

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN DR. CAROLYN A. PRINCE

VICE-CHAIRMAN JASON STEEN

ADMINISTRATOR RON MUNNERLYN
CLERK TO COUNCIL PATRICIA BUNDY
COUNTY ATTORNEY ANDREW McLEOD

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN, WILLIE GLADDEN,
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR. CORRIE H. PLATO,
DR. CAROLYN A. PRINCE, VERD ODOM,
STEVE BLACKMON, AND ANTHONY WOODS

* Absent

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

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough and Mr. Dan McNiel 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 786 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME

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AS PROJECT BEETHOVEN WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN FEES-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munneryn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munneryn stated this was the public hearing as required for the \$12 million solar project. He stated the third reading would be held at the next meeting and the incentives being offered would be detailed at that time. He stated it would be a standard agreement based on the going rate which other counties around the state were providing.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 16, 2019 – Regular Council Meeting

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, 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 Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Council meeting minutes from July 16, 2019 as presented. Vote in favor: Dr. Carolyn Prince, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Willie Gladden, and Mr. Steve Blackmon. Abstain: Mr. Verd Odom and Mr. Anthony Woods (not present at the July 16, 2019 meeting). Vote: 6/0/2. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 787 – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS OF TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY WITHIN MARLBORO COUNTY AS PROVIDED BY SOUTH CAROLINA CODE SECTION 12-45-75, AS AMENDED – SECOND READING

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munneryn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munneryn stated staff had talked with other counties that are providing this option for taxpayers. He stated that this arrangement was provided for taxpayers but he felt citizens would be required to pay taxes ahead for the year coming. He stated that this installment payment option was discussed along with the solid waste options to give folks the ability to pay taxes in five installment payments. He stated that staff had learned that that the installments would be offered to pay forward for the next year and would not be an option for taxes and the solid waste fee for this year.

Chair Prince asked if folks could participate in the installment payment process if the tax notices were issued in October of this year. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that they would need to pay this year's taxes and fees in full and begin paying the tax installments in advance for next year. He stated the tax payment installments would not be available for taxes and fees due this year.

Chair Prince asked if the installment payments for next year could begin in February to pay the 2020 taxes. Mr. Munnerlyn explained that the option to allow installment payments was more complex than staff initially thought. He stated Chesterfield County allows their taxpayers to pay their property taxes in installments but staff has been advised that only about five folks have signed up to participate. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Treasurer, Ms. Delorice Barrington, was very much against providing an option for allowing taxpayers to make tax payment installments and she wanted that on the record. Mr. Munnerlyn explained that if a large percentage of folks chose to pay via tax installment payments that the Treasurer would certainly need some additional assistance in her office.

Mr. Jason Steen stated he wanted to confirm the correct procedure and stated he understood that the full tax bill and any solid waste fee would need to be paid in full by January 15th and payment in tax installments for the taxes and fees for the following year could possibly begin in February. Mr. Munnerlyn again stated the matter was very complicated and stated the computer program would need to be adjusted so as to allow the tax installment payments to begin in February. He stated staff was in the process of getting an estimate for the computer program and software and would know more once he received that information.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that anytime there is a change, there is chaos. He stated he felt that staff and Council would need to ride the storm out and offer the option for tax installment payments for next year's taxes.

Ms. Corrie Plato stated she understood that all taxes and fees for this year would be due at one time. She asked if folks could begin making monthly installments now so that the full amount could be paid by January 15th. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he did not know the answer to that question right now. He stated that the plans were to get the tax notices out in October, he was unsure if folks could make monthly payments. He stated staff would look into that possibility. He stated that staff thought this was a great option but that the option was more complicated than what staff thought it would be.

Mr. Verd Odom asked that Mr. Munnerlyn confirm that only five folks in Chesterfield County signed up to participate in the option to pay property taxes in installments. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that was what staff has been told.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that more information on this would be provided under new business with the review of Solid Waste Collection options but suggested that second reading be considered for now and allow staff to bring members of Council more information at third reading.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 787 – an Ordinance to Authorize Installment Payments of Taxable Real Property Within Marlboro County as Provided by South Carolina Code Section 12-45-75, as Amended. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SOLID WASTE COLLECTION OPTIONS

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had had discussions with council and community meetings were held to discuss options for Solid Waste Collection in the county. He stated the county's current contract would expire at the end of January, 2020 and by state and federal law, the county has to provide a plan for folks to dispose of their household trash. He stated that our convenience centers have become a drop off location for household trash and that cannot continue. He stated 81% of the folks that attended the community meetings felt that roll carts should be provided and the fees for the service should be collected by adding the fee to residents' property tax bills.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that at the community meetings four options were discussed which were as follows: (1) convenience centers only, which would reduce the annual cost to somewhere around \$85-\$90/year. He stated this option would result in problems for folks that had no way to haul their trash to the convenience centers and the litter problem in the county would become worse; (2) Roll Carts which would allow the contractor to bill residents directly which is the way the system currently works. He stated the problem with the current system is enforcing folks to have a cart; (3) Roll Carts which would be provided by the county and handled by a County Department which would be very expensive to the county and residents; and (4) Roll Carts with the county billing and paying the contractor directly.

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director, to present the proposal for solid waste collection options and explain the responses.

Mr. Carabo stated that there were four proposals received for the Solid Waste Collection options and referred members of Council to the spreadsheet which was included in their packets. He stated proposals were received as follows: (1) Palmetto Waste & Recycling; (2) Jordan Waste; (3) Waste Management; and (4) Waste Connections. He stated that senior staff reviewed each proposal and graded them based on several evaluation factors which included an implementation plan, financial standing and resources, experience managing similar services, reputation/business references, and price. Mr. Carabo stated after staff reviewed all factors, Waste Connections had the highest number of points and best overall price. He reported that with the contractor billing the county directly, the regular monthly fee would be \$16.40 and the discounted monthly fee for elderly/disabled folks would be \$13.40 and the county would add the annual fees to the residents' tax bills. He stated there were about 6,700 residences in the county of which 3,200 would be considered

elderly/disabled and on homestead. Mr. Carabo recommended that Council consider approving the proposal submitted by Waste Connections.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff has presented a lot of information but basically there were three options to consider:

Option 1

Convenience Centers Only – estimated fee of \$90 per year with the fees added to the tax bills. Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff would need to come up with certain equipment to make this work and it would be very costly to the county.

Option 2

Roll Carts – Contractor Bills Direct (Current System) – estimated fee from proposal received from Jordan Waste would result in fee of \$256 per year (\$21.35 per month). Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this option would not require any big bill all at once but would require monthly payments. He stated there would also be a need to enforce all residents to have a cart and issue tickets to those who failed to do so which would require court appearances, etc. He stated that the \$40 solid waste fee would also still need to be charged to all residents which would result in an overall charge per year of \$296. He stated that right now folks were paying \$240 per year to the current contractor and a \$40 annual solid waste fee for a total of \$280 annually.

Option 3

Roll Carts – County Bills, then Pays Contractor – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff has recommended this option. He stated the fees would be \$195 per year for the folks not on homestead plus a \$15 per year solid waste fee for a total of \$210 per year. He stated this option would result in a reduction of \$70 per year compared to what residents are paying currently.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated for those on homestead, the fees would be \$160 per year plus \$15 per year solid waste fee for a total of \$175 per year compared to the \$280 per year which they are currently paying. He stated this option for the elderly and disabled would result in a reduction of \$105 per year.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that all those with rental properties would need to pass the solid waste collection fees to their tenants one time each year.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated if members of Council approved this option, staff would need to move quickly in order get their work done before the end of the month.

Mr. Munnerlyn also suggested that all folks in the municipalities be charged \$10-\$15 per year and added to their tax bills. He stated since the City of Bennettsville had stopped picking up items from the roadsides in the city limits, trash in the county had worsened. He stated he felt by applying this fee to all residents in the municipalities, it would allow them to take items to the landfill at no charge with the exception of commercial waste. He stated that this would also work in line with the county's clean-up plan.

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Mr. Anthony Woods asked what would happen to the current carts that folks have and would new carts be issued. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that would be a part of the implementation plan and that the new company would provide new carts to residents. Mr. Doug Carabo stated that the cart would be similar to the ones that folks have now.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that he had hoped that staff could offer folks the option to pay their taxes and fees in tax payment installments but stated that the new option would still result in a savings for folks.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff would be moving fast to make sure that the tax notices are issued in October. He stated by getting the tax notices out earlier would allow folks time to have their finances in better order.

Mr. Charles Midgley wanted to confirm that the property taxes that are due December 31st would also include solid waste collection fees for next year. Mr. Munnerlyn confirmed that to be true and stated that the new roll cart service would begin in February, 2020. Mr. Munnerlyn stated none of this could be broken up into installments for this year.

Mr. Verd Odom asked where Waste Connections operated. Mr. Carabo stated that their home office was in Monroe, North Carolina.

Mr. Odom asked what percentage of folks in the county were on homestead. Mr. Carabo responded that 48% to half of county residents were on homestead.

Dr. Prince stated she was happy to see that Waste Connections were willing to give the elderly and those on homestead a break in the fees.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if a decision needed to be made tonight. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that a decision did need to be made if fees were to be added to the tax bills.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated that he understood that the taxes and fees could not be set up for tax installment payments. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the computer folks have advised that the system would require that they pay the taxes and fees in full this year and the first installment of the taxes for the following year.

Mr. Woods asked if the total bill would be split up into five payments and Mr. Munnerlyn confirmed that the total bill for taxes and fees would be split up in five equal installments.

Mr. Charles Midgley, Jr. asked when the county would need to pay the contractor for their services and Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that the company would want to be paid right away in order to begin the second week of February.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he knew this was a tough decision for council to make but that we must follow the requirements of the law and this was one of those things that we have to do in order to comply.

Mr. Jason Steen stated the total tax bill and the solid waste fees would be a large amount to come up with at one time and asked if the tax notices were issued in October, would folks be

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allowed to split the total bill into two payments. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Treasurer's office could not take partial payments.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated he thought staff had done the best that could be done with the situation before them.

Mr. Steen stated that a fee of \$200 on everyone's tax bill makes a big impact. He asked what the fee would be for those that live in municipalities. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he suggested it should be \$10 - \$15 per year. He stated that \$10 per year would bring in about \$119,000 annually and the county should be able to accommodate items taken to the convenience centers for that amount.

Mr. Steen asked if staff could get by with collecting \$10 per year from folks in the municipalities or did they need \$15 per year. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if the municipality residents' fees were set at \$10 per year, the fee may need to be increased next year but if the fees were set at \$15 per year, the fee may go down next year. He stated that these fees would be used to fix up the current convenience center on Redhill Road in order to accommodate the extra items taken in from all municipalities.

Mr. Steen stated that as hard as this decision is to make, he felt that the county had done everything that could be done to make it as painless as possible for the citizens.

Mr. Anthony Woods suggested that information on these changes be distributed to all residents explaining the changes and charges being made and why. He stated that it was important to make it very clear to folks so that there is no question about what is being done.

Chair Prince asked if a mailing could be sent to all residents. Mr. Munnerlyn confirmed a direct mailing would be sent to all residents. He mentioned Mr. Randy Wallace who had spoke at one of the recent council meetings. He stated Mr. Wallace fought really hard about the red carts when they were first distributed but the last thing Mr. Wallace stated was that everyone needed a red cart. He stated Mr. Wallace stated that no one asked for the public's input when the initial red cart system was implemented and he was happy that Council at least has tried to get folks involved by having the community meetings to get input on changes this time.

Mr. Steen stated that everyone has worked hard in trying to get the county cleaned up but that trash continued to be dumped illegally all around the county. He stated something had to be done to stop the littering problem and with everyone having a cart in their yard, he felt that it would help the litter problem. He stated the decision being made tonight would affect everyone present.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the price quoted by Waste Connections would be the same for three years with an option to renew for an additional three year period.

Ms. Corrie Plato stated that council could talk all night but she felt council should go forward with the option recommended by staff.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods to approve staff's recommendation as follows:

- (1) Approve the Solid Waste Collection Option utilizing curbside roll-carts to be serviced by a third-party contractor. Said contractor will be paid directly by the county.**
- (2) Approve the establishment of fees to be applied to all properties in the unincorporated areas of the County subject to the exceptions in (3) below. The fee schedule for 2020 is as follows: \$195 per year or \$160 per year for properties receiving the designation of "Homestead Exemption" (65 years or older or disabled ownership). The revenue from these fees shall be used by the County to pay the third-party contractor.**
- (3) The following properties will not receive roll-cart service or have a fee applied to their property tax bill: (a) agriculture designated properties; (b) land/lots with mobile homes (fee will be applied to mobile home tax bill); (c) commercial properties (does not include rental dwellings); and (d) industrial or other state-assessed properties.**
- (4) Establish a \$10 Solid Waste Fee to be applied to ALL properties in the county including those in the municipalities and the City of Bennettsville with said fee to be applied to the annual property tax bills subject to the exceptions as noted in (3). This fee shall be in addition to the fee schedule referenced in (2) above.**

Vote was in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chair Prince stated that council and staff would continue to press forward and thanked staff for all of their hard work on getting the solid waste collection issues resolved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MEDIKO AND MARLBORO COUNTY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES TO DETENTION CENTER INMATES

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this agreement.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the county had an agreement with a company for a number of years to provide medical services to inmates at the Detention Center. Staff received notification from the company eight days before expiration that they were not going to renew the contract. He stated staff scrambled around to find a company that would help us and found that Mediko provides services of this type for Kershaw and Horry counties and that company indicated that they would be willing to serve our Detention Center. The cost is \$75,000 more annually than what the county had been paying and the total annual cost will be \$152,080.96. Mr. Munnerlyn stated in reviewing the new agreement with Sheriff Lemon, staff feels this is a much better arrangement for the Detention Center and stated that the statement is true that you get what you pay for.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked that council consider allowing staff to execute the letter of agreement and stated that in the spring, staff would advertise for a competitive bid for next year.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the agreement between Mediko and Marlboro County to Provide Medical Services to Detention Center Inmates. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 08-19-01 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SET THE LOST CREDIT FACTOR

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn to make comments on this Resolution.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there were two Resolutions that deal with the budget and he asked that he be allowed to explain the details of the budget amendment as outlined in Resolution # 08-19-02 first.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the budget amendment requests an adjustment in the amount of \$146,000. He stated the voter registration voting machines that have been provided for the county have high maintenance costs of approximately \$75,000. He also stated that the new medical services contract for the Detention Center which was discussed earlier was higher than estimated at the time the budget was being discussed and \$71,000 was needed to cover those costs.

Mr. Munnerlyn also mentioned that there were some adjustments for salaries, retirement increases and other miscellaneous items that were overlooked during the budget process and needed correcting. He stated that the bottom line indicates \$0 for the net budget expense/increase and that is the main thing.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the unfunded mandates millage for 2019-2020 was increased by 2 mils to cover the voter machine maintenance fees and Detention Center medical services contract which were considered unfunded state mandates. The other millage rates remained the same as last year for a total tax millage of 140.40.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Resolution would allow the County Auditor and himself to set the LOST credit factor.

Chair Prince stated that she wished the County could send the State a bill for all the unfunded mandates that are required.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve Resolution # 08-19-01 – a Resolution Establishing the Millage Rates for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and Authorizing the County Auditor and County Administrator to set the LOST Credit Factor. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 08-19-02 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE 2019-2020 BUDGET WITH REGARDS TO VOTING MACHINE

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EXPENDITURES, DETENTION CENTER MEDICAL SERVICES COST INCREASE, AND ADJUSTMENT FOR INCREASED RETIREMENT COSTS

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, had already gone over the numbers in this amendment.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve Resolution # 08-19-02 – a Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment to the 2019-2020 Budget with Regards to Voting Machine Expenditures, Detention Center Medical Services Cost Increase, and Adjustment for Increased Retirement Costs. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments made.

REPORTS

COUNTY OWNED BUILDINGS (CURRENT AND FUTURE USE) – MR. DOUG CARABO, PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director, for his report on County owned buildings.

Mr. Carabo provided an excel sheet listing all buildings owned by the county and indicating their current use, the capacity or percentage of building used, condition, comments, possible use and plans for 2020 budget. He stated that the Voter Registration office was over capacity with the new voting machines so they may need to be moved to another location. He stated that the goal was to use each office and building as efficiently as possible. He stated that plans and suggestions would be brought back to Council at a later date.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council had requested the listing of all the county buildings and their current uses and he suggested a work session be scheduled to get council's input on use and efficiency of these buildings.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that there were 29-30 buildings that the county has listed. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the administration building was listed as two since it was so large.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated he felt that there needed to be some changes in the Veterans Affairs building.

Chair Prince agreed with Mr. Gladden's statement and stated other buildings needed some changes as well. She stated that these could be reviewed in detail and discussed during a work session, as well as a review of the strategic plan again. She stated that it needed updating to take off things that had been accomplished and a few things may need to be added. Mr. Munnerlyn agreed that the two would go together.

Chair Prince asked Mr. Munnerlyn to get some dates and times together to consider and they would go from there.

Chair Prince thanked Mr. Carabo for his help with the spreadsheet.

FINANCE REPORT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director, for the finance report.

Ms. Moore stated that expenditures for the month of July were at 7% of the budgeted amount. She stated revenue collections were generally low during the first few months of the fiscal year, but would normally even out with expenditures once tax collections begin.

Ms. Moore stated that with the start of the new fiscal year, staff had implemented the new purchasing policy. She stated that staff has had a few kinks to work out but overall the transition has gone smoothly and she hoped that as staff continues to improve the process, the changes made would result in less paperwork for the entire staff.

Ms. Moore stated that the external auditors were planning to be at the office mid-September and would begin work for the fiscal year 2019 annual audit.

Ms. Moore asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

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

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, for his report.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees are recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of July: Sharon Sanders (8 years); Emma Ocean (5 years); Ophelia Dickey (11 years); Katherine Leggett (32 years); Ruther Evans (17 years); Sandy Wilkes (25 years); Lashawn Wheeler (17 years); Nehemiah Williams (23 years); Keith Hughes (7 years) and Clara Brock (8 years).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Delta title- Mr. Munnerlyn stated the court hearing to “clear the title” to the Delta property was held on Monday. He stated Attorney McLeod presented the County’s case and the Judge ruled in the County’s favor. He stated the ruling effectively extinguishes any claims by prior owners who lost the property due to unpaid property taxes. He also stated that since the last meeting, staff had met with the county’s environmental attorney and consultant and learned that DHEC had approved the work plan for the final environmental analysis and

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cleanup. He stated with the “clear title” decision, staff would move forward aggressively with the clean-up and redevelopment of the site.

Pee Dee River Railroad- Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he recently met with the management of Aberdeen and Rockfish, the contract operator of the Pee Dee River Railroad owned by Marlboro County and servicing industries here. They reported train car volume was up so far in 2019 and discussed opportunities for increased use of the railroad. He stated that they were also looking into another train tour for industries in the county in the next month or so.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

EMS Update- Mr. Munnerlyn provided a copy of the EMS metrics for the month of July to members of Council. He stated that this was the first full month of data and so far reporting software appears to be more accurate than our past methods. He stated that it was worth noting that the average response time for July was 9:07 minutes which was an improvement over the 11:41 noted in the EMS Task Force report.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Mr. Watts would provide a more detailed update quarterly or more frequently upon request of council

Lunch provided at the Community Kitchen – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Marlboro County employees and Council representatives would serve their second lunch at the Community Kitchen on Wednesday, August 14th.

Clerk to Council Certification- Mr. Munnerlyn congratulated Mrs. Patricia Bundy for completing the requirements for certification as a SCCCA Certified Clerk to Council at the recent meeting of the group. He stated that this certification program was a tough one and the county was fortunate to have a person of Mrs. Bundy’s caliber working with the county in her capacity as Clerk to Council.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN’S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Sheriff Charles Lemon.

Sheriff Lemon stated that he was humbled and thanked members of Council and staff for all that they do for him and his department. He thanked them for allowing them to get new vehicles for their department.

Sheriff Lemon stated that he has been asked to participate in a 2 mile paint run fundraiser to help prepare kids for school, college and jobs. He stated that folks could run or walk and the fee to enter was \$20. He stated that the run was scheduled for September 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Marlboro County High School. He asked anyone interested to come join in the run.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Verd Odom – stated that he would not be running with the Sheriff in September but hoped that he would be walking at that time. He stated that he has been off of his foot for a couple of months recuperating from surgery that was required from injuries received in a wreck back in January.

Mr. Odom stated the road level of Highway 381 is up to the pavement and the State engineers say that everything looks good and hope to have the road open by September 15th. He stated that he had lobbied really hard with the Lt. Governor and State DOT to get this road repaired. He stated that folks in the county really owe the Bellinger family a great deal of gratitude for their help in getting this road repaired. He stated that the Bellinger family had invested a lot of money into the project to make it happen. He asked anyone that saw Mr. Jimmy Bellinger to please thank him for his help with this project.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – No comments.

Mr. Willie Gladden – thanked EMS for their help recently. He stated that he called them for help for himself and timed them and they arrived in less than four minutes to pick him up. He stated that he was very impressed and that the folks did an excellent job in providing good care to him.

Mr. Gladden stated that the health care of inmates meant a great deal. He stated that although these folks were in jail, they still deserved good medical treatment.

Mr. Jason Steen – stated that one of the hardest decisions that Council has made was made tonight regarding trash collection. He stated that members of Council would like to see the county move forward and he stated he felt that decision made tonight would hopefully be one of the greatest decisions ever made in an effort to get the county cleaned up. He stated that with everyone in the county having a roll cart, it should help the litter problem. He stated that it was time for everyone to take pride in their county and Council could not do it alone. He asked that the citizens to please step up and help with the litter problem. He stated that council would continue to push forward.

Mr. Steen stated that he was happy to hear about the clear title to the Delta property. He stated that this property was one of the gateways into the county and he was excited about potential jobs in that area.

Mr. Steen stated that he had received a couple of phone calls about tires and asked that staff talk with DHEC about getting some assistance in cleaning up areas with many tires. He stated that mosquitos were really bad and a huge number of tires only makes things worse.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – No comments.

Ms. Corrie Plato – congratulated Ms. Patricia Bundy on obtaining her certification and for the job that she continues to do for the county.

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Ms. Plato stated that there were two families that need help with school supplies, clothes, etc. Ms. Plato stated that one family had two children and one family had three children. She told the families that she would do what she could to help them and asked members of Council and other folks present at the meeting to please pray about helping her get these families what they needed.

Ms. Plato mentioned the City's Trunk or Treat event which was scheduled for October. She provided information to each of the members of Council and asked that they read over it and let her know if they would be willing to help make the event bigger and better than it was last year. She stated that folks that wished to participate would decorate their cars and line them up around the Courthouse square. She stated that there would be food vendors available, as well as a bouncy house. She asked that folks please help her in working together with the City of Bennettsville to make this event better than it was last year.

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated that football was in the air. He stated that Coach Bobby Collins would be the High School Coach this year. He stated Coach Dean Boyd did a great job with our youth and young adults and he was certain that Coach Collins would do a great job as well. He stated the jamboree is scheduled for Friday night and encouraged everyone to come out and support the kids. He stated coaches change but our kids do not change and they need our support and they need sponsors.

Mr. Woods stated that school would start back next week and Ms. Asbury had a breakfast this past weekend and about 60 teachers attended, as well as the Superintendent and some School Board members. He wished everyone a great school year.

Mr. Woods stated his grandmother, Ms. Lula Mae Woods, celebrated her 103rd birthday recently. He stated that she had ten children and all were still living. Mr. Woods stated five generations were together for the celebration and they all had a wonderful time.

Dr. Carolyn Prince – congratulated Ms. Patricia Bundy on obtaining her Clerk to Council certification.

Dr. Prince stated that council presented the MARTi Initiative at the SC Association of Counties Awards Competition at the annual conference last week but did not win. She stated that this transportation initiative was a big blessing to the citizens of Marlboro County and allows free transportation to places of employment and places for shopping. She stated that ridership exceeded 500 trips and she looked forward to this initiative expanding soon.

Dr. Prince thanked staff for their help with sponsoring the cookout for Vikki Harris, the former County Veterans Affairs Officer.

Dr. Prince thanked EMS for their help with her recent call.

Dr. Prince mentioned the medical services agreement for inmates at the Detention Center and stated that when inmates are in jail, Medicaid and Medicare does not cover their medical needs. She stated the county has to pay for their medical treatment, prescriptions and medications. She stated she was pleased that the county has a new company to provide the help and care needed by the inmates.

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Dr. Prince mentioned the county's public buildings and strategic plan and stated that a work session should be scheduled to make new goals.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that he thought council had talked about expanding MARTi services. Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that Dillon and Chesterfield were interested in expanding to their areas and he knew that that these counties had made contact with Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority but he would follow up with them on this.

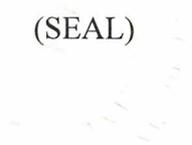
NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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 7:25 pm.

(SEAL)


Dr. Carolyn A. Prince
Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Bundy
Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: September 10, 2019