for the indigent citizens of the County. Based upon this, the appeal has been withdrawn. This Resolution represents support going forward. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- C.** Resolution No. 2020-09: Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Partial Assignment and Assumption of Agreement Among Fairfield County, Element Real Estate Holdings, LLC and Winnsboro Real Estate Holdings, LLC Pertaining to a Purchase Option Under a Lease Agreement Between Fairfield County and Element Real Estate Holdings, LLC and a Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement Between Fairfield County and Element

Real Estate Holdings, LLC; the Execution and Delivery of a Second Amendment to Performance Agreement Among Fairfield County, the South Carolina Coordinating Council for Economic Development and Element Television Company, LLC, and Such Other Documents as may be Necessary to Effect the Intent of this Ordinance; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Item removed from agenda (see Item 2 above for further information).

8. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES - Received as Information

- A. Hospital Board
- B. Chamber of Commerce

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. COVID-19 Update – Per Mr. Taylor, the current number of cases within Fairfield County stands at 259 and has somewhat leveled off. The State is continuing to experience record cases every day. Recreation summer camp has been cancelled, and the pool season will also be cancelled. The County will begin to use the inmates on a very limited basis to cut grass. Council Member Douglas stated the higher numbers are a result of the State doing more testing. Mr. Taylor agreed that more will be discovered when more are tested. He also feels that our area has been doing more aggressive testing than some of the other counties all along. Council Member Bell inquired if the positive percentage is still going up. This information will be checked. Council Member Bell also inquired if the Hilton Head Conference has been cancelled, and Mr. Taylor stated the conference has not been cancelled. There is, however, an option to participate online.
- B. Food Share – Per Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Johnson has worked hard on this endeavor. Mrs. Johnson stated the next event will be tomorrow from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The participating sites will be the Administration

Building at 350 Columbia Road, the Ridgeway Fire Station at 350 South Palmer Street and the Greenbrier Fire Station, 3025 State Highway 269. It is important to note the first 100 cars will receive one box per car with no exception, and citizens will need to bring proof of residence in Fairfield County.

13. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

14. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Goins: Vice Chair Goins wished to speak on infrastructure. The County is trying very hard to get this done. When taxes are mentioned, people start fretting and get excited and concerned. However, taxes are how counties and towns are built. It is not just the taxes from the county itself, but instead, a shared revenue from all areas from different sources to help the infrastructure in an area. This is vital for Fairfield County. If this is not accomplished, the County will continue to be in the position of being behind and not having anything. In order to have something, one must put in to get out. Taxes are a shared way for everyone to build for the future. When the infrastructure is laid, it is not laid in the area we want it to be in first. It is laid in a strategic particular area after all of the surveying and moving parts, and all the information is taken into consideration. Then, it is always extended out further. The western side of Fairfield has been one of the main areas that has been spoken of with the lower income, etc. Infrastructure is one thing that will change that. It will change the outlook of Winnsboro, Ridgeway, Lake Wateree, etc. Without water and sewer, the County cannot grow, and there will not be housing, businesses, recreation centers or anything else. Infrastructure is a vital part of the foundation. Vice Chair Goins was very disappointed at the action taken by Richland County concerning the wastewater treatment plant. She lived in Columbia/Richland County, and she is thankful for this, so she is not talking about data or what someone said, she is talking about what she knows concerning how Richland County got started and how it grew to where it is today. It took other people helping to be able to do this. Richland County was as small as Fairfield County is now, and most of it was woods. It should be asked "what can we do to help because we are growing together". When one says Black Lives Matter, Vice Chair Goins questions who does it matter to. The population has said that Fairfield County has a majority portion of black or African Americans, but then something is done that hinders the growth, livelihood and the living of those people. Then you say you care; however, if you

care about people, you care about all people. It does not matter where they are from, what color they are or what their situation is. You care, you love them and you want the best for them. Vice Chair Goins is sorry for those who sell their soul for a vote, and this was very discouraging. She would say the same for anyone who supports this action. It is not the way to build relationships, and that is what has to be done. If things are going to change, relationships must be built family-wide, community-wide, state-wide and county-wide. These pennies are the same thing that comes together to do colleges or anything else. This is what will come together to help build Fairfield County and make it better than what it is today. Vice Chair Goins will talk about this, support this and encourage this.

Robinson: Chairman Robinson inquired concerning the wastewater capacity numbers. Per Mr. Taylor, there are two sewer treatment plants in Fairfield County located in Ridgeway and Winnsboro. Both are plants and designs that DHEC would not approve today, and they are not expandable. Winnsboro is the larger plant and has the potential to be expanded to create a little more capacity, but the problem is the expense. After looking at all types of options, and the County has been working on this for over 10 years with the State now coming in and trying to look at various options, it became clear through a process of elimination, just based on engineering and cost, that building a new sewer plant is what is needed. The capacity that is left is around 125,000 to 150,000 at most at the existing Winnsboro facility. The problem is accessing that capacity because the lines that were run to the industrial park initially were under sized. Therefore, the capacity cannot be accessed. Even though there is about 125,000 to 150,000 gallons there, only around 34,000 can actually be accessed. Companies have looked at the County in recent months that would reduce that capacity, and essentially what happens then is DHEC would tell us two things: Either be under construction to create new capacity or be on what is referred to as a moratorium situation, which means that building permits could no longer be issued. At this point, essentially growth would come to an end. The County has had a good run with economic development lately; however, if it does not do something to address the infrastructure capacity, it won't have anything left to sell. The State has been wonderful in helping to support the Mega Site, but this is just dirt without infrastructure to make it viable to attract industry. Vice Chair Goins also questioned the lines being too small. She stated this is not just happening to us, but instead, this has happened all over because at the time infrastructure was put in, the coding and other data was different. Now, a lot of counties find themselves having to

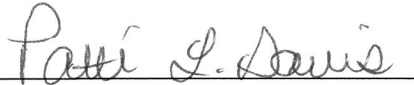
upgrade in order to grow and expand. Per Mr. Taylor, this is a very common situation. Sometimes systems are built to save money for today with not taking into consideration what will be needed tomorrow. Chairman Robinson also spoke concerning the monument near Mt. Zion. He has received a couple of emails and has reached out to a few Council Members and the City. He would like to take care of this before it becomes a problem; therefore, if the City needs support, he would like for the County to offer their support. Mr. Taylor has also had some preliminary discussions with the City, and they are open to working out a solution, and the County would be glad to be a part of that solution.

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

None.

16. ADJOURN

At 6:22 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Bell, to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
CLERK TO COUNCIL



CORNELIUS ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN