

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

“CALLED MEETING”

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019

5:30 PM

CHAIRMAN

Dr. CAROLYN A. PRINCE

VICE-CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
ANDREW F. McLEOD

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.
DR. CAROLYN A. PRINCE,
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

*

WILLIE GLADDEN,
CORRIE H. PLATO,
VERD ODOM,
ANTHONY WOODS

* Absent

Others Present: Ms. Jackie Hough, Marlboro Herald-Advocate, Ms. Doris Sumpter, Marlboro County Administrative Services Director, and Mr. Doug Carabo, Marlboro County Public Services Director.

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jackie Hough and Mr. Dan McNiel of the Marlboro Herald Advocate; posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building; and on the county's website (www.marlbocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the revised agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Discussion of a contractual and economic development project pursuant to Section 30-4-70 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina)

April 1, 2019 "Called" County Council Meeting

Motion made at 5:32 pm by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual and economic development project pursuant to Section 30-4-70 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made at 6:10 pm by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chair Prince advised that no votes had been taken and no decisions were made during the executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF THIRD PARTY BILLING AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to brief members of Council on the new business items (a) through (c).

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that as staff had mentioned previously, there were several large expenses that needed to be made in order to get things moving forward with establishing the county-funded EMS department. He stated that some of these items were larger purchases than our procurement policy would allow without authorization from Council under our current emergency provisions policy.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Third Party Billing Agreement for a term from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 which would allow a company to bill insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid for emergency services which is very important to the county's budget and our employees must have time for training prior to July 1, 2019. He asked members of Council to approve the Third Party Billing Agreement under the emergency provisions of the county's procurement policy. He stated that he felt that we must do what we have to do for now to be up and running for a June 30, 2019 effective date and be fair in the future with allowing folks to bid on these type contracts.

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Third Party Billing Agreement with EMS Management and Consultants for Emergency Services Department for a term of one year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF CARDIAC MONITORS

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that he included the purchase of cardiac monitors on the agenda out of an abundance of care. He stated that staff does have the authority to make the purchase of these monitors under the county's procurement policy but stated that he would like members of Council to endorse the purchase.

April 1, 2019 "Called" County Council Meeting

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the cost to purchase seven cardiac monitors which would serve as the life of each unit and would basically serve as a mobile ER is \$219,000 from Zoll Medical Corporation.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods to approve the purchase of seven Cardiac Monitors for a cost of \$219,000 from Zoll Medical Corporation. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PURCHASE OF 1.25 ACRES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMS STATION IN THE WALLACE AREA

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that a 1.25+- acre of land on Highway 9 in Wallace, SC, is being considered for purchase for establishing an EMS station. He stated that a mobile home was also being considered but the property being considered is available for a purchase price of \$16,000. He stated that Mr. Brian Watts, the EMS Director, and Mr. Doug Carabo, the Public Services Director, both felt that the location would be great in that it is near Bennettsville. He stated that he agreed with staff and felt that the location would serve the county well strategically to secure this tract. He stated that the current site of the Wallace EMS was located on property that is under lease.

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the purchase of 1.25+/- acres on Highway 9 in Wallace, SC, for \$16,000 for the establishment of an EMS Station in the Wallace Area. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCURING EMS EQUIPMENT

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that the county currently has a lease to purchase agreement in place to purchase certain capital projects but staff has found that a similar lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$850,000 was needed for EMS equipment. He stated that staff expected grant funds to be available to make the payments required under this proposed lease purchase agreement over the five year period but stated that the funds were needed now to purchase ambulances and cardiac monitors. He stated that since this type of agreements were already in place that members of Council approve a new lease purchase agreement with First Citizens Bank for an amount of \$850,000 for the purchase of EMS equipment.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the lease-purchase agreement with First Citizens Bank in the amount of \$850,000 for the purpose of procuring EMS Equipment. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 784 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PURCHASING POLICIES FOR MARLBORO COUNTY – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that as staff moves forward with purchases that have been discussed earlier, he felt that the county's Purchasing Policy

April 1, 2019 "Called" County Council Meeting

Procedures should be updated and that he hoped to have a revised draft of Purchasing Policy Procedures available for consideration by members of Council by the end of the budget process. He stated that he wanted to get things moving by having the first reading in title only of the Ordinance which would revise the purchasing policies.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the first reading in title only of Ordinance # 784 – an Ordinance Establishing Purchasing Policies of Marlboro County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON INITIATIVE TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR A FREE-STANDING EMERGENCY ROOM

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to show members of Council the map of all hospitals located within a 60 miles radius of our area on the TV provided.

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that the EMS Task Force which consisted of three members of Council (herself, Mr. Jason Steen, Ms. Corrie Plato) as well as Ms. Jane Rogers and Mr. Joe Breeden of the Marlboro General Hospital Charities Trust, met with Senator Gerald Malloy two weeks ago. She stated that Senator Malloy had received a copy of the Resolution adopted by Council to remove barriers for a free-standing emergency rooms and wanted to discuss the matter further. She stated that since the hospital closed in 2015, our county has found a great need for a free standing emergency room in our area. She stated that Senator Malloy better understood the county's situation now and arranged for a second meeting with folks from DHEC, DHHS and the Hospital Association. She stated that pros and cons were shared and the problems we endure in having no hospital in our area and the concerns of opening one and the need for a free standing emergency room. She stated that it was mentioned that no existing hospital in our area was willing to open a hospital or free standing emergency room and Senator Malloy seemed open to supporting legislation that would allow a North Carolina hospital to come and locate in our county. She stated that Senator Malloy was in the process of setting up a third meeting that would include folks from McLeod and MUSC and that discussion of building a free standing emergency room in our area would be discussed. She stated that everyone understood that capital for operating costs such a project would be a primary concern and stated that members of Council would be open to discussions on this issue.

Chair Prince stated that she appreciated Senator Malloy's expertise in helping getting discussions moving on this urgent matter and stated that he has served as Senator for more than 17 years and has much experience that he is able to bring to the table and is able to share. She stated that her hope was that a hospital in SC or NC would be willing to build a free standing emergency department in our county.

Chair Prince stated that the map shows in red where all hospitals are located within a 60 miles area of our location. She stated that there are five in North Carolina of which three are within a 17-24 mile distance and there are two very close to us. Chair Prince stated that she felt confident that things will progress and the county would be successful in getting a free standing emergency department in our area.

April 1, 2019 "Called" County Council Meeting

Chair Prince recognized Mr. Jason Steen and Ms. Corrie Plato and asked if they had any comments.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that McLeod was the only hospital that could build a free standing emergency room in our area and possibly Carolina Pines. He stated that if the red line was removed from the map, Marlboro would have three other hospital systems that could build here. He stated that we have good data that proves that there are plenty of visits to the ERs to show that we could support a free standing emergency room department. He stated that the Marlboro County citizens have visited ERs/urgent care about 18,000 times between the two hospitals in Scotland and Cheraw. He stated that the data is available to help us in getting a free standing emergency department in our county.

Ms. Corrie Plato stated that she was confident that things were moving in the right direction. She stated that the right folks were now involved that could help the county with the problems that we are having with emergency medical treatment and she felt that with Senator Malloy's help things would begin to move forward and we would eventually have an emergency medical treatment facility here in our county. She stated that everyone should continue to pray that things will go in our favor.

Chair Prince stated that Council takes very seriously the health and wellbeing of its citizens and that Council is pushing to have our own emergency room department. She stated that council works hard behind the scenes to get things done for the citizens of Marlboro County and there was no vested interest except concern for the wellbeing of the citizens in our county.

Chair Prince stated that members of Council work well together and use their wisdom in getting things done. She stated that no one could put a price on a person's life. She stated that she was hopeful that a free standing emergency room would soon be a part of Marlboro County and she thanked everyone for their support in this fight.

Chair Prince asked if there were any further comments.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that staff was planning a cleanup event and that he was hopeful that many folks would come out and participate.

Mr. Jason Steen asked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, if he had any updates on the progress for repairs to Highway 1 from the highway department. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had not received any updates on the project. Mr. Steen asked that he follow up and try and have a report by the next Council meeting which was scheduled for next week.

Mr. Verd Odom stated that he had an update on the Highway 381 project. He stated that he hoped that a decision would be made in a couple of weeks from last Wednesday afternoon. He stated that the property owners and their attorney had met with DOT and they had a couple of scenarios to resolve the issues and that a decision should be made soon as to which route would be taken in order to get the road repaired. Mr. Odom stated that he talked with Representative Pat Henegan about the issue.

April 1, 2019 "Called" County Council Meeting

Chair Prince asked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to introduce Mr. Brian Watts, EMS Director, to members of Council. Mr. Munnerlyn introduced Mr. Watts and stated that he had been with the county as the EMS Director since February 11, 2019.

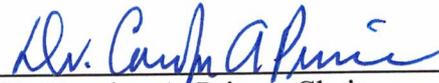
NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

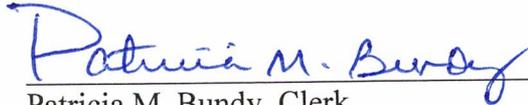
Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, she adjourned the meeting at 6:32 pm

(SEAL)



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: May 14, 2019