

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

WILLIE GLADDEN

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

JIM HAYNES
PATRICIA BUNDY
HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,
RON MUNNERLYN,
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

WILLIE GLADDEN,
CORRIE H. PLATO,
KEN ALLEN,
ANTHONY WOODS

* Absent

Others Present: Ms. Lynn McQueen, Herald-Advocate, Ms. Ainsley Moore, Marlboro County Finance Director, and Mr. Ron King, Director of Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Lynn McQueen 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.marlbtorocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Ron Munneryn, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 8, 2016

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were none.

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Motion made by Mr. Ken Allen, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the minutes of March 8, 2016 as presented. Vote in favor: Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Willie Gladden, Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, Mr. Ken Allen, and Mr. Anthony Woods. Abstain: Ms. Corrie Plato (not present at meeting), Dr. Carolyn Prince, and Mr. Steve Blackmon. Vote: 4/0/3. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 745 - AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2017 – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Haynes stated that this Ordinance begins the budget approval process for the county and stated that no numbers were listed in the attached Ordinance at this time. He called to Council Members' attention the fact that the renewal of Blue Law exemption would be reviewed with the budget ordinance and included as a part of the budget Ordinance. He stated that he hoped to gather some sales tax information and other numbers that might help the Council Members determine whether or not this exemption was the right thing to do. He also stated that the reference to fees in various Ordinances are also included and will be reviewed along with the budget.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince, to approve the first reading (title only) of Ordinance # 745 – an Ordinance to adopt the annual budget and to make appropriations for Marlboro County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 746 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF FY 2017 TO FY 2021 – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

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Mr. Haynes stated that this Ordinance approves a wish list of large items for various departments. He stated that these items would not be funded or maybe funded in a limited amount and will be presented during the budget process.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the first reading (title only) of Ordinance # 746 – an Ordinance to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Marlboro County for the Period of FY 2017 to FY 2021. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

A PROCLAMATION FOR PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY – MAY 15, 2016

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, read the Proclamation aloud and stated that this Proclamation was being made across the nation and recommended that Council members approve.

Motion made Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve Proclamation for Peace Officers' Memorial Day – May 15, 2016. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REQUEST PERMISSION TO CONTINUE CONTRACT WITH LAMAR ADVERTISING FOR TWO BILLBOARDS AT TWO PRIME LOCATIONS (HIGHWAY 15-401 AND HIGHWAY 9) IN MARLBORO COUNTY TO BE PAID FOR BY GRANT FUNDS FROM USED OIL GRANT AND WASTE TIRE GRANT

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Haynes stated that this was a request to approve two billboards in two prime locations in Marlboro County that have high traffic. He stated that these billboards would be paid for by grant funds from the Used Oil and Waste Tire Grants and that he would ask that this request be granted for as long as the grant allows which he estimated to be approximately two years.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Ron Munneryn, to approve the request for permission to continue contract with LAMAR Advertising for two billboards at two prime locations (Highway 15-401 and Highway 9) in Marlboro County to be paid for by grant funds from Used Oil Grant and Waste Tire Grant. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONTROL MANAGEMENT, INC. (CMI) AGREEMENT – PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THE LIBRARY

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

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Mr. Haynes stated that contract controls and monitors some of the maintenance and electricity for the library. He stated that the system seems to be working quite well and he would hope that this would continue to be the case. He stated that he recommended that the contract be renewed.

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods to approve Control Management, Inc. (CMI) Agreement – Preventive maintenance for Library. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR 2015-16 AND 2016-17 AUDITS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Haynes stated that staff has had an unusual situation develop. He stated that the county currently had a three year auditing contract with Hill and Jordan accountants but that the first year has ended (2014-2015) and due to a loss of some of his major employees, we still have not received the audit report for 2014-2015. Staff has been advised that we should hope to have the audit by May or by mid-May. The firm has also advised that they do not wish to continue the contract for the remaining two year period (2015-2016 and 2016-2017). Mr. Haynes stated that he had made contact with the employees that had left the Hill and Jordan firm but they have advised that are not interested in doing the work for the county. He stated that the employees started a new firm and the new firm is happy with providing other types of accounting services and not interested in auditing for the county. Mr. Haynes stated that he and staff are searching to find an auditing firm that would accept a contract to handle the audit for the 2015-2016 year and maybe a three year contract. Mr. Haynes stated that he is requesting that Council approve authorizing staff to obtain a contract for the remaining two years which are left on the current contract with Hill and Jordan with a new firm if the numbers can work out.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that she wanted to be clear that we had not received the 2014-2015 audit. Mr. Haynes confirmed that to be true. Dr. Prince then asked when the audit was due. Mr. Haynes stated that the audits are usually completed by January or February after the year end but that it was now April and we still have not received it. Dr. Prince then asked if there was anything in the contract for late performance on the part of the auditor and Mr. Haynes stated that there was nothing in the contract regarding late performance.

Dr. Prince stated that she would like a firm bid for the remaining two years of the contract and that money was not an issue. She stated that she wanted a reputable firm and wanted to insure that it was done accurately and on time. Mr. Ron Munnerlyn agreed with Dr. Prince and stated that it was not bad to have a new firm with a new fresh view perform our audits. Mr. Munnerlyn asked how much money was set aside for an annual audit and Mr. Haynes stated that he estimated it was about \$35,000.00 per year. Mr. Munnerlyn then asked if that was enough to get the audit done and Mr. Haynes stated that he felt sure it was.

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Motion made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince to approve the request for authorization to request proposals for 2015-16 and 2016-17 audits for a cost not to exceed \$35,000.00 per year. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked members of Council if there were any appointments to be made.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that he would like to appoint Mr. Samuel McCollum to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to represent the Clio district and that he would replace Mr. Willie Tim McCoy.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, to approve the appointment of Mr. Samuel McCollum to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to represent the Clio district and to replace Mr. Willie Tim McCoy. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chairman Steen stated that he appreciated Mr. McCollum's willingness to serve as he has served for many years in the past.

REPORTS

COMMUNITY RECREATION PROJECT – COUNCILMAN RON MUNNERLYN

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that the recreation ad-hoc committee has had several meetings and the input from all members have been considered. He presented two drawings, one being a plan of a ballpark area behind the administration building that would include basketball courts, skateboard park, and football/soccer fields. He stated that the some of the properties used in the drawing was currently owned by the City of Bennettsville and that this would be discussed further with the City. He stated that the second drawing showed an indoor pool facility to be located beside the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library which would face Parsonage Street. He stated that the recreation plan would also include upgrades to the Murchison school for office space and entertainment. He stated that he had much input from folks about having this area revitalized and this could be done.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that a "reveal" of these plans would take place next Tuesday, April 19th at 5:30 p.m. there in the Council Chambers and that members of Bennettsville City Council would be invited to attend as well as the public to obtain input and to answer any questions that citizens may have.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE – COUNCILMAN ANTHONY WOODS

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that the Public Service Committee met on Monday, April 4th for the first time in months but that many things were discussed. He stated that Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chairman Jason Steen, Mr. Steve Blackmon and the County Administrator. He stated that they discussed demolishing the old library building located on the corner of John Corry Road and Market Street. He stated that if demolition could be done at the right price that this would create parking for citizens. He stated that the building could not be used due to it being unsafe and it needed to be cleaned up. He also stated that they discussed demolition of the old animal shelter/jail on Wallace Road in Bennettsville. He stated that staff was in the process of getting numbers for demolishing these two buildings and that Council could go from there.

Mr. Woods mentioned the Murchison School and stated that it was a historic building. He stated that the building could be utilized for many things and stated that it was in a great location being adjacent to the North Eastern Technical facility. Mr. Woods stated that the committee agreed that the Muchison School was too nice of a facility not to be utilized in some way.

Mr. Woods stated that the Blenheim Gymnasium will have air conditioning units installed soon which was given to the county by the School District. He stated that this would allow summer activities of many kinds to be held there.

Mr. Woods mentioned that several other things were discussed that that these were the highlights.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that she and Jim Haynes, the County Administrator, had agreed to move forward with the Murchison Building revitalization. She stated that she had also talked with Mr. Bill Kinney and he has agreed to help us find money for this purpose if a plan could be pulled together and shown to him. Dr. Prince stated that she had been told that the Murchison building had the best acoustics of any building in the Southeast and stated that she was looking forward to moving this project along with the county Administrator's help.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – COUNCILMAN WILLIE GLADDEN

Mr. Willie Gladden stated that the Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, April 5th with Mr. Ken Allen, Ms. Corrie Plato, Chairman Jason Steen and the County Administrator present. He stated that the Marlboro County Rescue Squad agreement was discussed and stated that the squad had been stressed since last year with the closing of the local hospital. He stated that the equipment is being utilized much more with traveling back and forth to Cheraw, Laurinburg and Florence so often. He stated that the squad needed a lot of help and that the committee was discussing what could be done.

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Mr. Gladden mentioned that the local fire departments were also discussed during the committee meeting. He reported that the average age of a volunteer firefighter in Marlboro County is 50 years old. He stated that there was a time when the average age was 20 years old. Mr. Gladden stated that changes need to be made to take care of our firefighters and that he felt there should be incentives for them.

Mr. Gladden reported that Brightsville has been able to secure some property on Family Farm Road and that a building would be placed on it to be utilized as a fire station for that area. He stated that the lot would have to be cleared and cleaned before the building can be placed on it but that he felt that the county would help with this. He stated that this will be a tremendous help to the folks in that area because some have not been able to secure proper insurance coverage due to no fire station being located there. He stated that the citizens that have fire insurance on their properties in this area will also see a reduction in costs. He stated that he hoped that this would be accomplished real soon.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director.

Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director, reported that for the month of March expenses were at 70% of the budgeted amount which was approximately 5% under budget for this point in the year. She also stated that revenues were at 73% of the budgeted amount for the fiscal year.

Ms. Moore reported that she had spoken with Mr. Rob Jordan of Hill and Jordan regarding the county's audit and he stated that he was continuing to work on a preliminary draft. She stated that she anticipated having a draft to review by the end of April.

Ms. Moore stated that she had begun inputting the fiscal year 2017 budget figures and stated that staff would continue to work toward constructing a conservative budget, especially in the light of the continuing shortfall in Local Government Funds. She stated that she and the Administrator, Mr. Jim Haynes, had met with the majority of the department heads and that she was in the process of compiling a working draft of the budget. She promised to continue to work to analyze spending and aim for the most efficient use of the County's limited funds. She also stated that the department heads were all very much aware of the decrease in the Local Government Fund and have worked hard to budget their departments accordingly.

Ms. Moore stated that according to the SC Association of Counties website, the Senate Finance Committee was scheduled to take up the budget this week. She stated that thus far the House has failed to provide any additional funding to the Local Government Fund and if no increase is made, that counties would continue to cover the costs for state mandated services by using property tax revenues. She stated that if the costs continue to increase for stated mandated services with no extra revenue to fund them, citizens would more than likely see higher property taxes and possibly, fewer services.

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Ms. Moore asked members of Council if there were any questions.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if staff had received any information about any new unfunded mandates. Ms. Moore responded that she remembered seeing something about an increase in the number of employees for Department of Social Services but would review that again in depth and let her know.

Chairman Steen thanked Ms. Moore for her report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – MR. JIM HAYNES, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator.

Recognition of employees - The following employees was recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of March: Luther Brown (14 years); Don Driggers (5 years), Harry R. Easterling, Jr. (7 years); Cathy Pearson (27 years) and Annie Ruth Caulder (40 years).

Update on Animal Shelter - Mr. Josh Cohoon, the Animal Shelter Director, advised that due to no new animals being taken into the animal shelter in March due to the Distemper outbreak, only 30 dogs are currently in the shelter. He stated that the dogs in the shelter tested for distemper and so far all tests have come back negative and that he hoped that the shelter would be back up and running normally in the next few days. There is also a horse out back at the shelter but Josh has a rescue in place once all vaccinations are completed. Mr. Josh Cohoon also advised that he had received notification that Chesterfield County Animal Shelter has experienced their first case of Distemper and they have closed the shelter for intake.

Town of Clio Municipal Court System to be Audited - As information to Council, staff has been notified by the State Auditor that they are required to perform a minimum of 15 audits annually of county treasurers, municipal treasurers, county clerks of court, magistrates and/or municipal Courts. We have been notified that the Town of Clio Municipal Court System has been selected to be audited and a start date will be coordinated soon.

Regulations Update from DHEC – Staff has received a Regulations Update from SC Association of Counties regarding regulations for DHEC and it has been attached for Council's review. If any members of Council have comments that you would like to share, please forward them by mail to David Scaturro at Bureau of Land and Waste Management, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; by fax to 803-898-0590; or by email to scaturdm@dhec.sc.gov not later than 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2016.

Planning Commission - a Planning Commission meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 14th, but they did not have a quorum. Only two members appeared for the meeting.

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Attached is a list of the appointed individuals as well as a copy of the attendance sheets for 2014, 2015 and 2016. Although this commission does not meet very often, it is very important that the individuals have the required training so they may conduct business if needed. This has been an ongoing problem in getting folks to attend the meetings for certification.

Round-About on Highway 38 North - As all of you know, staff received a response from the Secretary of Transportation regarding my letter about the round-about on Highway 38 North. The letter confirms that they do not plan to make any changes.

Closing of Gayley & Lord Plant in Society Hill - the Galey & Lord plant in Society Hill is closing next month (May, 2016). It's my understanding that the company employed a little more than 100 people. Officials advised that a new company may be interested in occupying the building, but we will have to wait and see what happens with that.

AC/Heating Units from Wallace School - the ac/heating units have been received from the Wallace School to be used for the Blenheim Gymnasium and the maintenance department has been authorized to install the units.

Budget Meetings with Department Heads - Staff has been busy with budget meetings with department heads for the last couple of weeks.

National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week - This week (April 10th through April 16th) is National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week. Please remember this and thank these folks for all that they do to keep us all safe. These folks do not get the thanks they deserve for all they do.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that three folks had signed up to speak before Council. He recognized them as follows:

Gloria Dudley of Pee Dee Coalition – Ms. Dudley thanked members of Council for allowing her to speak. She stated that she was a proud member of the Pee Dee Coalition and wanted to thank members of Council for their past contributions. She stated that the contributions were very appreciated, very much needed and spent very wisely. Ms. Dudley stated that Pee Dee Coalition was a non-profit volunteer organization and that they are dealing with sexual and child abuse daily. She stated the organization needed the county's continuous contributions.

Ms. Dudley stated that April is sexual awareness month and stated that sexual violence was a major problem in our area.

Ms. Dudley asked that Council consider contributing to the Pee Dee Coalition as much or more than they did last year.

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Ray Howe (did not show up at meeting)

Latoya Thompson - Ms. Thompson stated that she was from the Clio. She stated that she was the Clio Recreation Volunteer secretary and was removed recently by Councilman Woods. She stated that she needed some guidelines as to how to turn in the checkbook and funds that she has in her possession. Chairman Steen responded and asked her to stick around after the meeting and that Mr. Anthony Woods and Mr. Jim Haynes, the County Administrator, would talk with her and give her directions on this. She agreed to do so.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ken Allen – No comments.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – No comments.

Dr. Carolyn Prince – stated that she was pleased to announce that at the March Pee Dee Council on Government meeting, the group approved the recommendation from the Transportation Committee for improvements to be made to three roads in the City limits of Bennettsville which will cost more than \$2 million. The streets were (1) Highway 38 from Highway #9 to Highway 79; (2) West Main Street from the intersection of Cheraw Street to the end of West Main Street towards Society Hill; and (3) Jennings Street from West Main Street to 15-401 Bypass.

Dr. Prince stated that the month of May will be recognized for teen pregnancy and stated that she would have a Proclamation for review and consideration at Council's May meeting on this. She stated that Marlboro County is #6 in the State for high pregnancy ratings based on data from 2014. She stated that she would get the proclamation information to Ms. Patricia Bundy, the Clerk to Council, for the May meeting.

Mr. Willie Gladden – stated that the Pee Dee Coalition was very important to him. He stated that Marlboro County is one of the highest rated counties for domestic violence and stated that something needed to be done to deal with the problem. He stated that all children are affected by domestic violence.

Mr. Gladden reported that a few weeks ago, a couple of firemen from the Brightsville Fire Department noticed a family in a ditch and the men went in the cold water to work and save the lives of this mother and children. He reported that one of the firemen was Mr. Jason Steen who helped rescue the folks. Mr. Gladden stated that at the May Council meeting, he would like for the family of those that were rescued to appear along with the firefighters and give the honor and recognition for the work in saving these folks. Mr. Gladden stated that the firefighter that noticed the problem was Mr. Alex McGovern and his son.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn – mentioned the work on the courthouse roof and stated that he thought that the color may be a little off but it appears to match and looks better.

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Mr. Munnerlyn also mentioned the meeting to “reveal” the recreation project which was scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th at 5:30 p.m. He asked that staff notify and invite the ad-hoc committee members as well as the Bennettsville City Council members to the meeting. He stated that this would be an open meeting to the public for review and questions.

Ms. Corrie Plato – No comments.

Mr. Anthony Woods – No comments.

Chairman Jason Steen – stated that members of Council have a lot going on. He thanked the committees for all of their work and the reports. He mentioned that he would like to have an “all-day” retreat one day next month. He stated that this would give members of Council a chance to sit down and discuss the items discussed by the committees as well as the budget for the upcoming year. He suggested Monday, May 9th, or Tuesday, May 10th and stated that May 10th would be the night of the Council meeting. He asked if any members had a preference. Mr. Ron Munnerlyn suggested that the retreat be scheduled the same day as the Council meeting.

Chairman Steen also reported that he had contacted the SC Department of Transportation about the round-about on Highway 38 North to find out when the intersection would be opened up to Beauty Spot traffic and was told that staff was trying to have this road opened on Friday of this week. He was told that there was no guarantee but that was their target date.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No items were heard.

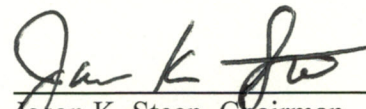
ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

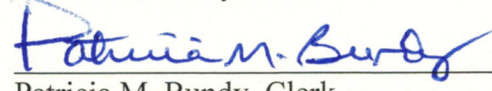
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: May 10, 2016