

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO CIVIC CENTER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE CHAIRMAN

CORRIE PLATO

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY
COUNCIL:

RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
ANDREW McLEOD

*

JASON STEEN,
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.
KENNETH STROMAN
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

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

* Absent

The Council meeting is being held at the Marlboro Civic Center in order to allow adequate space for an open meeting and to allow for social distancing.

Others Present: Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director; Ms. Doris Sumpter, Administrative Services Director; Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director; and Ms. Jackie Hough, of the Herald-Advocate.

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

INVOCATION- Mr. Anthony Woods

INSTALLATION OF COUNCILMAN KENNETH STROMAN

The Honorable Grover McQueen, Marlboro County Magistrate, administered the oath of office to newly elected council member Kenneth Stroman for County Council District 5. Judge McQueen congratulated Councilman Stroman and thanked him for his willingness to serve the citizens of Marlboro County.

August 11, 2020 County Council Meeting

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, welcomed Councilman Stroman aboard and stated that he looked forward to him serving many years on County Council. He stated Marlboro County Council was happy to have him.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JULY 14, 2020 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were no recommended changes.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes from July 14, 2020 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION # 08-20-01 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SET THE LOST CREDIT FACTOR

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Resolution.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the millage rates for the year 2020-2021 were the same as presented during the budget but was rounded up from 140.4 to the nearest tenth of 140.5. He stated the LOST credit would be set in the coming weeks and he would be working with the County Auditor and the County Treasurer to do this. He stated the LOST credit was basically funds that the County receives back from the State to create discounts on property taxes for all property owners. He stated he did not anticipate any significant change from last year.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Resolution # 08-20-01 – a Resolution Establishing the Millage Rates for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Authorizing the County Auditor and County Administrator to set the LOST Credit Factor. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 08-20-02 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MARLBORO COUNTY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (SCDJJ) FOR THE DETENTION OF JUVENILES

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Resolution.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was an annual agreement that sets the amount of funds paid for housing of juveniles that may need to be transported by the Sheriff's Office to the Columbia facility. He stated the rate was \$50 per day which was the same as last year.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve Resolution # 08-20-02 – a Resolution Authorizing Marlboro County to Enter into an Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) for the Detention of Juveniles. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OPENING & ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

APPROVAL OF SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT AGGREGATES FOR COUNTY UNPAVED ROADS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was good news. He stated Mr. Doug Carabo, the Public Services Director, worked hard with the Marlboro County Transportation Committee to obtain \$75,000 to use towards the purchase of slag for county dirt roads. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Public Works staff had been placing slag on many of the county's dirt roads already which folks may not see but the plans were to use this additional slag to continue improving the county's dirt roads. He stated staff was working to get this slag on county dirt roads that have more residents on them first before working on other roads. He stated Councilman Steve Blackmon could confirm that slag packs down good and is much cheaper than the crush and run which has been used in the past. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the slag was being purchased under the purchasing policy procedures as sole source since Nucor is the only vendor from whom it may be purchased unless someone wanted to drive to Georgetown. He stated he did not feel that a vote but requested that a vote be taken so that folks would know how funds were being spent.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Sole Source Procurement Aggregates for County Unpaved Roads to TMS

International, LLC in the amount of \$75,000. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MS. LESLIE HERNDON TO SERVE ON THE PEE DEE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD TO FILL THE VACANT SEAT OF MR. MIKE WINBURN (DECEASED). (THIS APPOINTMENT IS RECOMMENDED BY MARLBORO COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL CHARITY TRUST)

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this appointment.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this was an appointment that is suggested by another group but needs confirmation from Council. He stated he knew of no opposition or any reason why Ms. Herndon should not be appointed to serve on the Pee Dee Regional Health District Board.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to appoint Ms. Leslie Herndon to serve on the Pee Dee Regional Health District Board to fill the vacant seat of Mr. Mike Winburn, deceased. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman recognized Mr. Wes Park for the Finance Report. Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that he would provide the brief report on behalf of Mr. Park since he was only one month in his duties.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that expenses were at 6.74% of the budgeted amount and revenue was coming in pretty slowly simply because of the time of the year. He stated Finance staff was working to prepare for the audit and working a good bit on the CARES grant to file for reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he was happy to have Mr. Wes Park with the County and he looked forward to working with him.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – MR. RON MUNNERLYN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of July: Sharon Sanders (9 years); Emma Ocean (6 years); Ophelia Dickey (12 years); Keith Williams (5 years); Sandy Wilkes (26 years); Lashawn Wheeler (18 years); Keith Hughes (8 years); Clara Brock (9 years); and Katherine Leggett (32 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch at the Community Kitchen – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Community Kitchen has re-opened and is serving take-out plates only. The County would be providing the meal on Wednesday, August 12th. The lunch will include chicken salad croissants, chips, fruit bowls and pudding and Ms. Doris Sumpter was leading the group.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Broadband Initiative – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that had had been working to complete applications for the CARES Act funding of broadband in the county. He stated this had been an interesting experience since there is a deadline of December 18th to spend the money IF awarded, although state officials have taken many weeks to develop the criteria and applications for seeking the funds. He stated he has been frustrated because the state has been broken into small blocks categorized by need. He stated Marlboro County has 13 blocks and an application was required to be completed for each block independent of each other. He stated applications would be scored based on a number of factors. He provided an example, and stated counties with student poverty of 86% or greater receives 15 points. He stated Marlboro County's student poverty level was 85.3%. He stated the deadline for completion of the applications is this week and stated that staff intended to apply for every block in the county.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

CARES Act funds – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that after many phone calls and emails, the County has received the Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds which will authorize the county to be reimbursed for expenses and costs for COVID. He stated the County may submit only one receipt per month on a rolling basis through 8/15/2020 for the first round of CRF funding. He stated the first round of funding may encompass expenses incurred through 6/30/2020.

COVID-19 Update – Mr. Munnerlyn stated there have been no significant changes in the county's policies. He stated masks were required to enter County buildings and the Chief Justice of the SC Supreme Court has issued an Order directing this policy for the courthouse. He stated staff was constantly monitoring the situation, however, staff anticipates no changes in our policies in the near term.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a decision on fall sports (football and soccer) would be made by August 30th. He stated it was likely that these seasons would be cancelled.

Meeting with Fire Committee – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had discussed the rural fire ISO and strategic plan and Keith Hughes provided a couple of dates to meet with the fire

committee but those dates have now passed. He stated he would get a couple of new dates and set something up. He stated there were some capital reserves that may be spent but council's input was that we should be sure that staff has a plan of action and progress continues. He stated a meeting would be scheduled soon.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Councilman Woods mentioned Ms. Patricia Bundy earlier. He stated she had an incident with her gall bladder and that is why she was not at the meeting tonight. He stated she was receiving treatment and hoped that she would be well soon.

Mr. Munnerlyn thanked Councilman Blackmon for his advice regarding rock on the county roads. He stated staff has already gone twice as far as we would have with the slag that is being currently used.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that no citizens had signed up to address members of Council.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods - stated his Grandmother would be celebrating her 104th birthday on August 14, 2020. He stated due to COVID-19 concerns, the family had planned a drive-thru birthday celebration for her. He thanked God for his grandmother and stated he was very thankful to still have her here with him.

Ms. Corrie Plato – welcomed Councilman Ken Stroman. She stated there were many things to be thankful for and she prayed for the whole world. She encouraged everyone else to do the same.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. - welcomed Councilman Ken Stroman.

Mr. Willie Gladden – stated there were many things going on in the county, city and school district that needed to be looked into. He mentioned the School District and the City were working together to sell the Eastside School to build high rise apartments. He stated if you follow the money, you could see where funds have been transferred from one department to another and you can tell that things have been in motion for a good while. He suggested citizens look at what's going on with the money in Marlboro County, as well as the City of Bennettsville and the Marlboro County School District.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – gave honor to God and thanked everyone for their support and well wishes. He stated he looked forward to working with each one.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – welcomed Councilman Ken Stroman aboard and stated that he looked forward to working with him. He thanked staff and members of council for the work they do in keeping taxes down for the citizens.

Mr. Verd Odom – welcomed Councilman Ken Stroman and stated he was happy to have him on Council. He stated that he had had many conversations with Councilman Stroman already and could tell that he has a big interest in Marlboro County.

Mr. Odom stated that over the past several days, he had talked with Mr. Tim McGee of the State regarding the state line entrance into the county. He stated the sign that the County has put up was being maintained very well but the state's right of ways look horrible. He stated that Mr. McGee has stated that they will work harder to maintain the roadways and ditches in that area.

Mr. Odom stated that he talked with Ms. Lori Moses, Director of Voter Registration office. He stated the state has approved that any ballots that are mailed out between September 15th and October 1st would be postage prepaid. He stated that the ballots received would already have postage on them for returning which would save folks a lot of trouble and money.

Mr. Odom stated that everybody in Marlboro County, the State and nationally, was pushing for mail in ballots due to COVID-19. He stated there were pros and cons but he felt that a lot of folks would not vote if they could not vote in their own homes, particularly senior citizens, due to COVID-19 concerns. He stated that Marlboro County had a 26% turnout in its June election and Horry County, the largest county in the state had 17.8% turnout and everyone feels it is because of COVID-19 concerns. He stated there were contentious races in Marlboro County and at the beach but very low turnout. He encouraged everyone to please consider voting via mail. He stated he understood that when ballots were returned, they would go directly into the Voter Registration box and would not be shipped anywhere. He stated this would result in less handling of the ballots.

Mr. Jason Steen – stated he looked forward to working with Mr. Stroman. He stated that members of Council work well together.

Mr. Steen wished Grandma Woods a Happy Birthday. He stated that was certainly a milestone. He stated we haven't seen much but she has seen everything.

Mr. Steen thanked everyone that came out for the meeting tonight and stated that one day hopefully things would return to normal, whatever that may be. He stated that Councilwoman Plato said it best - prayer works and changes anything. He stated prayer was the best medicine available.

Mr. Steen stated that Council and staff would continue to work through the pandemic. He encouraged everyone to stay safe. He stated he had some good friends that were on the ventilator due to the virus and asked everyone to continue to pray for each other.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

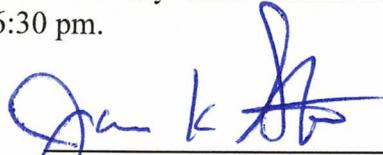
There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

August 11, 2020 County Council Meeting

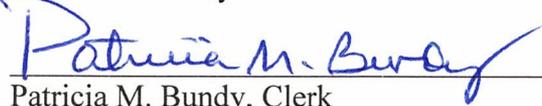
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

(SEAL)



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: September 8, 2020