

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019

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: Mr. Dan McNeil of Marlboro Herald-Advocate, and 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

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Magistrate Judge Grover McQueen administered the oath of office to the re-elected council members: Mr. Jason Steen, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Anthony Woods. Judge McQueen congratulated each one on their re-election and thanked them for their willingness to serve the citizens of Marlboro County.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations & Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked for nominations for Chairman of Marlboro County Council.

Mr. Willie Gladden asked if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman could be elected together at one time and recommended that the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman continue to serve for another year. He stated that he was pleased with the way things were and suggested that the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman remain in their positions for another year.

Chair Prince asked if there were any other nominations.

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to elect Dr. Carolyn Prince as Chairman, and Mr. Jason Steen, as Vice-Chairman, to Marlboro County Council. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, thanked members of Council for their confidence in her leadership. She stated that members of Council worked well together and she looked forward to another good year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 11, 2018 – 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. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes from December 11, 2018 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 18, 2018 – “Called” 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. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the “Called” Council meeting minutes from December 18, 2018 as presented. Vote in favor: Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Dr. Carolyn Prince, Mr. Willie Gladden, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Abstain: Mr. Jason Steen and Mr. Anthony Woods (they were unable to attend the meeting). Vote: 6/0/2. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 778 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE MARLBORO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY BOARD – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council approved the first reading of this Ordinance in title only last month and this Ordinance is being proposed for second reading in draft form. He stated that the Board is devised to review and advise County Council and the County Administrator about EMS and issues that may need attention. He stated that the document was a typical board type Ordinance. He stated that prior to the third and final reading that he would like input from Council about folks to serve on the board. He stated that the task force members recommended names of folks in various positions. He stated that the folks suggested to serve would be the following:

1. CEO or designee for Scotland Health;
2. CEO or designee for McLeod Health;
3. CEO or designee for CareSouth;
4. Chair of the Marlboro General Hospital Charity Trust Board;
5. Physician or Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner with their service area being in Marlboro County;
6. Medical (Control) Director – Marlboro County EMS;
7. Fire Coordinator of Marlboro County Government;
8. Fire Chief of the City of Bennettsville or designee which would serve as ex-officio;
9. E911/Emergency Management Director for Marlboro County Government;
10. Two folks from the public who would serve at large to be appointed by Marlboro County Council that reside or are employed within Marlboro County, not directly or indirectly conflicted by affiliation;
11. Coroner of Marlboro County or designee which would serve as ex-officio; and
12. Sheriff of Marlboro County or his designee which would also serve as ex-officio.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that folks who hold offices would serve in an ex-officio capacity so that there would be no conflict due to the laws that indicate that they cannot serve in dual offices. He stated that he would have legal counsel look into the issue to ensure that there would be no conflict. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that changes to the Ordinance could be made prior to the third reading.

Chair Prince stated that the Ordinance was a comprehensive document needed to cover all essential duties of the board and that members of Council were being asked to approve the outline of the Ordinance.

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

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 778 – an Ordinance to establish the Marlboro County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF STAFF REQUEST TO PURCHASE A 28.71 ACRE TRACT OF PROPERTY ADJACENT TO DELTA SITE

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that as staff moves forward with the Delta site, an adjacent parcel located across the street from the site, was found to be sold at a tax sale back in 2016 and the county attorney advised that it would be in the best interest of the county to move forward with purchasing the tract in an effort to get a clear title on the site. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that the tract was worth the \$30,000 which was being requested as payment for the tract. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that a Resolution (Resolution # 01-19-01) had been prepared for Council's review to move the matter forward.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the purchase of the 28.71 acre tract from PFG Farms located adjacent to the Delta site. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director.

Ms. Moore stated that for the month of December, expenditures were at 50% of the budgeted amount and since December marked the halfway point in the fiscal year, these figures appeared right on target. She stated that revenues for the month of December had increased significantly from last month as a result of tax collections.

Ms. Moore stated that the expenditures shown on the graphs do not match the amount listed on the General Ledger Expense Report due to staff awaiting some configuration corrections from the county's payroll vendor to distribute payroll expenses accurately to each department. She stated that a telephone conference had been scheduled with the payroll vendor to work to get this resolved within the week.

Ms. Moore stated that a meeting with the auditors was scheduled for later in the week to go through the draft report and adjusting entries provided. She stated that a more accurate completion date should be provided for the final report once that meeting took place.

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

Chair Prince thanked Ms. Moore for the financial report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – MR. RON MUNNERLYN, COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that his report was as follows:

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES - The following employee was recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of December: Judge Mark Heath (20 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. A Preventive Health Screening for employees has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library located at 203 Fayetteville Avenue, Bennettsville, SC. If you would like to participate, please let Ms. Patricia Bundy know so that may get you on the schedule.
2. The SC Association of Counties' 32nd Annual Mid-Year Conference has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, SC, and the Institute of Government will have classes available on Thursday, February 21st. A copy of the brochure was provided to members of Council. If you are interested in attending, please let Ms. Patricia Bundy know so that appropriate arrangements may be made.
3. The Statement of Economic Interests form "ethics report" must be filed by all elected officials and some employees not later than 12:00 noon on March 30, 2019. The form must be filed electronically with a \$100 late filing penalty if not filed by the deadline date. A copy of the requirements was attached for Council's information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Baldor –

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that since last month, a public announcement had been made regarding Project Sunshine. He thanked Council for their help with the project and stated that it took a year from the first inquiry until the announcement which showed how detailed economic development projects could sometimes be. He stated that the project would employ 130 people and the company was expected to begin recruitment in March.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff had a number of calls from people wanting to do business with the new company, but that contact information for the new company was not being provided at this time out of respect for their wishes. He stated that once the company begins their work at the site in the next 30 days or so, some sort of event would be held and more communication would be available to allow folks to get in touch with the new company.

Delta-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that even before staff begins the clean-up and redevelopment of the site, visits were being scheduled with prospective companies. He stated that staff met on site with a company on Monday who has serious interest in locating there. He stated that more information on this would be available as it develops.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Spring "Clean and Green" event –

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff was working to set some date options for the spring clean-up event which would be shared with Council, and others, to find a good date. He stated that it was his suggestion that the event be structured the same as the 2018 event: with a start time of 8 am on a Saturday and finish by noon. He stated that folks cherish their time off and this schedule would allow folks to do some good and be done by lunch. He stated that he felt that this played a large part in the turn out that was had in 2018.

He stated that another element that he felt contributed to the success was that staff coordinated the clean-up county-wide without regard for council districts. He stated that Council provided suggestions for volunteer groups or "bad" areas that needed attention and staff worked that into the overall plan. He stated he felt that dividing the effort into districts or having elected official responsible for group recruitment and event planning just would not work well. He stated that just like last year, staff could do the detail work and free up council to move about in their district and help with the clean-up. He recommended that an invitation be sent to municipalities in the county to have an event the same day, even allowing county staff to coordinate the volunteers for one big event. He stated that there was a great deal of success with our event and it could easily be scaled up to include Bennettsville and the towns in the County.

Employee evaluations-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he has placed an emphasis on continuous improvement and increased efficiency in County government. He stated that for the most part, achieving these goals depend on our employees. He stated that it was important that we recognize good performance and also provide feedback to employees regarding opportunities for improvement.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that 2019 would be the first year that the county would conduct an organization-wide evaluation process. He stated that Council approved a 1% cost of living increase and another 1% for performance. He stated that the 1% for performance was an average with the amount for a particular employee depending on how well they were rated for the last calendar year. He stated that forms and procedures have been developed and evaluations would begin next week.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that elected officials would be invited to participate in the program if they wish to be able for their employees to get the percentage for performance.

Unpaved roads-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that every one of us have received calls about the condition of the unpaved roads in the County. He stated that hopefully we would see some days without rain so that staff could get back to making permanent repairs to damaged roads. He stated that it had been impossible to do anything other than patch work as the rain has continued since September.

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Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff had previously developed an overall plan for the unpaved roads that includes installing “rock” on high priority roads where people live and allowing property owners to “close” roads where all land owners agree. He stated that he hoped to get back to this plan soon.

Recreation-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that recreation and the County’s recreation program would be a focus for staff in the spring. He stated that this was a subject that was put on the back burner after the hurricane but would be back on staff’s action list in the coming months. He stated that the county’s goal was to improve upon our existing programs AND add programs for adults and seniors that aren’t traditional sports like football or baseball.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff has developed a survey that would be distributed to the public, particularly those who have participated in some manner within our recreation department. He stated that the survey would provide valuable feedback from which staff could evaluate our program and make changes.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the survey would go out in the next 30 days and the Recreation Advisory Board would be scheduling a meeting in the near future to begin work on this project.

MARTi Bus Service-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had received some positive reviews for the MARTi Bus system. He reminded folks that the buses were now running in Marlboro County and available for folks. He stated that he would get maps so that they would be available. He reminded folks that the buses were wheelchair accessible and the buses also had bike racks for folks that needed a ride but have their bikes.

EMS-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff would be moving forward with EMS and planning details would be brought back to Council for review at a later date.

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

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN’S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated one citizen had signed up to address Council.

Ms. Elizabeth Munnerlyn – stated that she was appearing on behalf of the Marlboro County Long Term Recovery Group, along with Rev. Doris Smith, her Co-Chair of the group. She also stated that Ms. Doris Sumpter, a member of the group, was also present, but other members of the group could not be present due to sickness or prior commitments.

Ms. Munnerlyn thanked Council members for all they continue to do for the community and for the monetary donation that was provided to the group. She stated that a portion of those funds were being used to obtain accounting services in an effort to obtain the group’s 501(c)(3) designation. Ms. Munnerlyn stated that to date they had received approximately \$17,000 and that the funds were being held at the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation

out of Florence. She stated that they would be having fund-raising events for the group on an on-going basis. She stated that the group hoped to use some of these funds for local victims which suffered damages from the hurricanes. She stated that the group would be available to assist folks now and in the future. She stated that the group's primary focus would be housing rehabilitation. She stated that she hoped that the group would be able assist folks fill the gap from what insurance has paid or FEMA has provided to get them the help that they so desperately need. She stated that Palmetto Disaster Recovery was providing assistance to their group in prioritizing the needs in the area.

Ms. Munnerlyn again thanked members of Council for their support to the group and provided contact information for the Marlboro County Long Term Recovery Group: email: mcltrg@yahoo.com, telephone: 843-862-6350.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated that everything was good and that folks in Clio were happy about the new company coming to their area. He stated that folks have many questions but he was asking that they be patient and information about the company would be provided at a later date.

He stated that he looked forward to 2019 and the great things that will be accomplished.

Ms. Corrie Plato – stated that she was very thankful that everyone made it thru Christmas and stayed safe. She stated that members of Council worked well together last year and she looked forward to another good year. She stated that Council has great leadership with the County Administrator and Council Chair. She stated that everyone must put the Master first and let him lead and guide us and she said if that is done, we could not go wrong.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley – stated that he was excited about moving forward.

Mr. Jason Steen – stated that he looked forward to the jobs coming to the county through the new company and looked forward to having more jobs in another area of the county soon.

Mr. Steen stated that Mr. Doug Carabo had done a good job with roads but stated that he was now receiving calls from constituents about state roads. He suggested that a letter be prepared to the Legislative Delegation asking for help with state roads and mentioned Step Road in Wallace which was being used as an alternate route since Highway 1 was closed. He stated that since the road was being used so much that it had really gotten in bad condition.

Mr. Willie Gladden – stated that the roads in the county were in bad shape and that members of the Legislature would not give the county any help for the roads. He stated that a lot of money goes into the lake even from the County Transportation Committee and that the roads in the county get no attention. He stated that the county desperately needed help from the state with the roads in the county and suggested that citizens may want to contact members of the Legislature to help get their attention on the condition of our roads.

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Mr. Steve Blackmon – stated that he looked forward to a new year and that County Council had accomplished many things in the past several years. He stated that everyone worked well together and it took that to move the county forward. He stated that members of Council do not focus only on their district but all worked together to do what was best for all citizens in the county and that was one reason he wanted to stay on Council.

Mr. Verd Odom – stated that he felt the same as Councilman Blackmon. He stated that everyone on Council works together really well.

Mr. Odom mentioned the bridge on Highway 381 in McColl and stated that he had talked with an attorney with the SC Department of Transportation and he had been assured that this bridge was at the top of their list.

Mr. Odom stated that the County needed help from Columbia on the roads here in the county.

Dr. Carolyn Prince – asked Mr. Munnerlyn, the County Administrator, to get with her on drafting a letter to Representative Pat Henegan requesting a meeting with members of the Marlboro County Legislative Delegation.

Dr. Prince mentioned the wonderful news about the company coming to the old Baldor building in Clio. She thanked staff for their hard work.

Dr. Prince stated that she was happy that the MARTi bus service was doing well and stated that it would be a good pilot program for other counties that are interested in it. She stated that someone from the Cheraw area was interested in how it came about.

Dr. Prince stated that the Delta plant site was coming along well and she looked forward to more action on that location taking place soon.

Dr. Prince stated that the City would be 200 years old this year and that there were a variety of activities scheduled throughout the month and encouraged folks to get involved and take advantage of the activities being provided.

Dr. Prince thanked members of Council for their support for the Winterfest event and stated that more than 200 parents and children came out to participate. She stated that the event was a big success.

Dr. Prince thanked members of Council for their confidence in her leadership and stated that she was proud of how well members of Council worked together and that Marlboro County Council was a flagship organization for the County.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – stated that he appreciated everything Council had done for his department and for him during the year of 2018 and stated that he would appreciate anything that they could do for them in the new year.

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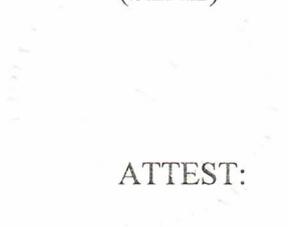
NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, she adjourned the meeting at 6:34 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: February 25, 2019