



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 14, 2020**

**Present:** Moses Bell, Jimmy Ray Douglas, 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:** 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 two 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 6:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Bell and Council Member Pauley, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

**3. INVOCATION**

Vice Chair Goins led the invocation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2020, and the Special Meeting of November 30, 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. 761: An Ordinance to Amend the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020, and Ending June 30, 2021, and Authorizing the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds for Increased Fire Services. Motion made by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 761. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***
- B.** Emergency Ordinance No. 762: An Emergency Ordinance to Declare a Local State of Emergency in Fairfield County and Providing for Conducting Electronic Meetings for Fairfield County Council and All Fairfield County Boards and Commissions. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to approve Emergency Ordinance No. 762. Per Mr. Morgan, this ordinance is exactly the same as Council has previously passed on multiple occasions. This allows for the extension of the ordinance through February 13, 2021, which will cover the first meeting in February. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

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

- A.** Hospital Board
- B.** Chamber of Commerce
- C.** Disabilities and Special Needs

**9. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- A.** Gene Stephens, President, Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce – Business Promotion Program (Point of Sale). Per Mr. Taylor, Mr. Stephens will be presenting a program to Council for their consideration. The program is designed, during this time of COVID, to assist some of the small businesses in having a web presence and also enabling customers to place orders from their websites. Mr. Stephens provided a packet to Council, which was distributed by the Clerk. Per Mr.

Stephens, this same program was presented to Council in September. Over the last month, there have been a lot of Shop Small initiatives resulting in a lot of downtown traffic. Mr. Stephens directed Council to the last page of the packet, which includes projections for e-commerce over the next 50 years. In 2014, e-commerce made up 6.5% of all retail sales. In 2017, that number rose to over 9% of all retail sales. This year worldwide, e-commerce will make up 14.1% of all retail sales. These figures are steadily rising. By 2040, it is estimated that 95% of all retail sales will be handled through e-commerce. Presently, 51% of e-commerce is handled from a mobile phone. If a business has a website, sometimes it may not be mobile compatible; therefore, it is imperative to build a functional site for the business that will be compatible with a mobile phone. By 2021, this figure will rise to 72.1% of all e-commerce sales being done through a mobile device. Mr. Stephens has noticed the struggle of the local businesses. However, if the businesses are able to do online sales, this would help them to continue to function. A lot of our local stores close around 4 or 5 in the afternoon, and people are now wanting the ability of being able to shop at their convenience through an efficient system. If a person comes to Fairfield County and does a search for the different shops, they will most likely also look at the rating, such as a Google or Yelp rating. Facebook is outstanding for publicity, but if this is all the business has and their competitor has a site that is actually a functional website, our businesses will be missing out. Mr. Stephens feels there is a great need in the County to be able to get our businesses caught up on this technology. The proposal is to work with Retail Systems, who will charge \$50 to set up each business with a digital presence and, if requested, this could also include e-commerce capabilities. The goal is to pay for the initial set up fee of \$50 and the first three months of service, which is \$50 per month. This would be \$200 per business, which is a lot less than what most counties have done to assist their small businesses. This will also equip the businesses coming out of the pandemic to be more efficient. Council Member Pauley inquired what the County will be paying for the initial set up. Per Mr. Stephens, the initial set up fee is \$50 per business with a monthly hosting fee of \$50. The proposal is to pay \$200 total for each participating business, which is the set up fee and three months of web hosting. Council Member Pauley inquired if the Town of Winnsboro would be included in providing funds as well. Mr. Stephens stated he does have some funds he can use from the Town that would have to be used specifically for Town of Winnsboro businesses. Council Member Gilbert inquired of the number of businesses. Per Mr. Stephens, initially the goal would be about 30

businesses. He has a list of businesses that are directly impacted or could be directly impacted by retail or food sales, and these will be the initial businesses served with this program. The ultimate goal is to have a virtual Fairfield. In the event of another shutdown, the businesses that are not online will be struggling. This is a way to help them during this pandemic and also provides long term help. Council Member Bell inquired if Mr. Stephens has spoken with all the businesses in the County or just those on the list. Mr. Stephens has not spoken with every business yet, but he is spreading the information. Council Member Bell stated in last year's budget, the Chamber budget was not cut. Evidently, the Chamber can raise money to do certain things, and he cannot understand why the County would support this. Chairman Robinson stated he raised the money referred to by Council Member Bell. Council Member Bell opined that maybe someone else could raise this money for the Chamber to do these things for the businesses. During the budget, services were cut to people, including many agencies because they were not County agencies. A total of 10% was cut, which did not include the Chamber budget. He cannot support adding another \$6,000 to their budget. Mr. Stephens stated all the surrounding areas have done something for their local businesses, and this plan is also not just putting a Band-Aid on the issue. Instead, this is equipping the businesses for the future. The businesses need to get prepared for the future or they will be left behind. Vice Chair Goins appreciates what Mr. Stephens is attempting to do, and the money that is being requested is not going to the Chamber, but instead is going to the businesses which in turn helps the people in the County. It is a key project already in mind with the figures. When the businesses benefit, the people and the County benefits. She also stated that she personally uses online shopping a lot, more now than before, and she will continue to use this avenue. She also promotes it, and she would love to be able to search before she comes into town for what stores are open, what is available, etc. She does sometimes shop at night, and this is providing a convenience. No matter the push against what is going on, life will move forward. This is a baby step for a greater future. Council Member Bell inquired if Mr. Stephens has spoken to the businesses about paying for this themselves. Mr. Stephens stated this is a program to try to help the businesses, and he has not asked this specific question of every one of the businesses. This is an initiative to try to help the businesses. A lot of the businesses have struggled and closed. We are trying to effect change in the business model to help them come out of this and be more efficient. Council Member Bell stated some of the businesses on the list are owned by the same people. Council Member Pauley inquired

if the state accommodations tax funds can be used in this instance. Per Mr. Taylor, there are local funds and State funds. The local funds are what Council voted on, and this should be implemented at the beginning of the year. State funds are also received. Per Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Bass, this amount varies and is around \$200,000. There is a fund balance, and State law requires this to be used for tourism and tourism related activities; therefore, this money is kept separate. Vice Chair Goins stated this is a pilot project to help the businesses but will eventually improve tourism. She opined that the funds should be able to be used for a purpose such as this. Council Member Bell also inquired if Council approves this request, would it then be feasible to add \$6,000 of additional money to the agencies that are not County agencies. Mr. Taylor stated Council could vote to do this, but to do this as one whole project would probably require a budget amendment. Chairman Robinson stated this would probably also require an additional budget work session. Again, Vice Chair Goins stated this is not adding \$6,000 to the Chamber budget, but instead, this is for a specific e-commerce project. Council Member Douglas stated he thought this had already been decided. Per Mr. Taylor, this project was brought before Council before, but it now comes back before Council to see if it is willing to allocate \$6,000 for this project that the Chamber would administer. Council Member Pauley stated he would like to find out for sure if the State funds can be used. Council Member Bell stated he wished to ask Mr. Stephens concerning his minutes on September 10, 2020, wherein it states that "Retail Systems Inc., Fairfield County Council asked the Chamber to create e-commerce for County merchants. Mike Moore of Retail Systems made a presentation of how this could be done." The minutes further state "the County would ultimately pay for their services." Evidently, it was deemed that the County would pay for these services prior to them coming to Council. Council Member Pauley also stated the Town should be contacted to see if they can contribute funds toward this endeavor. Mr. Stephens stated he can allocate some of the Town funds to businesses inside the town limits. Council Member Pauley thanked Mr. Stephens for his work on this project. Chairman Robinson stated he believes e-commerce is important. Mr. Stephens stated it is not only important for the present, but also for the future. He feels it is the same as with infrastructure in the County. If the capability to add more is not begun, the County will surely be left behind. Our goal is to try to stay out in front of trends, and this is a trend that will not go away. Motion made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to give the money needed from the County to make this work with a stipulation to use the extra funds that we will be getting

if the County Attorney deems it allowable. Chairman Robinson stated a motion has been made and seconded to use the tourism funds contingent upon the law. **Motion carried 5-2 with Council Member Bell and Council Member Trapp voting nay.** Council Member Bell then requested for the Clerk to record the motion exactly.

- B.** Brad Douglas, Director of Emergency Management – Vaccine Discussion. Per Mr. Taylor, vaccines are now being shipped, and DHEC will be overseeing the implementation throughout the state. There will be a County component to the logistics of this plan. We have limited information at this point, but Mr. Douglas will share what information he has with Council. Per Mr. Douglas, the total cases today were 2,378 in the State with 12 deaths, including one death this week for Fairfield County. This brings the total deaths for the County to 48. As a disclaimer on this information, Mr. Douglas stated he has seen the numbers reported by DHEC change from time to time as they do updates. This is a multifaceted and fluid type plan. The South Carolina vaccine plan will encompass three phases, including Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 with Phase 1 having 1A and 1B. A lot of information is not being given out for security reasons, but Phase 1A has been finalized. They are still tweaking Phase 1B. The first phase will include high risk people, such as nursing homes and healthcare providers who are the highest risk. The average age of those who have succumbed to this virus is 75, so they are concentrating the vaccine heavily among that population. They are also coordinating with healthcare providers. Fairfield County could be brought into this first phase with County employees and municipal employees, and we have been contacted by DHEC to get this lined up. The only employees for Fairfield that would fall under 1A would be EMS personnel. The plan at this time is for EMS to handle the vaccine administration. According to DHEC, Phase 1A could last anywhere from a few weeks to several months. Council Member Douglas inquired if this will be the two shot vaccine. Per Mr. Douglas, Pfizer is the approved vaccine currently, and Moderna is expected to get an emergency use authorization this week. Both of these will be a 2-dose vaccine. Pfizer will be two injections 21 days apart and Moderna, when approved, will be 2 injections 28 days apart. Phase 1B will encompass other critical care workers and first responders. Phase 2 would include other essential workers, and Phase 3 is projected to be in the summer, which would encompass everyone else not covered under the first phases. Council Member Bell inquired when the nurses in the nursing homes will be receiving the vaccine. Per Mr. Douglas, this will be covered under Phase 1A. Approximately 200

vaccine providers have been signed up throughout the State. Fairfield County is in the process of getting EMS signed up as a vaccinator. If a person is eligible in one of the first phases, they will be contacted. Vice Chair Goins understands that once essential personnel, nursing care, etc. are vaccinated, then it goes to those other people, such as the younger population, and hopefully everybody will get the vaccine. Per Mr. Douglas, there will be limited numbers to begin with, but as Moderna and other companies' vaccines are approved, there will be more going into 2021. Phase 2 includes non healthcare critical workers, people in congregate settings and young children who may be more susceptible. Phase 3 basically covers all those who do not fall under the first two phases. Vice Chair Goins also inquired how people will be contacted for the vaccine. Per Mr. Douglas, if a person works for a hospital, they will be contacted by their employer. They are also looking into methods for contacting the general population, which could include the doctors contacting their patients. Council thanked Mr. Douglas for the information.

- C. Jonathan Burroughs – Public Works Director – Discussion Concerning Adjustment of Hours.** Mr. Taylor stated Mr. Burroughs has been looking into the operation of Solid Waste and has come up with some ideas on how the County can operate more efficiently. Mr. Burroughs provided a packet to Council, which was distributed by the Clerk. This packet includes some Solid Waste numbers from Fairfield County compared to neighboring counties with similar populations. Right now, the County operates the recycle sites 70 hours a week. The next area closest to this is Lexington with 52 hours, and they serve about 300,000 people. Chester has 10,000 more residents than Fairfield, and they pay about \$300,000 less in tipping fees for a year. They operate 40 hours a week versus our 70 hours. Mr. Burroughs is proposing a 2-part closing of Wednesday, which is currently open 5 hours, and Sunday, which is currently open 4 hours. On that Wednesday, Mr. Burroughs is planning to deliver the scrap metal instead of the company picking it up. This way, the County can do this in-house, and all this money will be kept in the County. The department has the manpower and the capability to perform this task, but if it is open 7 days a week, it cannot do this. Wages in the amount of \$48,000 per year would also be saved. All the attendants are part-time and work one Wednesday a month. If it is shut down on Wednesdays, the attendants will be able to work at the busiest sites to have more monitoring available. This will assist with the sticker plan, which is once again being implemented. Council Member Douglas suggested staying open on Sundays and maybe close Mondays.

Per Mr. Burroughs, Mondays are the busiest day. Council Member Bell states the word got in the street about this, and he is receiving calls already. He is willing to do Wednesday, but Sunday is very controversial. Mr. Burroughs stated also that they are trying to cut down on non county residents coming through the outlying areas. Council Member Douglas inquired what other days would be slow days, to which Mr. Burroughs responded Thursday or Friday. Council Member Pauley appreciates Mr. Burroughs researching this to try to save the County money, and he is in favor of trying to save some money. With Sunday being only 4 hours and half a day on Wednesday, he would be in favor of closing Wednesday and Sunday. He feels that being open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12 hours a day, 60 hours a week, is plenty of time for citizens to use the service. Chairman Robinson states he lives in the City limits, and his trash is picked up once a week. If he misses his pickup day, it has to wait until the next week. Mr. Burroughs states this is also dumped for free, and this is a future conversation. Chairman Robinson would be in favor of Wednesday and Sunday as well. He feels the County spends too much money, and we need to re-educate that this is not a dump but a recycling center. Council Member Pauley stated it would also save on the wear and tear of the vehicles. Vice Chair Goins stated she would support closing on Wednesday and Saturday, and also thanked Mr. Burroughs for once again implementing the sticker program. Mr. Burroughs is currently trying to decide on the best way to get the stickers out to the citizens. Council Member Pauley asked for Mr. Burroughs to state the qualifications to dump in Fairfield County. Per Mr. Burroughs, the requirement is being a taxpayer. Motion made by Council Member Pauley, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to accept Mr. Burroughs recommendation of having the recycle sites closed on Wednesdays and Sundays. **Motion carried 4-2 with Council Member Bell and Council Member Douglas voting nay.** (At this point, Council Member Trapp was not present when called.) Chairman Robinson inquired if the City is paying anything for trash services. Per Mr. Burroughs, his research is showing they are not along with the School District. For two years, the amount for Town of Winnsboro would be around \$171,000 or around \$85,000 per year, and the School District would be around \$35,000. Per Mr. Taylor, there will be other things to come before Council in the future, such as tires.

- D. Request of Action:** Purchase of Service Pickup Used by Road Maintenance Supervisor, Public Works Department. Per Mr. Taylor, this vehicle is a new replacement vehicle. Council budgeted \$43,852 and



under State contract, this is coming in at \$40,231. Per Mr. Burroughs, this vehicle is for one of the supervisors on the road maintenance side. Right now they do not have a vehicle. When they are checking roads, they are in a dump truck. This will enable the supervisor and his crew to get to the jobs along with their required tools.

- E.** Request of Action: Replace Current 2006 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup Used by Deputy Director of Solid Waste, Public Works Department. Per Mr. Taylor, \$35,718 was budgeted for this vehicle to replace a 2006 Chevrolet Silverado with 270,000 miles. It came in at \$33,475 which is below the amount budgeted under State contract. Per Mr. Burroughs, this is a replacement vehicle for a vehicle with a replaced engine and currently has a head gasket issue. He does plan to have the County shop repair the head gasket to keep this vehicle in the fleet as a spare.

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

None.

### **14. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME**

Presentation to Outgoing Members:

Chairman Robinson presented Vice Chair Goins with an engraved clock from the Council team, Administration staff and the public, which read "Given in Appreciation to Bertha Goins for Outstanding Service to Fairfield County Council and Service as Vice Chair from 2017-2020. Chairman Robinson then presented Council Member Douglas with an engraved clock from the Council team, Administration staff and the public, which read "Given in Appreciation to Jimmy Ray Douglas for Outstanding Service to Fairfield County Council 2017-2020. The County team then assembled on the dais for a picture.

Robinson: Chairman Robinson recognized and welcomed Mrs. Shirley Greene and Mr. Timothy Roseborough and thanked them for attending the meeting. Mrs. Bertha has been Vice Chair for four years, and he and Mrs. Bertha came on Council together. She has somewhat been a mother figure to him, always calling and getting on him and praying with him at the same time. Chairman Robinson stated he has loved working with Vice Chair Goins and hopes her future endeavors are blessed wherever the Lord guides her footsteps. Chairman Robinson stated he and Council Member Douglas did not always agree, but he always knew where he stood. He learned to appreciate that, and he hopes their friendship will continue.

Pauley: Council Member Pauley stated it has been a pleasure working with Vice Chair Goins. He also wished her well in the future. To Council Member Douglas, it has definitely been entertaining being on Council together, and he likewise wishes him well.

Gilbert: Council Member Gilbert agrees with the previous comments. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Vice Chair Goins, and he thinks the world of her along with Mr. James. He hopes God bless her in her future ventures and asked Vice Chair Goins to keep the County in her prayers. Council Member Gilbert stated he and Council Member Douglas also did not agree on everything, but they appreciate one another. He sees this as an opportunity for him to spend more time with his girls, and he wishes him the best.

Bell: Council Member Bell stated he did not always agree with Vice Chair Goins or Council Member Douglas, but they both served the County and did the things they believed were right. This service is admired, and he wished them both the best. It has been a learning experience, and he again thanked them for their service to the County.

Goins: Vice Chair Goins said somewhat of a farewell at the last meeting, but again, she thanked each and every one, and she also thanked God for this part of her journey. She never thought God would allow her to serve his people in such an awesome manner and with and for such great people. For this, she is truly humbled and grateful. She will not forget anyone and will be in touch. Special thanks to Mr. Taylor, and she feels God has his hand on him and has given him something special. She also thanked Mr. Davenport and Mrs. Davis. To those that are coming in, God bless you, strengthen you, guide you and if there is ever anything she can do to help, encourage or support, please give her a call.

Douglas: Council Member Douglas read from a prepared statement: As his time is almost up, he wished to thank the people in District 2 for electing him in 2016 and current Council and Jason Taylor for working together to accomplish great things. It was his pleasure to serve the County and answer all the calls from his constituents. We will soon have a new Administration Building and Council Chambers to enjoy, and this was not an easy task. Much progress has been made on the western side of the County where nothing has been done for years, and revitalization of the Zion Hill/Fortune Springs Park area has begun. Mr. Taylor, along with County Attorney Tommy Morgan, has worked with him for nearly 4 years to now have a new fire station for Lake Wateree. Also, a Joint Water Commission was created with the Town of Winnsboro. With the help of Ty Davenport and his team, the County brought

in 1,000 new jobs with investments of over \$100M and, prior to COVID, dropping the unemployment in the County to 3%. We recruited six new industries and expanded two others. We have laid the ground work for a new Wastewater Treatment Plant that he has no doubt will be built, and that will greatly improve the County and bring many more industries and thousands of new jobs. Council Member Douglas stated if Mrs. Greene finds the \$38.1M, the auditor will really be surprised.

Council Member Bell thanked Mrs. Shirley Greene and Mr. Timothy Roseborough for serving the County and welcomed them to Council. It is a lot of work and challenges, but he knows they are up to it.

Vice Chair Goins wanted to acknowledge Mr. Morgan and thank him for looking out for the County. She appreciates him so much, and she has learned a lot from him.

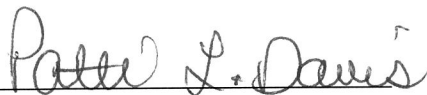
**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION (SUBSEQUENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION).**

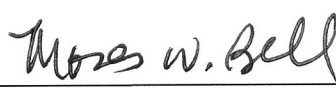
At 7:07 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Goins, seconded by Council Member Gilbert, to go into executive session for (a) Legal Matter – Receipt of Legal Advice from the County Attorney Relating to Litigation Involving the County Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 30-4-70(a)(2). **Motion carried 6-0.** At 7:30 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Council Member Gilbert made a motion to authorize the County Administrator and the County Attorney to initiate a legal proceeding to close a portion of Debutary Road pursuant to S.C. Law. Council Member Pauley seconded the motion. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**16. ADJOURN**

At 7:31 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bell, seconded by Vice Chair Goins, to adjourn. **The motion carried 6-0.**

  
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PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

  
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MOSES BELL  
CHAIRMAN