

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO CIVIC CENTER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE CHAIRMAN

CORRIE PLATO

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
ANDREW McLEOD

COUNCIL:

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 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.marlbocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION- Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 801 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF (A) A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) AND DOMTAR PAPER COMPANY, LLC, A COMPANY PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS PROJECT ONWARD; (B) ONE OR MORE SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENTS, EACH WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN FEES-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND/OR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND (2) OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance was scheduled for the third and final reading tonight which would continue a tax incentive agreement for Domtar. He stated the proposed incentive agreement would serve Domtar and the County well in that the agreement provides for a set amount to be paid every year and there would be no fluctuation in the amount due.

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

ORDINANCE # 802 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING, REVISING, AMENDING, RESTATING, CODIFYING, AND COMPILING THE MARLBORO COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the Ordinance to adopt the Marlboro County Solid Waste Management Plan which Attorney Steve Weber presented to Council during the last regular Council meeting. He stated the plan should be reviewed every five to seven years and updated accordingly. Mr. Munnerlyn stated there had been no major changes to the plan.

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

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 8, 2020 County Council Meeting

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice 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 Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes from November 10, 2020 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NOVEMBER 19, 2020 – “CALLED” COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice 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 Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the “Called” Council meeting minutes from November 19, 2020 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 801 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF (A) A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) AND DOMTAR PAPER COMPANY, LLC, A COMPANY PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS PROJECT ONWARD; (B) ONE OR MORE SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENTS, EACH WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN FEES-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND/OR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND (2) OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – THIRD READING

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, stated that the Public Hearing was just held on this Ordinance and asked Mr. Munnerlyn if there were any additional comments.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated as he had mentioned before, the Ordinance would continue a tax incentive agreement for a set amount to be paid each year by Domtar to the County and staff recommended Council approve.

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

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 801 – an Ordinance Authorizing (1) the Execution and Delivery of (a) a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Marlboro County, South Carolina (the “County”) and Domtar Paper Company, LLC, a Company Previously Identified as Project Onward; (b) one or more Special Source

Revenue Credit Agreements, each with Respect to Certain Property in the County, Whereby such Property will be Subject to Certain Fees-in-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and/or the Provision of Certain Special Source Revenue Credits; and (2) Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 802 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING, REVISING, AMENDING, RESTATING, CODIFYING, AND COMPILING THE MARLBORO COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN – THIRD READING

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, stated that the Public Hearing was just held on this Ordinance and asked Mr. Munnerlyn if there were any additional comments.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he had no further comments but recommended Council approve.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 802 – an Ordinance Adopting, Revising, Amending, Restating, Codifying, and Compiling the Marlboro County Solid Waste Management Plan. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 803 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR MARLBORO COUNTY – THIRD READING

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this topic was discussed as a part of the strategic plan and the proposed Ordinance would update and revise the current Partnership Ordinance. He stated staff feels a good team needed to be in place to have industries and businesses well represented. He stated because it has some changes, there are folks currently on the board and staff would like to reaffirm that they remain on the board and make every effort to build from there. He stated the public should understand there has always been representation on the board from Wallace Water, Marlboro Water, Marlboro Electric Coop, Duke Energy, the City of Bennettsville and others. He stated the board has a strong team in place but the new Ordinance would add representatives from the County Transportation Committee and the Lake Wallace Authority on the Image committee. He stated Council has made it clear they would like these folks involved. He stated although there have been some political differences in the past, Council would like to set those differences aside so that all can work together for the good of Marlboro County.

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the third reading of the Ordinance include the following recommended appointments/reappointments as follows:

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Executive Board:

Andy Rogers (who would also serve as Chair)
Fred Thomas
Joan Johnakin
Frankie Frazier
Luke Johnakin (who would also serve on the Workforce Committee)
Wes Park (who would also serve on the Image Committee)

Workforce Committee:

Marlon Prince
John Myers, Industrial Performance Products
Mel West, Palmetto Brick

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

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 803 – an Ordinance Establishing the Organization of the Marlboro County Economic Development Agency for Marlboro County and to include appointments/reappointments as follows: Executive Board: Andy Rogers (to serve as Chair), Fred Thomas, Joan Johnakin, Frankie Frazier, Luke Johnakin (who will also serve on the Workforce Committee), and Wes Park (who will also serve on the Image Committee); Workforce Committee: Marlon Prince, John Myers of Industrial Performance Products, and Mel West of Palmetto Brick. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MR. WILLIE GLADDEN FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARLBORO COUNTY

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, asked Councilman Willie Gladden to step forward along with the other members of Council. She read the proclamation aloud and presented the same to Councilman Gladden.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE # 804 – AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MARLBORO COUNTY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Emergency Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the third renewal of this Emergency Ordinance and stated staff had not had to use it other than for improvements to some of the buildings. He suggested the Ordinance remain in effect with the increase in COVID-19 cases.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve Emergency Ordinance # 804 – an Emergency Ordinance to Declare a State of Emergency in Marlboro County and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 12-20-01 – A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SO-PAK-CO, INC. AND MARLBORO COUNTY DATED DECEMBER 1, 2002, TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT AND ADDRESS OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, to make comments on this Resolution.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Resolution was similar to the Domtar Ordinance which was discussed earlier. He stated this Resolution would extend an agreement for incentives for So-Pak-Co in an effort to keep their plant here in Bennettsville which would help in keeping folks employed with the many challenges they are currently having.

Mr. Munnerlyn recommended that the Council extend incentives to So-Pak-Co as they have agreed to invest additional monies in the Bennettsville plant.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Councilman Jason Steen had advised that he would have had to abstain from voting on this Resolution tonight had he been present due to work his company has performed at the So-Pak-Co plant.

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

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Resolution # 12-20-01 – a Resolution Consenting to Amendment to the Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by and between So-Pak-Co, Inc. and Marlboro County dated December 1, 2002, to Extend the Term of the Agreement and Address Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO MODIFY ANIMAL SHELTER PROPERTY

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Carabo stated that the Humane Society had applied for and been awarded a grant to construct a metal building adjacent to the existing animal shelter located at 242 Ag Street for the housing of domestic violence victim's pets.

Mr. Carabo stated the contractor constructing the building would be required to obtain the required permits and the project specification would require the approval of the Marlboro

County Building Maintenance Supervisor prior to its construction or procurement of materials.

Mr. Carabo stated once the building was completed, it would be the property of Marlboro County and the County would be responsible for routine maintenance of the building. He stated there would be no cost incurred by Marlboro County for the construction of the building. He also stated that should the Humane Society vacate the premises, Marlboro County would not be under any requirement or obligation to repay or reimburse any portion of the grant which is being used to fund the construction of the building.

Mr. Carabo stated staff recommends Council's approval.

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

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden to approve the modifications presented to the Animal Shelter property. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was something Council is required to do every year. He stated he understood that staff is required to publish the schedule in the local paper.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Council's Regular Meeting Schedule for 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no recommended appointments to Boards and Commissions.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, for his report.

Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, stated the general fund revenues for the five months ending November 30th total \$2,407,138. He stated general fund expenditures through November 30, 2020 total \$4,825,663 of a \$12,038,883 budget or 40.08% of the budget year to date. He stated as of that same date, the County has \$3,442,129 in the four general fund operating accounts.

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

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

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, for his report.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of November: Lisa Hood (14 years); April Driggers (6 years); and Channing Covington (16 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch provided at the Community Kitchen – Mr. Munnerlyn stated Marlboro County would be providing lunch at the Community Kitchen tomorrow. Ms. Bobbie Grooms would be leading the group and the menu included chili dogs, chips, fruit cups and oatmeal cakes. He stated plates would be provided for take-out only.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff was excited to begin putting the pieces in place to push the Council's initiatives. He stated action taken tonight to strengthen the Partnership board was a positive step in the right direction.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

COVID Testing with MUSC- Mr. Munnerlyn stated that MUSC along with Marlboro County EMS were continuing to provide daily COVID testing for businesses in the county from 8:30 am – 10:30 am Monday through Friday. He stated the tests were the more accurate tests and results were typically available within 48 hours.

Marlboro County Employee Christmas Luncheon – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Employee Christmas luncheon was a great success and he appreciated the committee members for their help with the event. He stated the committee members were Chris McKenzie, Beverly McKiver, Emma Ocean, Linda Coffy, Doris Sumpter and Patricia Bundy. He stated the committee wished to thank County Council for allowing them to plan this event in spite of the increase in COVID-19 cases. He stated all employees seemed to really appreciate and enjoy the event.

Community Clean-up Event – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the community clean-up event which was held on November 21st went really well. He stated approximately 262 folks participated and approximately 1,300 bags (1.8 tons) of trash were collected. Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff was looking forward to scheduling another clean-up event in the spring and would work to have the City of Bennettsville and others participate again as well.

Comments – Councilman Willie Gladden – Mr. Munnerlyn thanked Councilman Gladden for his years of service to the County and community. He stated he and Councilman Gladden were elected as Council members about the same time and became really good friends. He stated Councilman Gladden has always been a voice for the people and he always looked out for those that needed help and guidance. Mr. Munnerlyn stated he appreciated Mr. Gladden’s friendship and his service on County Council.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN’S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, stated Mayor Carolyn Prince had signed up to address members of Council

Mayor Carolyn Prince – Mayor Prince addressed Councilman Gladden and told him that he could come help her at the City.

Mayor Prince thanked Vice Chair Plato and stated she handled the meeting well and did a great job.

Mayor Prince mentioned the “called” council meeting and the strategic planning update. She stated she was happy to hear that some of the 2017 initiatives were still being used and would be fine-tuned and Council would work to continue moving forward on them. She stated everyone was unsure as to how these hard times would affect us all with budget cuts, etc. She stated she felt everyone must realize that we must work together and pool resources together. She stated that all government entities are required to provide services to citizens. She stated folks needed to be open to opportunities. She mentioned that in the past County Council would meet with the City and School District and suggested that be considered.

Mayor Prince stated she missed everyone. She stated the City was moving forward but that it had been an interesting year. She stated that folks should work together to move forward. She stated she wanted to serve as a voice for the people.

Mayor Prince thanked Councilman Gladden for his work and his service.

Mayor Prince wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated 2020 was a tough year. He stated many had lost friends and family members. He encouraged everyone to stay safe and prayed up.

Mr. Woods addressed Councilman Gladden and stated he always spoke his mind and stated he would be missed. Mr. Woods stated that many times members of Council disagree in private but when in public, they all made an effort to let everyone know that they were on the same team. He stated he hoped Marlboro County would continue to move forward. He stated staff has great ideas and he thanked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn and his staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Woods suggested that everyone think outside the box in 2021. He stated he felt this was the new normal.

Mr. Woods stated that his daughter graduated from College on Saturday and he was very proud and happy.

Mr. Woods wished everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – stated 2020 was a tough year. He stated he wished everyone the best. He thanked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn and Mayor Prince for all their hard work. He stated they did a wonderful job.

Mr. Stroman addressed Councilman Gladden and stated they were long-time friends. He stated he was sure that he would still be around. He stated Councilman Gladden was a strong person and a great role model.

Mr. Willie Gladden – stated he was not going anywhere and he would be seeing everyone around. He stated he had really enjoyed serving and working with everyone over the past years but especially working with the various departments. He stated folks work for little wages and continue to push forward to make the County look good and he appreciated them. He stated he had really learned a lot.

Mr. Gladden stated when he was first elected to Council, there were issues with the Public Works Department but great improvements had been made. He also mentioned the Sheriff's Department and stated he was concerned about the care the inmates at the Detention Center received but that things had changed and he felt that inmates were receiving the attention and care they deserved.

Mr. Gladden stated he felt Marlboro County Council was a great team. He stated the Council had a strong Chairman and a great Administrator and stated having Mr. Munnerlyn as the Administrator was the best thing that has happened to Marlboro County.

Mr. Gladden mentioned Patricia Bundy and stated that she did a great job for the County and council.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – stated it had been a real pleasure serving and working with Councilman Gladden. He stated Mr. Gladden was a real good friend and he looked forward to working with him in the future to make the county a better place.

Mr. Midgley thanked Mayor Prince for attending the meeting and for the comments she made. He stated he looked forward to working with the City.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – thanked Councilman Gladden for all his help over the years. He stated they had been friends for a long time and he admired him for always standing up for what was right. He stated he would surely miss Mr. Gladden on Council.

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Mr. Blackmon thanked staff and everyone for their help and stated everyone needed to continue helping one another and the entire County.

Mr. Blackmon wished everyone a Merry Christmas and encouraged everyone to stay safe.

Ms. Corrie Plato – stated everyone would miss Councilman Gladden and wished him the best. She told Councilman Gladden that he was loved by all and everyone would miss him.

Ms. Plato stated this was the last meeting of 2020 and they would not see each other again until 2021. She stated she would be thinking about everyone until they met again.

Ms. Plato mentioned the pandemic and stated that it began around January and it was now December and all members of Council were still standing. She stated that many had left. She encouraged everyone to continue to be safe and see this Coronavirus to the end. She stated she felt the vaccination would help a great deal.

Ms. Plato thanked Mayor Prince for attending the meeting and for the comments she made.

Ms. Plato thanked Sheriff Lemon for attending.

Ms. Plato thanked Mr. Munnerlyn, Ms. Bundy, Ms. Sumpter and Mr. Carabo for all their work during the year. She stated these folks were the backbone to Mr. Munnerlyn, the County Administrator. She stated Mr. Carabo was always willing to help her in any way and he was always upfront and honest with her.

Ms. Plato thanked Mr. Carabo for his help in organizing the turkey give-away which went really well.

Ms. Plato stated that County Council had always worked well and pulled together to get things done. She stated her prayer was that Council would continue to pull and work well together in 2021. She stated Council could always get more accomplished by working together.

Ms. Plato encouraged everyone to continue to pray for one another and to put Christ first and everything else would fall into place. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – wished everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. He addressed Councilman Gladden and stated he enjoyed working with him. He wished Mr. Gladden God's speed and encouraged Mr. Gladden to continue to call him out on things that needed improving upon.

Sheriff Lemon thanked County Council for all they have done and continue to do for the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center.

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NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

Ms. Corrie Plato, Vice Chair, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, she adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

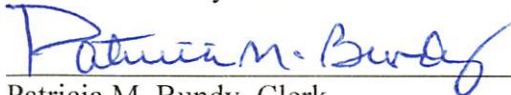
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ATTEST:



Handwritten signature of Corrie H. Plato in blue ink.

Corrie H. Plato, Vice-Chair (in absence of Chairman)
Marlboro County Council



Handwritten signature of Patricia M. Bundy in blue ink.

Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: January 12, 2021