



**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
APRIL 25, 2019**

**Present:** Moses Bell, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Bertha Goins, Cornelius Robinson, Clarence Gilbert, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Patti L. Davis, Clerk to Council.

**Absent:** Mikel Trapp, Douglas Pauley.

**Other Staff:** Laura Johnson, Comptroller; Anne Bass, Deputy Comptroller

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 twenty seven other individuals.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robinson called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Vice Chair Goins to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

**III. INVOCATION**

Council Member Gilbert led the invocation.

**IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**A. FY 2018-2019 Budget:**

Mr. Taylor reported the County funds a lot of entities throughout the year, and these entities work in the County to benefit the citizens. Tonight, we will be going through the list of entities **{attached hereto as Exhibit A}**. Most of the agencies will be present and available for any questions Council may have.

- American Red Cross: Ms. Rebecca Jordan, Executive Director, was present and thanked Council for their assistance in the past. Last year, 47 different clients were served in the County after a disaster. So far in 2019, 57 clients have been served, and most are resulting from home fires. This year's request is \$10,000; however, in the past \$5,000 has been given and this continues to be administrations' recommendation.
- Behavioral Health: Mr. Vernon Kennedy was present and reports \$69,938 is being requested, which is no change from the past. Mr. Kennedy went over the services of Behavioral Health. Council Member Douglas inquired if Behavioral Health works with and assists Good Samaritan Health. Per Mr. Kennedy, the agencies do have a working relationship.
- Central Midlands COG: Request of \$16,237 which is formula driven based on population.

- Central SC Alliance: Mr. Mike Briggs was present along with Donna Turner. Mr. Briggs reported the organization has been around for 25 years with Fairfield County being a founding member, and stated it is an honor to work with the County. The organization travels the world to speak on Fairfield County's behalf along with seven other counties and the City of Columbia. Highlights from last year and into 2019 were given. The request in the past has been for \$75,000 with the request this year being \$72,000, which is recommended by administration.
- Chamber: Mr. Gene Stephens was present from the Chamber along with Dillon Pullen and Susan Yenner. Mr. Stephens gave a presentation outlining the three areas of focus, including being the Chamber of Commerce, promoting tourism in Fairfield County and doing events for Fairfield County. The goal is to be the center of information and promotion for the citizens of the County and potential visitors. Some future goals would be to work with local businesses and the School District, hold small business seminars, enhance the Chamber's digital presence in the community and abroad in order to be the center of information for the County, Horizon's Initiative looking to future County needs and tourism promotion which includes an "experience" for visitors and citizens and updating the current literature. Mr. Stephens also touched on the events the Chamber either fully or partially produces. Council Member Douglas thanked Mr. Stephens for helping and assisting the Merchants' Association. Council Member Bell thanked Mr. Stephens for producing and distributing the calendar of events each month. Council Member Gilbert feels Fairfield County has a lot of history, and he is glad to hear Mr. Stephens state he will work toward this. Per Mr. Taylor, the Chamber request is broken into two different parts, tourism promotion and tourism related. With the Tourism promotion, last year \$35,003 was received with the current request being \$36,403. The recommendation was to give the Chamber what had been given in the past; however, the new accommodations and hospitality tax was not taken into account. This tax requires that a portion be given to an agency that promotes tourism, and recommendation is to add another \$25,000 to bring the total to \$60,003. This is subject to change based on what is received from the tourism tax, which begins with this budget year. In the past \$53,504 was given for the tourism related line item, and this is recommended by administration. Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Stephens for his presentation and energy.
- Chamelion Inspirations Learning Center: Ms. Vanessa Hollins was present and gave an overview of the program, which is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides after school care and summer camp programs for pre-K 3-6 grade children in the community. The services have been provided since 2009. Per Mr. Taylor, the previous year's request was \$4,000, and this year \$12,000 was requested. Administration is recommending \$4,000.
- Clemson Extension: Ms. Marlene Walker was present and gave a report of what is offered by the program, which includes five areas: Food safety and nutrition, forestry/natural resource, commercial and consumer horticulture, livestock and forage and 4H and youth development. The funds being requested is for the 4H and youth development program. Council Member Bell inquired of the leadership programs in the area. Ms. Walker reported that the current 4H director, Ms. Jennifer Stevens, has a leadership program with the Barclay School and participates in legislative day. Per Mr. Taylor,

\$40,000 has been requested in the past, which remains the same and is recommended.

- Columbia Area Mental Health: Ms. Denise Morgan was present from the agency and reported the agency serves adults and children with connection to the schools in the area. The amount of \$40,000 has been requested in the past, and the current request remains the same. This amount is recommended by administration. The agency also works closely with Behavioral Health and Good Samaritan House. Council Member Bell asked a question concerning firearms, and Ms. Morgan will research this and report back.
- Council on Aging: Mrs. Angi Connor was present and reported the services of the agency, including the core services of home delivered meals, group dining services, transportation and homemaker services. The meal services depend on a volunteer pool, and the agency is always in need of volunteers. The services are available to older adults 60 and above who reside in the County. Eligibility for services is determined through an assessment process. Mrs. Connor feels the Council on Aging programs are extremely important to the citizens of the County because they are designed to enhance the senior's quality of life. Chairman Robinson inquired concerning the contractual services. Council Member Bell inquired concerning satellite locations, and Mrs. Connor explained the requirements of having 25 people per day in attendance to receive funding. In order to do this, there must be 60-70 active people on the roster. It has been found that the outlying communities just do not support this. If there is a need and the available people to participate, it is a possibility in the future. Council Member Douglas and Vice Chair Goins thanked Mrs. Connor for her service. Per Mr. Taylor, the request of \$104,411 is the same this year as in the past, and this is recommended by administration for the upcoming year.
- Department of Social Services: Mr. Jeff Sanders was present and explained the services of DSS. Chairman Robinson inquired of the qualifications for medications or utilities. No request for medications has come across Mr. Sanders' desk. With the utility assistance, the income will be reviewed. The request is \$2,000 and this is recommended.
- Disabilities and Special Needs: Mrs. Laura Collins was present and stated that over 231 people with disabilities are served in the County. The money received from the County goes toward supporting the vocational program or the day program with support for the vehicle fleet. The County is a large rural County, and the department goes to all areas of the County to bring folks to the work programs and then take them home in the afternoon. The budget request was \$55,000, up from \$43,000 for previous years, and this is to cover the cost of gas, tires, repairs, insurance, etc. for the vehicles. Administration has recommended the \$43,000, and Vice Chair Goins would request reconsideration on this request. She is on the board and is very familiar with the services they provide and the challenges they face. Mrs. Collins also stated a lot of money is put back into the local economy through the agency.
- Eau Claire Health Cooperative: Mrs. Cruz was present and described the many services of the agency. She thanked the Council for their support over the years and also for being a true community partner. Last year at this time, the County was facing closure of the hospital, and Mrs. Cruz laid out a

plan for increased access to care. The closure of the hospital has had a profound impact on the community. The Diabetes Education has come under the Eau Claire umbrella, and dental services have been expanded. The request was increased this year in the amount of \$75,000. Administration has recommended the prior amount of \$60,000.

- Fairfield Health Department: Mr. Trey Reid was present and gave an overview of services. The amount requested of \$50,730 is the same as the previous year, and administration recommends this amount. Council Member Bell inquired concerning the measles outbreak and vaccinations. Per Mr. Reid, South Carolina as a whole has very good immunization rates. Only 1-1.5% of children are not vaccinated.
- Fatherhood Coalition: Mr. Rudolph Walker was present and also brought a guest to speak concerning the services. The amount paid in the past was \$30,000 with amount requested for this year being \$40,000. Administration recommends the increased amount. Mr. Walker thanked the Council for their past support. He also reported that, due to budget cuts, the Fairfield location has been discussed as possibly closing in the future. Chairman Robinson inquired concerning this possible closure. Per Mr. Walker, there has been some discussion, and the director is fighting hard. Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Walker for his service with the fathers.
- Good Samaritan House: Mr. Jimmy Burroughs was present and reported the Good Samaritan House began in 1994 as a collaborative effort of Fairfield County Council, Winnsboro Town Council and Fairfield Ministerial Association. It was originally a three night transient shelter and later evolved into a full transitional shelter. Eighteen clients can be housed with the average usually being 14. Clients come from addiction, drug abuse, family problems, economic problems, etc. The agency works with the Fatherhood Coalition, Behavioral Health, the Library and the Detention Center. Funding is primarily from the Council. Random drug tests are performed. Mr. Burroughs states he does not receive any money, and tithing from his church is also used. Ms. Arlene Vance was present to report on the bookkeeping, and Ms. Vanessa Reynolds was present and spoke from the volunteer point of view. Ms. Vance reported last year the agency operated on a total of \$60,109 with \$35,000 from the County and \$25,000 from generous private donors. Drug assistance and utility bill assistance is offered when funds are available. Council Member Douglas reported that he had attended services at Christ Central, and there are usually around 43 people in attendance, 18 being Good Samaritan clients. He has been told if the County cannot sponsor what is needed, Good Samaritan may have to close. He feels the County should support and give more for this necessary charity. He feels they deserve the \$35,000 that is being asked. Council Member Bell inquired if they have talked with Dominion or TruVista for assistance. Chairman Robinson asked why the amount was increased in the recent past. Per Mr. Taylor, the amount was increased because there was a specific building improvement that needed to be done. Vice Chair Goins requested reconsideration.
- Health and Human Services: Per Mrs. Johnson, this is calculated by the Medical Indigent Assistance Act, and the amount represents a small decrease.

**{Recess 6:40 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.}**

- Library: Mr. Eric Robinson was present and reported they are requesting a 16% increase over last years' budget, which is about an \$80,000 increase. This is being requested for increase in insurance and costs associated with the Ridgeway branch. Council Member Bell thanked Mr. Robinson for all his work, and going forward, he is hoping to increase evening hours and Saturdays for the children. Per Mr. Taylor, the Library previously received \$531,485 and is requesting \$609,183. The Library does have a millage allocation; therefore, administration does not have a problem with the increase.
- Midlands Tech: This has previously been presented to Council by Dr. Rhames. They had previously received \$158,810 and currently the request is for \$171,768. Administration has recommended the previous amount. Council Member Douglas inquired if classes will be taught at the Fairfield Campus, and Mr. Taylor stated administration and Council are heavily encouraging them to utilize the campus more.
- Palmetto Citizens Against Sexual Assault: Ms. Charlene McGriff was present and explained the money requested is for matching funds. Per Mrs. Johnson, this was previously funded from Victim's Service Fees. Last year they received \$8,000 and now requesting \$9,150. Recommendation is for the amount to come from the general fund and remain at the \$8,000.
- Public Defender: Mr. William Frick was present and explained what the office does in representing indigent folks who are charged with crimes in General Sessions Court. Mr. Frick thanked the County for providing an administrative assistant. The funding request is not being raised; however, Mr. Frick respectfully requests that if the County approves a COLA, that this be provided to this office as well. Previous request of \$95,203 and current request of \$95,204 is recommended by administration.
- Railroad Museum: The Superintendent, Mr. Roger Stroop, was present and explained the Railroad Museum is on the verge of a major step in improving quality. To provide heat and air conditioning, they are attempting to find a generator car, along with other improvements being made. This past year, approximately 8200 people were brought into the County. Council Member Douglas inquired if recommendations could be made to passengers to come on into Winnsboro to visit and shop. Per Mr. Stroop, there are PA systems on the cars with a narrator, and when coming back into the depot, folks are told if they would like to eat in Winnsboro to contact one of the workers in a blue shirt. Also, a volunteer is working on a map of Winnsboro with restaurant listings to be handed out. Also, on March 28 there were two charters. The morning charter had 50 children and 10 chaperones from Batesburg/Leesville, and they went to Pizza Hut when they returned to the depot. The charter in the afternoon was a birthday party of about 25 people, and when they returned, they ordered pizza from Pizza Hut which was brought to the picnic area. Per Mr. Taylor, the previous allocation had been \$25,000 and the current request is \$28,000, which is recommended by administration.



- Rescue Squad: Mr. Barkley Ramsey was present and provided the services of the Rescue Squad. Last year \$29,500 was requested, and this year \$28,000 is being requested. The fuel request remained the same.
- SCAC annual dues: Formula driven.
- I-77 Alliance: Amount remains the same at \$7,549.
- Sistercare: Please see explanation for PCASA above. Ms. Melva Rogers was present and thanked Council for their support. The office works closely with the Sheriff's Department. Per Mr. Taylor, they have requested and recommendation is for \$8,000.
- Solicitor 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit: Mr. Randy Newman was present, and again requested the career ladder which has been approved in Chester and Lancaster County. This is needed in order to retain the solicitors once they are trained. He also requested their employees be made a part of any COLA that is approved for County employees. Per Mr. Taylor, previously the Solicitor's office received \$89,740 and administration is recommending this year to increase to \$119,740.
- Transitions: Mr. Craig Curry was present and began by reading Matthew 25:37. He is a proud resident of District 2 in Fairfield County, and he can see there is great concern for the homeless among Council. He is grateful and thankful for this. He then discussed Transitions, also known as Midlands Housing Alliance, which is an adult center for men and women. It houses 60 beds and is full year around. The aim is to change behavior, help people with jobs, addiction counseling and assist with mental health. Mental Health and Eau Claire run clinics on-site. From Fairfield County, there have been 32 people served in the last calendar year with an average stay of 34 days each. Chairman Robinson inquired where Transitions is located. Per Mr. Curry, it is located on Main and Elmwood in downtown Columbia. Council Member Douglas and Vice Chair Goins thanked Mr. Curry for the good work he is doing. Vice Chair Goins asked if there is a way to track the residents. Per Mr. Curry, they are tracked for a year depending on the program. Per Mr. Taylor, previously this was funded at \$3,000 and this year the request has been made for \$5,000. Administration is recommending \$4,000. Council Member Douglas believes they should be funded at \$5,000.

Council Member Douglas left the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Mr. Anderson discussed the vehicle situation after a lengthy conversation with Terry Smith and Cpt. Padgett. There are 50 deputies that all require vehicles, 8 SRO's, 1 Victim Advocate, 1 constable and 10 specialty vehicles (high mileage but only used in specific instances). Six vehicles were taken to the maintenance shop to be replaced with the request for six vehicles. However, the cars were prematurely dismantled and shipped down to State Surplus. Per Mr. Taylor, these were vehicles that had been planned to go to the 6 SRO's but now the vehicles are gone. This occurred due to miscommunication between the Sheriff's Department and vehicle maintenance. There are about 11 vehicles that are over 150,000 miles. Mr. Anderson did some research on safety guidelines for patrol vehicles. A patrol car usually has a 3 year/150,000 mile life and, at this point, these vehicles are usually shipped out due to the continuous use in patrolling and idling for prolonged periods. With the 6 new vehicles coming in, next year there will be 11 that are very close to the 150,000 mile cut-off.

However, there are many vehicles that are not near the 150,000 mark, so he feels we are in better shape than first thought. Mr. Anderson has requested that all departments put their vehicles in spreadsheet form so the maintenance shop can start putting procedures into place to track this. When the vehicles get close to 150,000 miles, administration will be notified. Once an ambulance gets close to 250,000, administration will be notified. The fire service has older vehicles, but they do not have high mileage. Therefore, administration recommends purchasing the six new vehicles and then look to obtain refurbished cars for the SROs. Council Member Bell commented that he has heard the County provides very good vehicle maintenance. Per Mr. Anderson, this is handled by Mr. Mozie, and he does a very good job at servicing the vehicles. Per Mr. Taylor, there is a database with alerts for timed maintenance, and he feels we can also add the component to alert us when the vehicles are over a certain number of miles. Per Mr. Anderson, most other counties contract out this service, and with doing this, it is unknown who is working on the vehicles. However, with doing the maintenance in-house, local workers are used and we are familiar with them. Council Member Gilbert also inquired concerning personal use of the vehicles, and per Mr. Anderson, this would be per the Sheriff's guidelines. Council Member Bell feels we may need to revisit the 6% versus 9% salary increase due to the fact that so many cars must be purchased at this time.

At 7:55 p.m., Council Member Gilbert made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Bell. ***The motion carried unanimously 4-0.***

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PATTI L. DAVIS  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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CORNELIUS ROBINSON  
CHAIRMAN

Exhibit A

Fairfield County Council  
 County Agency Allocations  
 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

Name	Acct. #	2019 Adopted Budget	2020 County		% Inc (Dec)
			Administrator	\$ Inc (Dec)	
American Red Cross	5954	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	0.00%
Behavioral Health Services	5913	69,938.00	69,938.00	-	0.00%
Central Midlands Council on Governments	100-008-5434	15,764.00	16,237.00	473.00	3.00%
Central SC Alliance	5944	75,000.00	72,000.00	(3,000.00)	-4.00%
Chamber of Commerce-Tourism Promotion	201-051-5926	35,003.00	35,003.00	-	0.00%
Chamber of Commerce-Tourism Related	202-052-5926	52,504.00	52,504.00	-	0.00%
Chameleon Inspirations Learning Center	5957	4,000.00	4,000.00	-	0.00%
Clemson Extension	5912	40,000.00	40,000.00	-	0.00%
Columbia Area Mental Heal	5911	70,000.00	70,000.00	-	0.00%
Council on Aging	5925	104,411.00	104,411.00	-	0.00%
Department of Social Services	100-030-5902	-	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00%
Disabilities and Special Needs	5910	43,000.00	43,000.00	-	0.00%
Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center	5936	60,000.00	60,000.00	-	0.00%
Fairfield Health Department	5909	50,730.00	50,730.00	-	0.00%
Fatherhood Coalition	5937	30,000.00	40,000.00	10,000.00	33.33%
Good Samaritan House	5906	35,000.00	25,000.00	(10,000.00)	-28.57%
Health and Human Services-Indigent Care	5918	36,139.00	36,139.00	-	0.00%
Library	Fund 801	531,485.00	609,183.00	77,698.00	14.62%
Midland Technical College	5920	158,810.00	158,810.00	-	0.00%
Olde English District	201-051-5927	16,809.00	16,809.00	-	0.00%
Palmetto Citizens Agt.Sex	5949	-	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00%
Public Defender	5919	95,203.00	95,204.00	1.00	0.00%
Railroad Museum	202-052-5928	25,000.00	28,000.00	3,000.00	12.00%
Rescue Squad	5915	27,600.00	25,900.00	(1,700.00)	-6.16%
Rescue Squad-Fuel	5915.01	2,100.00	2,100.00	-	0.00%
SC Association of Counties	100-008-5434.01	7,549.00	7,549.00	-	0.00%
SC Regional Dues-I-77 Alliance	5434.03	27,300.00	27,500.00	200.00	0.73%
Sistercare	5921	-	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00%
Solicitor - 6th Circuit	5916	89,740.00	89,740.00	-	0.00%
Transitions	5951	3,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	33.33%
Total		1,711,085.00	1,806,757.00	95,672.00	5.59%