

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN DR. CAROLYN A. PRINCE

VICE-CHAIRMAN JASON STEEN

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
ANDREW 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 of the Marlboro Herald-Advocate; Ms. Ainsley Moore, Marlboro County Finance Director; and Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough and Mr. Dan McNeil of the Marlboro Herald Advocate, and 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. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Discussion of legal and contractual matters, pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70)

Motion made at 6:02 pm by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to enter into executive session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

December 11, 2018 County Council Meeting

Motion made at 6:32 pm by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

PRESENTATIONS

REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) TASK FORCE

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that since the closure of Marlboro Park Hospital in 2015, the need for emergency medical services has become extremely important to our community.

Chair Prince stated that since the 1990's, Marlboro County government has contracted with Marlboro Rescue to provide EMS services in the County and while Marlboro Recue has a long history of excellent service, in 2017 EMS complaints and concerns increased dramatically. She stated that in response, Marlboro County Council appointed an EMS Task Force in early 2018 to examine the situation and develop recommendations for the future of EMS.

Chair Prince stated that to accomplish this goal, the Task Force researched EMS issues as well as the factors contributing to the problems. She stated that the Task Force also met with Marlboro Rescue leadership on numerous occasions to discuss the issues.

Chair Prince stated that as a result of the discussions, the Task Force recommended a new annual contract with Marlboro Rescue which was approved by Marlboro County Council and became effective July 1, 2018. Chair Prince stated that the contract outlined areas of concern and requirements for future operations which addressed the issues the Task Force had substantiated and stated that the contract also increased funding by \$400,000 annually.

Chair Prince stated that in October 2018, the Task Force unfortunately found that despite the new contract, many issues remained largely unresolved and the Task Force concluded that in light of the issues with the current EMS provider as well as the lack of a local hospital and the extreme health care needs of the citizens, the challenges of operating a viable, well-funded EMS service could best be met by the County providing a funded and operated EMS department.

Chair Prince stated that the EMS Task Force has provided a list of recommendations to Marlboro County Council focusing primarily on the creation of a county funded and operated EMS service which would begin operations after the current contract with Marlboro Rescue expires in June.

Chair Prince recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to outline the recommendations of the EMS Task Force.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the recommendations of the EMS Task Force were as follows:

- 1) Increase dedicated property tax millage to generate a net total of \$1.1 million. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this action was taken by Marlboro County Council in July 2018.
- 2) Establish an EMS Advisory Board which would advise County Council and the County Administrator on EMS issues. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the ordinance creating the Board should specify that board members be chosen based on specific technical knowledge and/or their professional positions of employment as related to EMS. He used the example of the CEO of a hospital system operating in Marlboro County or his/her designee, Marlboro E911 Director, County Administrator, Marlboro County General Charity Trust Chair, etc.
- 3) Establish a County funded and operated EMS department which would:
 - a. Be the exclusive EMS provider for the County;
 - b. Meet requirements of the current EMS contract;
 - c. Financial and personnel management via established County government systems;
 - d. Employ a professional director and other necessary staff;
 - e. Fund County EMS through dedicated property tax millage and third party billing or other sources; and
 - f. Honor the current contract with MRS until its expiration on June 30, 2019.
- 4) Develop a system of “back up” for the new EMS department –
 - a. Establish mutual aid agreements with other EMS providers in the region;
 - b. Foster “first responder” programs with appropriate training and DHEC certification of participants including other related agencies and individuals.
- 5) Aggressively seek solutions to the lack of a local hospital –
 - a. Work to determine the financial requirements and/or subsidy required for the establishment of free-standing Emergency Department (“mini hospital”) by a state approved hospital system;
 - b. Aggressively lobby for changes in state law/regulations to allow North Carolina hospitals to establish a free-standing ED in the County;
 - c. Seek grant funding for Home Paramedic program – this program should work to reduce EMS calls requiring transport, thus impacting response times to emergency calls.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 777 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT SUNSHINE FOR SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

December 11, 2018 County Council Meeting

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that was the required public hearing for Ordinance # 777 relating to Project Sunshine.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or members of Council. There were none.

Chair Prince closed the Public Hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 5, 2018 – “Called” Council Meeting

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 “Called” Council meeting as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 13, 2018 – Regular Council Meeting

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 Regular Council meeting as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EMS TASK FORCE REPORT

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that members of Council had heard the recommendations from the EMS Task Force and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Chair Prince asked for a motion to approve the recommendations as presented.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the recommendations as noted above in the report of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Task Force. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 778 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE MARLBORO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) ADVISORY BOARD – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

December 11, 2018 County Council Meeting

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

Mr. Munneryn stated that there would a drafted copy of Ordinance # 778 available at the next Council meeting but he recommended that Council approve the first reading of the Ordinance in title only at this time.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the first reading in title only of Ordinance # 778 – an Ordinance to Establish the Marlboro County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Advisory Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION FROM MARLBORO COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL CHARITY TRUST

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munneryn, to make comments on this grant application.

Mr. Munneryn stated that as a part of the effort to create a County funded and operated EMS department, the Marlboro County General Hospital Charity Trust agreed to provide Marlboro County a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to be used only for the purchase of vehicles and equipment and other capital needs. Mr. Munneryn stated that a copy of the Grant Agreement was included in the agenda packet and states that that a portion of these grant funds will be paid to the County before the end of this month and the balance of the grant funds would be provided next month since the Charity's fiscal year ends on 12/31/2018.

Mr. Munneryn stated that the Charity does require that these funds be deposited into a separate account for accounting purposes.

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

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the Grant Application in the amount of \$300,000 from Marlboro County General Hospital Charity Trust. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMS TASK FORCE TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. Munneryn stated that this Resolution would authorize the EMS Task Force to enter into short term mutual aid agreements with other emergency medical service providers in the region to assist our county with emergency medical services when the need arises. He stated

December 11, 2018 County Council Meeting

that the Sheriff's office has entered into these types of agreements with other sheriffs in surrounding counties.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Resolution # 12-18-01 – A Resolution Authorizing the EMS Task Force to Negotiate and Execute Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Mutual Aid Agreements. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF ON-SITE HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROPOSAL BY CARESOUTH CAROLINA, INC.

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that CareSouth has approached us about setting up a clinic in one of our county buildings to have a nurse practitioner available to provide medical treatment to our county employees during normal office hours. He stated that CareSouth has stated that they would not charge the co-pay at the time of the visit but would file the charges for the visit against the employees' insurance and then bill the employee for any co-pay or balance that may be owed for their services. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that CareSouth currently handles the treatment of our worker's compensation claims and handles the physicals for our law enforcement employees.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if this was something that Council would be interested in providing for its employees, that he would be happy to have staff look into finding a suitable location for them to set up their offices in order to provide these services.

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 on-site health care services by CareSouth Carolina, Inc. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2019

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that the proposed meeting schedule for 2019 seems to be in order. She stated that meetings would continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month as they have in the past.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve Council's Regular Meeting Schedule for 2019 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any appointments to boards and commissions.

Mr. Anthony Woods recommended the appointment of Ms. Eva Chiye to serve on the Library Board. He stated that his current appointee for District 8 was Mr. Marion Smith but that he has moved out of the district and could no longer serve as the District 8 representative.

Mr. Willie Gladden recommended the appointment of Ms. Rosa Bright to serve on the EOC.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden to appoint Ms. Eva Chiye to serve on the Library Board as representative for District 8 and to appoint Ms. Rosa Bright to serve on the EOC as representative for District 2. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

Ms. Moore stated that for the month of November, expenditures were at 42% of the budgeted amount and stated that revenues should increase over the next few months as tax notices have been issued and monies are expected to be received as a result of those taxes being paid.

Ms. Moore stated that the County's annual financial audit was progressing well and that the auditors had completed their fieldwork. She stated that staff had received their adjusting entries and were currently reviewing them for any necessary changes before the final audit report is issued.

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

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

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munneryn, County Administrator.

Mr. Munneryn stated that his report was as follows:

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of November: Channing Covington (14 years); and Mary Lisa Hood (12 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. The Marlboro County Employee Drop-in Luncheon has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 19, 2018 from 11 am – 1 pm at the Administration office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Baldor-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council held the Public Hearing earlier for the Baldor project and that there was one more step for completion of the project which we hope to complete at a called Council meeting next week.

Delta Project-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he was excited that the Delta project had received some attention even before it was completed. He stated that staff has a potential new company scheduled to visit the site in early January. He stated that a South Carolina Commerce representative spent the morning with Mr. Carabo and himself last Friday and was very interested in the location for projects that he manages.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Duke Grant for Delta Site-

Marlboro County received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to assist in the redevelopment project at the former Delta Mills site. The money will be used for interior roads and paving around the building that will be saved from demolition.

Continued Flooding Issues and Concerns about Roads

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff continues to receive many calls about dirt roads and flooding on private property. He stated that Public Works staff was working overtime to address problems with dirt roads, however many of them are underwater at times. He stated that staff has the road equipment on a route circling the County. He stated that he understood that each person's problem seemed to be the most important problem to them, but staff must treat all issues equal in efforts to resolve issues with roads for all citizens.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff was discovering that much of the flooding on private property appeared to be in "low" areas and often in areas where the surrounding land drains into the flooded property. He stated that while staff does not go on private property, even if staff did, there would be no way to dig ditches that would drain areas that are 10-20 feet lower than the surrounding area. He stated that if staff did do that, they would simply be moving water from one problem area and creating another problem area elsewhere.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that it was important that folks remember that Marlboro County has received approximately 45 inches of water in the last few months and no amount of ditch drainage could address that amount of water adequately.

MARTi Bus-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff was excited that the new bus system in Marlboro County started operations yesterday! He stated that the system runs a route around Bennettsville and then connects to Clio and McColl. He reported that the workforce transportation part of the new project would begin after the first of the year and would also connect Blenheim.

December 11, 2018 County Council Meeting

Mr. Munnerlyn announced that there would be a “ribbon cutting” next week on Tuesday, December 18th in the parking lot of Carl’s Food Center on the bypass. He stated that Mr. Carl Daniels was allowing the PDRTA to park their buses in his grocery store parking lot and he really appreciated his help with this. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that more information would be provided on the ribbon cutting ceremony in the next day or so.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN’S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Chair Prince stated that two individuals had signed up to address Council. Chair Prince recognized them as follows:

Mr. Roderick Hancock – stated that he resided at 4061 Stubbstown Road, Bennettsville, SC. He stated that he appeared to complain about the conditions of Stubbstown Road and stated that he was upset when he arrived but he felt much better after discussions with county staff. He stated that water was everywhere around his home and that the pond down past his home had overflowed and caused problems for everyone on his road.

Mr. Hancock also mentioned the landfill located on Redhill Road. He stated that the grounds of the landfill are in terrible shape with mud but stated that he had talked with county staff about this problem as well and he understood that this problem was being addressed as well.

Mr. Buster Causey – stated that he was the co-owner of Causey’s Home Center. He stated that he had suffered several thousand dollars’ worth of losses at his store and at his residence due to the last couple of storms and these hard hits were very costly to him. He stated that he could not take any more hard hits. He stated that ditches around his home were stopped up with debris and that many problems were being caused by these ditches not being cleaned properly. He stated that the large ditch near his home filled completely up and started overflowing in less than two hours after the rain started this past weekend. He stated that the farm ditches and the road drains needed to be kept up and kept clean so that flooding would not occur.

He stated that he talked with the folks at the highway Department and they refused to help him and told him to call the County folks. He stated that the State folks needed to step up and take care of the problems for which they are responsible. He asked that the county please help him in any way possible with the drainage problems.

Chair Prince stated that Council has heard about all the problems the ditches and water are causing. She stated that the watershed district had ceased functioning but suggested that the County Attorney investigate and do some research to see if the County could establish a commission to do something about the drainage problems the county is having. She asked that staff please look into this and bring back some suggestions as to how the County could help these citizens. Chair Prince stated that the County did not have the manpower or the equipment to handle the problems that exists but stated that she would like to see what could be done. She stated that no promises were being made about what the County could or would be doing to resolve the issues.

December 11, 2018 County Council Meeting

Mr. Jason Steen stated that the state folks were not cleaning the ditches or the culverts like they should and that the state folks needed to perform better maintenance.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Verd Odom – stated that Domtar made a contribution to the Marlboro County Long Term Recovery Group to get things started and he picked up the \$10,000 check today and delivered it to Elizabeth Munnerlyn, who is a co-chair to the group.

Mr. Odom stated that he had been under the weather for the last few days but was feeling some better.

Mr. Odom wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe holiday. He asked everyone to look out for their neighbors and those that are less fortunate. He asked that if anyone saw anything out of the ordinary to please contact the Sheriff's office so that it could be checked out.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – wished everyone a Merry Christmas and stated that he hoped everyone would be safe. He also asked everyone to look out for one another. He stated that a lot goes on this time of the year.

Mr. Blackmon stated that things in the County seemed to be headed in the right direction and he looked forward to the upcoming year and great things happening for the County.

Mr. Willie Gladden – stated that if you see a box for Toys for Tots that you please donate to ensure that every kid in the area gets something for Christmas. He stated that there were many children that would not get anything for Christmas unless folks contribute to programs like Toys for Tots.

Mr. Gladden wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Jason Steen – stated that the clean-up event which was held earlier this year was a great success and asked that staff look at another date when things begin warming up. He also stated that the tire amnesty program went well and suggested that staff consider this program again as well.

Mr. Steen stated that he had been getting questions about the Wallace Convenience Center being closed. He stated that the Wallace Convenience Center has not closed but has moved to its new location at 4220 Delta Plant Road, Wallace, SC. He stated that the hours of operation were the same and that the location was very nice and much more convenient.

Mr. Steen mentioned that the work on Highway #1 had begun and he hoped that the road would be opened back up real soon.

Mr. Steen mentioned the Delta site and stated that he was excited to finally see some fruits of Council's labor for this area. He stated that he looked forward to great things happening in the upcoming year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – stated that Council has tackled some very difficult issues with EMS and problems with flooding but that he was sure that we would all would get through this together. He stated that it would take some time but suggested that all keep praying.

Ms. Corrie Plato – agreed that everyone should keep praying about the tough issues being faced in the County. Ms. Plato wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and stated that she prayed everyone would be safe as they travel. She asked that everyone remember the reason for the season and stated that Christmas was not about giving or receiving gifts. She reminded everyone to be thankful that we are still here and to please help someone along the way. She stated that if you reach out and touch others, you will be blessed and stated that she was speaking from her own experience.

Mr. Anthony Woods – agreed that 2018 was a tough year for everyone and stated that there were many ups and downs. He stated that all made it through, but that many friends and family members were no longer with us. He stated that many take a lot for granted. He stated that he expected good things to happen for the Town of Clio in 2019 and stated that he was very excited about Project Sunshine and the old Baldor building being used again.

Mr. Woods stated that Council was facing tough decisions and thanked the work of the EMS Task Force. He stated that members of Council were continuing to do all they could for the citizens.

Mr. Woods commended staff and all that they do with finances for the County and stated that it seemed they did a great job of robbing Peter to pay Paul. He stated that he hoped that everyone would enjoy the holidays.

Dr. Carolyn Prince – stated that the organization that gave out turkeys and sweet potatoes to those less fortunate during Thanksgiving were planning to try and give out some hams on Saturday, December 22, 2018 in the Marlboro County High School parking lot.

Dr. Prince stated that Council had made some tough decisions and stated that everyone worked together as a team.

Dr. Prince thanked Ms. Jane Rogers and Mr. Joe Breeden of the Marlboro County General Charity Trust for their hard work and stated that things were tough but that their job on the EMS Task Force had been completed.

Dr. Prince thanked the video crew members for their hard work and dedication during the year and presented them with a small token of appreciation from Council.

Dr. Prince announced that Ms. Phyllis Hagan lost her sister earlier today and requested that everyone please remember Ms. Hagan in their prayers and also asked that everyone continue to remember Ms. Patricia Bundy's family in their prayers due to the loss of her brother recently.

December 11, 2018 County Council Meeting

Sheriff Charles Lemon - wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He asked that everyone please be cautious and look out for things that appear out of the ordinary and to contact his office if they suspect anything.

Sheriff Lemon thanked Council for all that they do for his department and for himself.

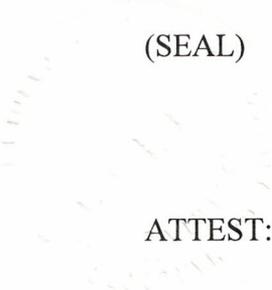
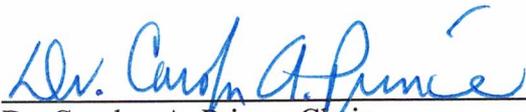
NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

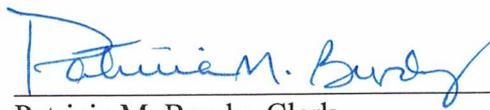
Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that since there was no other business that the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

(SEAL)

Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: January 8, 2019