

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 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: Ms. Jackie Hough of Marlboro Herald-Advocate, Ms. Doris Sumpter, Marlboro County Administrative Services Director, and Mr. Doug Carabo, Marlboro County 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 Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

2018 REVIEW OF MWE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES – MS. BOBBIE GROOMS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Ms. Bobbie Grooms, Library Director, to make her presentation.

Ms. Grooms thanked members of Council for their continued support of the library and its programs and services. She stated that library staff could not do any of what they do without Council's continued support.

Ms. Grooms reviewed a listing of the accomplishments that had been made in the last four years since she became the Library Director. She stated they were:

1. Strengthening community partnerships – through outreach, and supporting local initiatives to improve overall quality of life in the county which included (a) Federal Prison ILL program which provides books to inmates and family programming for inmates, also including family programming at the Federal Prison camp; (b) participation in community festivals throughout the county; (c) partnerships with local schools, churches and daycares; (d) partnerships with local civic, charitable, governmental and private sector organizations; and (e) bookmobile services;
2. Improving school readiness through early literacy initiatives by (a) providing story time and learning activities to young children; (b) bookmobile checkouts; (c) tech time by providing tablets, smartboard, and early learning stations; (d) summer reading initiatives; and (e) National Family Place Library initiative;
3. Providing high quality weekly programming to improve the overall quality of life by (a) senior citizen programming; (b) adults with disabilities and special needs programming; and (c) young adult programming twice a month through STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math);
4. Offering high speed internet of 80 megabit connection and wi-fi throughout the library to citizens via the library and bookmobile who otherwise would not have access to such technology. She stated that the library has (a) 22 new computers, smart board, tablets, laptops and early learning stations for (4 early/4 after school edge); (b) mobile printing, scan to email, faxing services which may be paid for with a credit/debit card; (c) top of the line microfilm reader/printer/scanner; and (d) expecting to have a computer lab in April/May, 2019;
5. Offers a diverse, patron-driven collection to meet the needs of the citizens to include (a) books on CD, DVDs, eBooks & eAudio books; (b) large print and regular print fiction books; (c) huge children's collection that includes a parenting collection; (d) newspapers and magazines; and (e) access to books from five counties across the Pee Dee;
6. Offers a family friendly space for all citizens to include (a) a large community room, classroom and computer lab; (b) accessible, up-to-date facilities with comfortable seating; (c) family place spaces with nearby restrooms; (d) two study rooms and a small meeting space.

Ms. Grooms stated that over the past four years the library staff has worked hard to ensure that the library remains the hub of the community. She also stated that libraries save lives by providing warmth during the cold winters and cooling during the scalding summers

for the citizens without heat/air. She stated that the library provided resources to families that could not otherwise afford them which included free wellness benefits/services & access to physical resources like computers, internet and DVDs. She stated that the library staff also offered an ear to frustrated parents, grandparents, or caregivers. She provided five names as examples of folks whom have obtained various degrees, passed bar exams, or obtained employment by using the services provided at the library.

Ms. Grooms stated that in 2018, the library contained the following:

1. Housed 47,165 books, 5,302 Ebooks, 1,842 audio items, and 2,855 video items in the library;
2. 70,480 visitors during the year which is more than 193 visitors per day;
3. 11,574 public computer uses;
4. 7,585 wi-fi users;
5. 140 story times, book talks, community participation events & more;
6. 7,667 people served through outreach programming; and
7. 51 community partnerships.

Ms. Grooms thanked members of Council again for their continued support and stated that each one played a huge role in the library's success.

Mr. Steve Blackmon stated that he talked with an elderly lady who got a CD from the library and she shared with him the good information that was available on the CD and told him to go to the library and pick up a copy. He stated that he had no idea that our library offered CDs or DVDs to the public but that staff may start seeing him soon. He was happy to hear about all the services that the library provides to the citizens.

Mr. Willie Gladden thanked Ms. Grooms and her staff for the great job that they do for the citizens in the county. He stated that he was very appreciative.

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, echoed what the others had said and thanked Ms. Grooms for all that had been accomplished in the last four years. She stated that Ms. Grooms is always in front of the new technology and she appreciated all of her hard work as well as that of her staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 25, 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. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes from February 25, 2019 as presented. Vote in favor: Mr. Verd Odom, Mr. Steve Blackmon, Mr. Willie Gladden, Dr. Carolyn Prince, Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. and Ms. Corrie Plato. Abstain: Mr. Anthony Woods (he was not present at the February 25, 2019 meeting) Vote: 7/0/1. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 779 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CONVEYANCE OF A 30 FOOT WIDE EASEMENT AND LEASE AGREEMENT TO DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munneryn stated that this was the second reading on this Ordinance and that the right of way and leased property would be to provide access to Duke Energy to the substation near the Delta site.

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 the second reading of Ordinance # 779 – an Ordinance to Approve the Conveyance of a 30 foot wide Easement and Lease Agreement to Duke Energy Progress, LLC. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 780 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MUNICIPAL ELECTION TRANSFER AND COSTS FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF MCCOLL – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munneryn stated that this Ordinance would approve a standard type agreement which Council has with other municipalities to handle the elections for the Town of McColl and that the town would be responsible for the costs associated with their elections. He stated that the Elections Commission has requested that the agreement be approved.

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

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 780 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of Municipal Election Transfer and Costs Fee Agreement between Marlboro County and the Town of McColl. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 781 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FRANCHISING PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE AMBULANCE SERVICES IN MARLBORO COUNTY – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munneryn stated that as staff begins to tackle the problems with EMS, it has been recommended that we look into regulating other ambulance services in the county to make

March 12, 2019 County Council Meeting

sure that all are properly licensed and follow certain protocol in order to protect the citizens of the county.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff and the County Attorney would take a closer look at the document prior to the third and final reading.

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 second reading of Ordinance # 781 – an Ordinance to Provide for the Franchising Procedures and Standards for Private Ambulance Services in Marlboro County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION # 03-19-01 – A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS THE SOUTH CAROLINA FAIR HOUSING MONTH FOR 2019

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, read the Resolution aloud.

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 # 03-19-01 – a Resolution Designating the Month of April as the South Carolina Fair Housing Month for 2019. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 3-19-02 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2018-2019 BUDGET TO ESTABLISH AN ENTERPRISE FUND, AND CAPITAL AND EXPENSES BUDGET RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COUNTY FUNDED AND OPERATED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that as staff moves closer to getting ambulances up and running and prior to fine-tuning the financial aspect of the process, he wanted to get an amendment to the budget and update members of Council on the projected numbers and costs.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the revised Resolution with a spreadsheet attached reflecting the operating expenses and revenues was provided to members of Council for review. He stated that the amendment for the 2018-2019 budget was for funds that are needed for the remainder of the current year which is about \$2.7 million. He stated that this number included capital outlay which would include the purchase of ambulances. He stated that one ambulance has arrived and was located across the street in the administration office parking lot and could be viewed by anyone interested. He stated that this amount also included the amount due to the county's current operator pursuant to the terms of the contract which

would continue until the expiration. He stated that this budget has been off-set by the current dedicated millage, grant proceeds received in the amount of \$300,000 from the Marlboro General Hospital Charities Trust, and lease purchase proceeds in the amount of \$850,000 which would be used towards capital improvements, as well as \$500,000 to be used from the county's reserve funds.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he also provided members of Council with the projected budget for 2019-20 of expenses and revenues just to give them an idea as to what staff was expecting. He stated that this would be included in the budget discussions which would begin soon and would require Council's vote. He stated that the projected budget for the upcoming year to operate the EMS department was expected to be somewhere around \$3 million. He stated that of this amount, the county would continue to receive the dedicated millage of \$1.1 million. He stated that about \$1.3 million has been estimated to be received from billing which he feels is a very conservative amount. He stated that he has also asked the Marlboro General Hospital Charities Trust for a five year commitment to provide funds which he felt could be used to pay off the lease purchase agreement over the five year period. He stated that the budget may require using about \$330,000 from the county's reserve funds but that he felt that it would be better to run a deficit and see where the numbers really are and go from there. He stated that he did not feel that the taxpayers should bear any more of a burden with a tax millage increase at this time for these services.

Mr. Munnerlyn also provided to members of Council a projected Capital Budget for the EMS department and stated that this would be over a 3-5 year period to include the costs of ambulances, cardiac monitors and other items that are used to keep folks alive. He stated that many of these items will need to be purchased brand new. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the county had already received \$300,000 from the Charities Trust and he expected more. He stated that the Charities Trust folks had really stepped up and that their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that a lot of these items would be purchased in accordance with the county's procurement policy and staff would look at it and request proposals.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Resolution being considered would amend the budget to create funds for the newly formed EMS department and allow staff to sign certain documents in order move things forward since things are moving relatively quickly.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he also wanted members of Council to bless the location for the EMS headquarters. He stated that staff had considered a couple of locations but felt that the best location would be the current Northeastern Technical College classroom building which is located off of Marlboro Street. He stated that the county made the swap and it was time for the building to be vacated by NETC. He stated that he knew that there were other needs for the building but that EMS was their top priority at this point. He stated that he would propose to use this building for the EMS headquarters unless issues are raised on this. He stated that staff has determined that there would not be a need for a covered area for the emergency vehicles since the vehicles will be out running calls the majority of the time.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff was making progress and that they were close to hiring folks and would be ready for a start-up date of July 1, 2019.

Chair Prince stated that she knew that a lot of man hours had been spent in creating this department and that the county was moving forward in the right direction to be sure that the citizens' healthcare needs are being taken seriously. She stated that it takes a lot of money but we know that numbers were crunched. She stated that the county had received their first ambulance and it was located in the administration office parking lot and could be viewed there. She stated that the ambulance would not be here long but taken on the road for a show.

Chair Prince stated that it takes a lot of folks to run an EMS department but that she was sure that staff would be up and running on July 1, 2019 at 12:01 am if not before if necessary. She thanked Mr. Munnerlyn and staff for all of their hard work in getting this department up and running. She stated that members of Council have worked well together on this matter and have been good stewards of the county's funds. She stated that she was thankful that the county has reserves to fall back on to use in times of need as this.

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

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve Resolution # 03-19-02 – a Resolution Approving an Amendment to the 2018-2019 Budget to Establish an Enterprise Fund, and Capital and Expenses Budget Related to the Implementation of a County Funded and Operated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 03-19-03 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO SOUTH CAROLINA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY BY MARLBORO COUNTY ON BEHALF OF MARLBORO WATER COMPANY FOR RIF GRANT FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WELL AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$355,700 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Marlboro Water Company has applied for a grant from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority and that grants such as this have to be ran through the County. He stated that the county handled one a while back for Wallace Water Company. He stated that there would not be any cost incurred by the county on this grant.

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

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve Resolution # 03-19-03 – A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority by Marlboro County on Behalf of Marlboro Water Company for RIF Grant Funds for Construction of a New Well and Associated Infrastructure in the Amount of \$355,700 and Authorization to Accept Grant if Awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

EMS FACILITIES AND CAPITAL EXPENSES UPDATE

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had included this update along with the discussion on the Resolution for the budget amendment.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments recommended.

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

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the following:

FINANCE

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that expenses for the month of February were at 65% of total annual budgeted amount while revenues were at 66% of total annual budgeted amount and stated that this appeared right on target.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Budget process would begin before the end of the month. He stated that staff would continue to focus on understanding past years trends in order to best predict revenue for the coming year.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that management staff was sharing in the Finance and Payroll duties in Ms. Moore's absence. He stated that he felt that this was a good exercise in cross-training.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees are recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of February: Dwan Bostic (16 years); Lawrence Brand (17 years); Ronald Covington (25 years); Vanessa Dowdy (9 years); Anna Frye (21 years); Barbara Latham (15 years); and Kevin Thomas (30 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. The Statement of Economic Interests form "ethics report" must be filed by all elected officials and some employees not later than 12 noon on March 30, 2019. This form must be filed electronically with a \$100 late filing penalty if not filed by the deadline date.
2. County-wide "Clean-Up Day" – May 4 from 8:00 am to Noon – Planning has begun with a staff committee meeting held this afternoon. Please forward any suggested areas for clean-up or groups interested in participating to Ms. Bundy. We have

March 12, 2019 County Council Meeting

invited the City of Bennettsville to participate in the event and hope to hear back from them soon.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Baldor-

Project Sunshine – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Arris had submitted their engineering drawings for review by the county's Building Code Department.

Delta

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that work was continuing on Delta with a focus on the reactivation of the water and sewer plants.

BORO-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he was seeing an increase in inquiries about warehousing. He stated that the BORO building was suitable for warehouse space, particularly 40,000 square feet of the property but that there was no functioning dock. He stated that staff would be exploring costs and proposals to install a 2 or 3 slot dock. He stated that once staff has the proper information, it would be presented to Council. He stated that in the last 2 years staff had limited any investment in this property to the amount being brought in through rental fees.

Solar-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had received an inquiry as to property incentives for a proposed large solar project. He stated that other counties were offering tax incentives to large projects and he was working to understand what a fair, yet competitive, property incentive would equal. He stated that this matter would have to come before Council as with any economic development project.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Road Study and Plan-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Public Services Director Carabo has begun fine tuning our future strategy for unpaved road maintenance in the county. He stated that while staff was still being challenged with problems from the hurricane, they are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. He stated that staff has developed a prioritized list of roads and would present this plan to Council during the budget workshop. He stated that Mr. Carabo has also had conversations with the County Paving Committee Chairman Breeden about the plan and possible funding.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the plan would basically work to apply rock to 22 miles of high priority roads over the next 2 years.

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 no citizens had signed up to address Council.

March 12, 2019 County Council Meeting

Sheriff Charles Lemon – was present at the meeting and thanked everyone for their support in participating in the fundraiser for Deputy Sheriff Brian Genwright.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Verd Odom – stated that the folks in McColl were still waiting on Hwy. 381 to be repaired. He stated that the bid which was close to \$100,000 was delivered to DHEC last Tuesday and once they approved the bid, it would be sent to DOT and be scheduled with the contractor for repair. He stated that DOT folks told him at one point that it should only take about two weeks to complete the repairs if they have good weather.

Mr. Odom thanked staff for their help with the work in establishing a new EMS department.

Mr. Odom stated that McColl's May Fest was scheduled for Saturday, May 4th.

Mr. Odom advised that the old McColl city hall office on Main Street had been the polling precinct for McColl but that a fitness company was in the building now and a new polling precinct needed to be found. He stated that the McColl Pentecostal Church gym would be designated as the new election precinct from this point further and that he felt that this would be much better location with a better parking area. He stated that he had talked with the Elections Board and they had approved the location. He stated that the folks at McColl Pentecostal Church also agreed to allow us to use the gym for this purpose. He stated that he really appreciated them working with the county to provide the polling precinct for future elections.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – No comments.

Mr. Willie Gladden – thanked the library staff for the great job that they continue to do and the presentation that Ms. Grooms provided some great information about services that are provided.

Mr. Jason Steen – wished Mr. Odom good luck on getting Hwy. 381 repaired. He stated that he had been working on getting Old Wire Road repaired for a long time. He stated that he had been advised by the folks at DOT that Old Wire Road was not even on the list of roads to be repaired and that the dam would need to be repaired before the road would even be considered for repairs. Mr. Steen suggested that staff discuss this matter with the legislative delegation to see if something could be done to help the citizens in that area.

Mr. Steen mentioned the county-wide Clean-up Day and stated that he drove up to the convenience center recently and found that a Christmas tree and couch had been thrown out on the side of the road. He stated that he could not understand why folks would throw things on the side of the road in less than 100 feet from where they could legally take the items at no charge. He stated that the trash on the roads and highways was worse now than this same time last year. He stated that folks really needed to take pride in our county and help prevent the problems that we are having with all the trash. He stated that the codes enforcement folks were doing a great job but that we needed the citizens' help.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – thanked Ms. Bobbie Grooms for the presentation on the 2018 library activities and thanked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, and staff for all of their work with EMS.

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated that he wanted to give a “shout-out” to the Recreation Department. He stated that basketball season had come to an end and thanked all the coaches and recreation staff for their work with the small fry players all the way up to the junior boys. He stated that a group of coaches and parents took a group of 12 year olds to play in Georgetown a week or so ago on a Saturday morning and they left at 6 am and returned home that same day around 8 – 9 pm. He stated that they played three games and actually won the district. He stated that the group played the first round for State on Friday and lost by one. He stated that he appreciated all of the parents that support and help their kids because these kids eventually go to the high school and play there. He stated that these coaches receive no pay for their services and volunteer all of their time to help these kids. He stated that it was a huge task and he was thankful for the folks that step up to help.

Mr. Woods stated that baseball would begin in April and continue until July or August. He encouraged folks to sign their children up for t-ball to majors so that we would have a great number participating.

Dr. Carolyn Prince – stated that she had the opportunity to speak with some citizens recently and explained to them that the county was not responsible for roads such as Old Wire, Highway # 1, and Highway 381 and that the state DOT should be pushed to get these roads repaired. She stated that folks are spending more gas and time on the roads due to the delays caused by these roads being closed. She stated that September will be one year since the hurricane and it was time that these roads were given some attention. She stated that staff may want to contact the state DOT to remind them about these roads.

Dr. Prince thanked staff for all they do for the citizens of the county.

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 6:47 pm.

(SEAL)

Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: April 9, 2019

March 12, 2019 County Council Meeting

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Dr. Prince thanked staff for all they do for the citizens of the county.

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ADJOURN

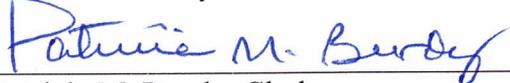
Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, she adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: April 9, 2019