

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

WILLIE GLADDEN

ADMINISTRATOR  
CLERK TO COUNCIL  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RON MUNNERLYN  
PATRICIA BUNDY  
HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,  
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.  
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,  
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

WILLIE GLADDEN,  
CORRIE H. PLATO,  
VERD ODOM,  
ANTHONY WOODS

\* Absent

Others Present: Ms. Lynn McQueen, Herald-Advocate, and Ms. Ainsley Moore, Marlboro County Finance Director

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.marlborocounty.sc.gov](http://www.marlborocounty.sc.gov)).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Probate Judge Mark Heath administered the oath of office to the newly elected council members: Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. and Mr. Verd Odom, and the re-elected council members, Mr. Willie Gladden and Dr. Carolyn Prince. Judge Heath commended each one for their willingness to serve and thanked them for their service.

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.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations & Election of Chair

**Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. to nominate Mr. Jason Steen as Chairman to Council for 2017. Vote in favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Abstain: Dr. Carolyn Prince. Vote: 7/0/1. Motion carried.**

Chairman Steen asked if there were any more nominations and there were none.

Nominations and Election of Vice-Chair

**Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Verd Odom to nominate Mr. Willie Gladden as Vice-Chairman to Council for 2017. Vote in favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Abstain: Dr. Carolyn Prince. Vote: 7/0/1. Motion carried.**

Chairman Steen asked if there were any more nominations and there were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, 2016

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions.

**Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 749 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD SOLID WASTE – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Ordinance was on the agenda for a third and final reading and would renew the Franchise Agreement with USA Waste d/b/a J. Davis Enterprises, Inc. with

**Page Three – January 10, 2017 County Council Meeting**

the same terms as the existing contract for an additional three year term. He stated that the current contract expires in February. Mr. Munnerlyn questioned if members of Council wanted to renew the contract for a three year term or if they wanted to consider a one year contract which has been done in the past. Dr. Carolyn Prince questioned if staff had received any comments from the citizens or the company as to any concerns. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there have been complaints from citizens but that Mr. Keith Odom was taking calls about complaints and that he seemed to be helping with the issues of the citizens. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this renewal was not discussed with the Environmental Control officer, Mr. Keith Williams, and he stated that he felt that Mr. Williams should have been involved in the discussion of this renewal.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that he felt that since the agreement had been done for one year in the past that he felt that a one year renewal should be considered now especially since there were two new members on Council. He stated that the agreement could be extended during the one year period if all parties chose to do so.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that some action needed to be taken because he did not want to stop any services that were currently being provided to the citizens. He stated that J. Davis Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a USDA Waste was the only one in the area that had placed a bid on collection and disposal of household waste in the past and they did help the county with the turkey giveaways.

Dr. Prince stated that she was in favor of renewing the contract as written for three years but stated that something should be in place to terminate the contract if the need arose.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated that J. Davis Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a USA Waste needed a contract in place in order to be able to purchase new trucks to provide the services to our citizens. He stated that the company would not be in a position to purchase trucks and other things needed to perform their duties without a contract in place for a period of time.

Dr. Prince stated that she was in favor of a three year renewal.

Mr. Harry Easterling, Jr., Attorney, stated that the Ordinance before Council was for the renewal of a three year period of the current contract as it is written. He stated that council could amend the contract or vote to table for further discussion.

**Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 749 – An Ordinance to provide for the renewal of the Franchise Agreement for the collection and disposal of Household Solid Waste. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

ORDINANCE # 750 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN DARLINGTON COUNTY AND MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY IN DARLINGTON COUNTY AS PART OF THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Ordinance dealt with a routine agreement between two counties where the one county benefits from the poorer county and the poorer county, being Marlboro, in this case, would receive a small percentage of the tax revenue which is typically 1%. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this is the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment to the park agreement so it was a long-standing agreement.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

**Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 750 – an Ordinance to amend the agreement for Development of a multi-county industrial and business park by and between Darlington County and Marlboro County, South Carolina, providing for the development of a jointly owned and operated industrial/business park so as to include additional property in Darlington County as a part of the joint county industrial park, and other matters relating thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

ORDINANCE # 751 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THAT CERTAIN JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, DATED AS OF MARCH 8, 2016, SO AS TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PARK TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN DILLON COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Ordinance is similar to the previous Ordinance and is with Dillon County. He stated that this Ordinance allows additional property in Dillon County to be included in the joint county industrial and business park.

Chairman Steen 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 the third reading of Ordinance # 751 – An Ordinance to amend that certain joint county industrial and business park agreement entered into between Marlboro County, South Carolina, and Dillon County, South Carolina, dated as of March 8, 2016, so as to expand the boundaries of the park to include certain property located within Dillon County; and other matters related thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FY 2017

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that the law requires the council to have an annual schedule of meetings and the schedule would be posted on the website. He asked if there were any questions and there were none.

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Council's Regular Meeting Schedule for FY 2017. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE FOR USE OF THE MARLBORO COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Mr. Josh Cohoon, Director of the Animal Shelter, had advised him that 911 was routing calls to him for pickup of animals/dogs in the city limits. Mr. Cohoon picked up the initial call but came to him for direction on this. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he told Mr. Cohoon not to pick up any dogs in the city limits until he spoke with Mr. Max Alderman, Administrator for the City of Bennettsville. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he called Mr. Alderman and stated that he understood that they were in need of housing of animals which were being picked up in the city and explained that the county would need to work out some type of agreement for compensation for this extra work and housing of the animals. Mr. Alderman completely understood and stated that the city would be willing to discuss this so that the county could house all strays which were picked up within the city limits in one location so as to save tax dollars for the citizens.

Mr. Munnerlyn proposed to Council that he be allowed to work with Mr. Max Alderman of the city, Ms. Ainsley Moore, Marlboro County Finance Director, and Mr. Josh Cohoon,

Marlboro County Animal Shelter Director, to draft a shared services agreement that both the city and county can agree to and then bring back to members of council for review and consideration.

Chairman Steen stated that he thought that was a great idea and that our goal is to better the services that we offer to all citizens in the county.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if the current animal shelter had enough space to house all the extra animals and Mr. Munnerlyn stated that it did. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there are not that many that need picking up in the city limits and that space should not be an issue. Mr. Munnerlyn also stated that the county dogs would be first priority over the city dogs.

**Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince, to have the County Administrator to draft a shared services agreement with Mr. Max Alderman of the City of Bennettsville and other department heads and present a proposed shared services agreement back to members of Council for review and consideration. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION OF REQUEST BY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT TO DECLARE FIREARMS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND DISPOSITION OF THE SAME TO RETIRED SERVED DEPUTIES AND FORMER SHERIFF

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff had received two requests and one other potential request that service weapons to be given to a couple of retired reserved deputies and also to the former sheriff, Mr. Fred Knight. Mr. Munnerlyn reported that other agencies do this such as SLED and the Highway Patrol. These agencies allow a retired individual to keep their credentials and mark them "retired". Mr. Munnerlyn suggested that he be allowed to draft a policy to allow the sheriff to designate these type service weapons as surplus and that he be allowed to dispose of the same to retired reserved deputies and other employees that have served the county for many years.

Chairman Steen stated that he felt that was a good idea.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

**Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince, to approve the request by the Sheriff's Department to declare firearms as surplus property and disposition of the same to the two retired reserve deputies, Mr. Tommy Bostick, Sr.**

**and Mr. Roy Erwin, and to the former sheriff, Mr. Fred Knight, and to have the Administrator draft a policy that would allow the sheriff to declare certain service weapons as “surplus” and that he be allowed to dispose of the same to retired served deputies and other employees that have served the county for many years. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

OPENING & ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

OLD LIBRARY DEMOLITION PROJECT

Bids received for the demolition of the Old Library as follows: Complete Demolition Services \$72,000; TDA, LLC \$104,880; 4 Seasons Site and Demolition \$63,642.00; Carolina Wrecking \$95,600; Demtek \$64,992; and Jones Grading & Building, Inc. \$96,192.

OLD JAIL DEMOLITION PROJECT

Bids received for the demolition of the Old Jail as follows: Complete Demolition Services \$62,000; TDA, LLC \$78,693; 4 Seasons Site and Demolition \$60,685; Carolina Wrecking \$60,400; and Jones Grading & Building, Inc. \$94,700.

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, Administrator, to make comments on these bids. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff used Pee Dee Council of Government to assist with bidding out the projects regarding demolishing the old Library building on Market Street and the old Jail on Wallace Road. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that things have changed since council had talked about demolishing these buildings. He stated that the County only has approximately \$90,000 left in the bond funds which staff had thought could be used to demolish these buildings. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that with the bids received, that the County only has enough funds remaining in the bond funds to demolish one building since the low bids on both projects were more than \$60,000 each. He stated that the second issue was that he had spent some time assessing county buildings and there were urgent needs to repair leaking roofs and emergency repairs that on buildings which are being occupied. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the County does not have enough money to demolish these buildings and make the necessary repairs that are desperately needed. Mr. Munnerlyn suggested that the low bids on these projects be accepted but allow the Administrator to proceed upon availability of funds. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the bids were good for sixty (60) days.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that she would counter-propose to allow Administrator to take care of pressing needs and rebid the project as two separate buildings and bid them out separately once the county has the funds to demolish these buildings. Dr. Prince asked if the demolishing bids included removal of asbestos, etc. and Mr. Munnerlyn confirmed that they did. Dr. Prince recommended that the county take the appropriate action to take care of the repairs that are urgent at this time and hold off on the demolition projects at this time.

**Page Eight – January 10, 2017 County Council Meeting**

Mr. Munnerlyn recommended that all bids be rejected at this point.

**Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to reject all bids on the two demolition projects due to insufficient budget due to emergency repairs needed on other county buildings. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSION

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION BY MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership Board has nominated Mr. Randall Malichi to serve as Chairman of the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership Board. Chairman Steen stated that this comes as a recommendation from the Partnership Board pursuant to the Ordinance.

**Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to accept the recommendation by the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership Board and appoint Mr. Randall Malichi as Chairman of the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership Board. Vote in favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Willie Gladden, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Opposed: Dr. Carolyn Prince. Vote: 7/1/0. Motion carried.**

REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

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

Ms. Moore reported that expenditures were at 49% of the budgeted amount which were slightly under budget for this point in the fiscal year, and revenues were still significantly under budget for this month and were \$360,000 less than revenues received for this month last year. She stated that although this information sounded negative that she anticipated that January revenues would exceed the budgeted amount to compensate for the lack of collections thus far in the year.

Ms. Moore stated that the finance office had processed W-2s for the calendar year 2016 and that the W-2s would be sent out to employees later in the month. She stated that the finance office would also be processing ACA forms within the next month.

Ms. Moore reported that for the first time in 25 years, the South Carolina Department of Revenue has updated the State's Withholding Tax Tables. She stated that the outdated

## Page Nine – January 10, 2017 County Council Meeting

withholding tables had led to significant over-withholding which resulted in \$1.5 billion or 21% of the State's General Fund in fiscal year 2015 alone. Ms. Moore stated that the taxpayers were essentially loaning their money to the government throughout the year interest free according to SCDOR Director Rick Reames. She stated that the state must then turn around and return this money to the taxpayers in the form of income tax refunds. Ms. Moore stated that the update took effect January 1, 2017 and should somewhat compensate for the increase in health insurance costs.

Ms. Moore asked members of Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairman Steen thanked Ms. Moore for her report.

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

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had changed the format of his report to include upcoming events and reminders, as well as department head reports, economic development report and the administrator's report. His report included the following:

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS**

**SC Association of Counties Mid-Year Conference-** The SC Association of Counties' 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Year Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, SC. with the Institute of Government classes scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2017. He asked members of Council to please let Ms. Bundy know if any of them would like to attend so that she could make the appropriate arrangements for them.

**MC Veteran's Affairs Office "Doughnut Wednesday"** - The Veterans Affairs office will continue their Doughnut Wednesday Benefit Connect Events for 2017 and will offer Free Clinic for Homeless Veterans on March 15<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> with Grand Finale Standown on October 18<sup>th</sup>. These meetings will be held at the Bennettsville Community Center. For more information, please contact the Veterans Affairs office at 843-479-5622.

**The National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2017 Legislative Conference** – This event will be held in Washington, DC from February 25 – March 1, 2017. If any of the Council members wish to attend, they should contact Ms. Bundy so that she may make the appropriate arrangements.

**2017 Statement of Economic Interests Report Deadline-** The “ethics report” must be filed by all elected officials and some employees not later than 12:00 noon on March 30, 2017. This form must be filed electronically with a \$100 late filing penalty if not filed by the deadline date.

**MC Chamber of Commerce State Legislative Breakfast-** the Chamber and Rep. Pat Henegan have planned a breakfast meeting to be held at The Skye on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am. The invitation states that the purpose of the meeting is to “to connects the community with information about the upcoming South Carolina General Assembly sessions and provide an opportunity for our citizens to thank our state legislators for their hard work”. Tickets are \$10 for Chamber member and \$15 for non-members.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**Animal Shelter** – stated that during December, there was an intake of 33 dogs with 44 being rescued, 1 being adopted, 2 being reclaimed by owner; and 1 being euthanized, leaving a population of 68 currently at the shelter. There was an intake of 6 cats with 49 being rescued, and 9 being adopted, leaving 65 currently at the shelter. The Animal Shelter, working with the Humane Society, have coordinated a cat rescue transport for 19 cats leaving tonight for Vermont.

**Building Maintenance** – stated that they were working to develop a prioritized list of repair needs both immediate and for coming years. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that DT Turner’s team had done a great job with lots of need and very little money. He stated that even without money it was important to know what is needed and anticipate future needs so staff will at least know what they are asking for should a source of funding be found.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

**Change in focus** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he was working to refocus the efforts of the economic development program (and the Partnership) towards a more bottom-line, business/industry-oriented approach. He stated that the Partnership had been involved in a great deal of community programs that in theory support economic development, but that these types of involvement should not *become* economic development

### **Some specific changes include:**

- a. the development (and ongoing maintenance) of industry-relevant, concise information to assist prospects in making decisions
- b. a realistic marketing approach for the County –present ourselves in the best possible light, but be careful not to “sugar coat” facts easily found on the internet

- c. a hands-on approach to every step and detail of a deal – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff had relied heavily on our regional and state organizations for creating leads and even prospect presentations. He reported that his goal was to drive local lead generation and lead the deal from start to finish.
- d. to strengthen the Partnership organization by restoring exclusivity of membership and value to members. Should be composed of industry/business, utilities, government and affiliated partners like engineering firms, etc.
- i. Two key initiatives: (1) Develop a “product” portfolio –Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff had been pushing the same buildings and sites – many of which are poor condition or not suitable for industries. He stated that he will work to better market viable sites and develop new sites that meet modern needs (interstate proximity for example) and (2) External marketing campaign - Destination Marlboro -This initiative would focus on retirement age or other individuals that may not need school system etc. but would be attracted by low property costs, availability of old homes/buildings, proximity to the beach, etc.

**Active prospects-**

PROJECT CUSTOM – Mr. Munnerlyn reported that the project was moving along and he hoped to bring the County incentives to you for final consideration in the next 60 days.

BORO BUILDING – stated that a great deal of money had been spent on infrastructure with little attention to maintaining the building condition. He stated that cleanup project was underway with Public Works and suggested that it may be time to divide into more marketable pieces.

TRI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK – stated that he and Jim Haynes had attended two meetings with the board of this park to discuss a possible expansion project there. The group included two representatives from each of the participating counties – Marlboro, Marion and Dillon. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he has asked Jim Haynes to continue attending the monthly meetings so that Marlboro County can utilize our “two votes” on the Board. He reminded Council that Marlboro shared in the tax revenue from projects in this park.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

**Recognition of employees** - The following employees was recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of December: Judge Mark Heath (15 years); Terry Leggett (32 years); and Walter Pratt (17 years).

**Meetings with Department Heads** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that over the past several weeks, he had met with department Heads/functional leaders one-on-one basis to understand their perspective on county government as well as their departments challenges and needs. He stated that he has also had one initial staff meeting and set the stage for regular staff and small group meetings.

## Page Twelve – January 10, 2017 County Council Meeting

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he was a strong believer in frequent communication and interaction among employees. He stated that these meetings appeared to be well received by the employees and have been a great help in getting him “up to top speed” quickly. He stated that he will be meeting with elected “courthouse” officials in the next week or so.

He stated that in his meetings that he discussed three areas of focus for 2017 and beyond. They were (1) **Continuous Improvement** – always looking for better, more efficient ways to do our jobs and serve the public; (2) **County image** – buildings, grounds, vehicles, social media, personal appearance all important. Stay out of politics and treat everyone the same. Promote the positive; and (3) **Employee empowerment**- stated that our employees were the county’s biggest asset and that every employee has a voice and every employee is accountable – for our success and for “fixing” failures.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

### RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN’S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that two citizens had signed up to speak and recognized them and stated that they had three minutes to discuss the issues on which they had signed up to speak.

**John Jefferson** – wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated that he had appeared before and stated that his issue was not personal one but was a governmental matter as it dealt with taxes. He stated that he believed that if you pay for something that you should get something in return. He asked how he benefited from paying school taxes. He stated that he would meet with any of the Council members at any time if they would simply give him an appointment.

**Fred Nicholes** – wished everyone a Happy New Year. He asked that folks in the county needed a place to take their families to eat. He stated that there was no restaurant in town that a family could visit and sit down to eat a nice meal after church. He mentioned Golden Corral and asked that a committee be designated to visit folks like Golden Corral to see if something could be done to bring in a restaurant to our area.

### RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Anthony Woods** – mentioned the bank robbery that occurred in Clio and stated that as of yet he did not think any arrest had been made.

**Page Thirteen – January 10, 2017 County Council Meeting**

Mr. Woods stated that the youth recreation Basketball recruitments had begun and that a game was scheduled in Blenheim on Saturday. He stated that Mr. Gary Harrington, Mr. Greg Leviner, and Mr. Thomas Stephens had gotten things rolling.

Mr. Woods stated that Clio was doing ok and looking forward to good things happening in 2017.

**Corrie Plato** – wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that she was happy to be present and stated that council had come a long way and had a long way to go. She welcomed the newly elected Council members, Mr. Verd Odom and Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., and stated that they would feel like they were on a roller coaster ride but that they would be riding it all together. She welcomed Mr. Ron Munnerlyn as the new County Administrator, and stated that she looked forward to continuing to work with him. She also thanked Attorney Harry Easterling, Jr. and the Clerk, Ms. Patricia Bundy, for all their work, and thanked Ms. Lynn McQueen of the paper for all that she continues to do for the council. Ms. Plato stated that she looked forward to continuing to work hard to make Marlboro County better.

**Charles P. Midgley, Jr.** – stated that he was thankful for the warm welcome by everyone and stated that he looked forward to working with each one and all of the folks in District 3. He stated that his door was always open for anyone who wished to talk to him.

**Willie Gladden** – stated that last year was a great year and that he was thankful for the “thumbs up” that the paper gave Marlboro County Council. He stated that recreation was good to his district last year and that Brightsville-Adamsville has a basketball team this year. He stated that the fire departments are moving along well and that the new fire station on Family Farm Road was beginning to get started and that by having a fire station in that area, the homeowners in that area should see some lower rates in their homeowners insurance.

Mr. Gladden stated that Mr. Ron Munnerlyn and Mr. Jim Haynes continue to work together. He stated that he thought the new year would be better than last.

**Dr. Carolyn Prince** – stated that she would like to echo some of the things that Ms. Corrie Plato had said in welcoming the two new members of council. She stated to the new elected members of council that they would find their passion. She stated that she looked forward to working with Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, the new Administrator. She stated that he was happy to hear of his new visions for economic development partnership.

Dr. Prince stated that she feels that it is important for our county to look good because you never know what prospects may be considering Marlboro County. She stated that she hoped that council could find a way demolish of the dilapidated buildings in the county especially

**Page Fourteen – January 10, 2017 County Council Meeting**

near the Kentucky Fried Chicken intersection of Marshall Street and the Bypass and near the old Boro properties. She stated that the buildings are truly eye sores. She stated that it was very important that Marlboro County present itself in a good way in every way possible.

Dr. Prince mentioned that the area near Fleet Street and Jennings Street area looked bad and that the railroad track and the building were overgrown with debris. She mentioned that the Sheriff's Department may want to look at this area for possible drug activity. She stated that the Sheriff's Department may have some funds in their drug funds to demolish some of the buildings in that area.

Dr. Prince thanked Mr. John Jefferson for his comments on taxes and stated that he would like to get his telephone number after the meeting so that they may discuss the matter further. She stated that this group could not do anything about his complaints but that folks in Columbia could look into this.

Dr. Prince stated that the Winterfest which was held for the Bennettsville area was a great success and that over 200 children attended with family members and that school supplies and door prizes were provided to the children.

Dr. Prince stated that she looked forward to 2017.

**Steve Blackmon** – stated that he looked forward to working with the two newly elected council members.

**Verd Odom** – thanked the folks from District 6 for electing him and giving him the opportunity to serve them. He stated that he would represent all folks. He stated that there was much experience with the members of council and that the council had dedicated folks that would benefit all citizens.

**Jason Steen** – stated that the newly elected members of council got through their first meeting. He stated that he looked forward to moving forward and stated that money was always an issue for council. He stated that Mr. Ron Munnerylyn has great visions and without such visions, the council would perish. Mr. Steen stated that everyone wants to see Marlboro County grow and stated that Marlboro County had a great team to help accomplish it.

He read the “thumbs up” article that was published by the Marlboro Herald-Advocate and thanked them for their kind words.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual and economic development matter pursuant**

to section 30-4-70(5) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

After approximately 70 minutes in executive session, a motion was made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

There were no votes or action was taken during executive session.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:11 p.m.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Adopted: February 14, 2017



Jason K. Steen, Chairman  
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk  
Marlboro County Council