

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

**“CALLED MEETING”**

5:30 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 A. PRINCE,  
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

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

\* Absent

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

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Lynn McQueen 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](http://www.marlbocounty.sc.gov)).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

**Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince, to approve the amended agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 757 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION DOLLAR (\$1,000,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OF MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SAID BOND

SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF SAID BOND, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the county has had a bond in place dated back in 2007 for building repairs and capital projects. He stated that the bond was for a 20 year term and it was refinanced last year at a lower interest rate but the same tax millage rate that was imposed is greater than the debt payment which will allow the county to go back and borrow an additional monies which would provide the county with monies to make additional building repairs and capital improvements to county properties. Mr. Munnerlyn stated this transaction would not extend the term and would not increase the tax millage.

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 second reading of Ordinance #757 – an Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding One Million Dollar (\$1,000,000) General Obligation Bond of Marlboro County, South Carolina, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of said bond shall be expended, to provide for the payment of said bond, and other matters relating thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

BUDGET PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on the upcoming budget.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he has provided a lot of information at the last work shop meeting but many were not able to make that meeting. He stated that he took the information that was discussed and formatted a budget document for review by Council. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the budget was very complicated and stated that the county was at a critical point in that the county cannot continue to run a million dollar deficit without looking at the budget more closely.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that during the last meeting discussion was held about several things. He mentioned cuts which included the Beaver program fees of approximately \$30,000; a position in the Tax Assessor's office due to the retirement of one of their employees of approximately \$20,000; building repairs which were in the budget which can be paid for from the bond of approximately \$150,000; and miscellaneous costs reduction which staff has found in the budget of approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he proposed to increase user fees so that the folks actually using the folks actually benefiting from the position would pay for the salary of the office for those services. He stated that the Delinquent Tax Collector was a good example of this. He stated that 911 Surcharge funds have an amount that could be used to pay for a position in that office and so does the EMS. He also mentioned Victim's Advocate funding and stated

that some of those funds could be used to pay towards the position of Ms. Sandy Wilkes, the Victim's Advocate at the Sheriff's office. He mentioned that funds could be transferred from the Economic Development FILOT funds so as to contribute to the upkeep of the Economic Development office. He also mentioned Building Codes and stated that flat rate charges could be imposed rather than having the office calculate fees as they are presently doing.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the fees and cuts mentioned above would total \$705,000 and this amount would help reduce taxes.

Mr. Munnerlyn also mentioned the costs that are mandated by the State and stated that these costs continue to rise. He mentioned the increase in retirement contribution, worker's compensation insurance premium, and state building improvements.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there were several items that have been requested that would increase the budget. The items included two new Sheriff's Deputies and vehicles and equipment for the Sheriff's office which would cost approximately \$150,000; a Work Crew Supervisor and vehicle of an approximate cost of \$75,000; an approximate amount to get all county employees to the minimum level by September 1<sup>st</sup> of \$92,000; a cost to provide a 2% cost-of-living increase by September 1<sup>st</sup> of \$75,000; and a cost to provide a 401(k) match for our employees of \$20,000. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that all of these requested items are included in the budget packet which has been provided to members of Council for review.

Mr. Munnerlyn reminded members of Council that 1 mil would equal to \$60,000. He stated that the budget packet has a new look which includes a column for FY 2015-16 Actual, a column for FY 2016-17 Current Approved, a column for FY 2017-18 Request, and a column to show the change in percentages. He stated that staff has made sure that each budget line item is broken down to better track what is being spent and for what purpose.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that 34% of the county employees make less than the minimum for other counties the same size of Marlboro according to the SC Association of Counties. He stated that in order to bring these employees up to the bare minimum would cost about \$92,000. He stated that the proposed 2% cost-of-living increase would be for these employees which are not affected by the bare minimum increase.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that they will go through the proposed budget by department and Ms. Ainsley Moore would begin with the first few departments.

Ms. Moore began on page 1 and stated that Council's account shows an 18% change in salaries to bring them up to the bare minimum as a result of the compensation study and the 2% cost-of-living increase. She stated that the salary increase would affect all the fringe lines and the mandated increase in the retirement contribution.

Ms. Moore went on to the Administrator/Clerk to Council's account and stated that the salaries were more in line with Mr. Munnerlyn being on staff as compared to Mr. Haynes' salary in the past. She stated that there was a significant change in the Professional Services line for this reason as well.

Ms. Moore mentioned the Personnel account and stated that although the percentage number in professional services increased by 50% the actual number was only by \$200.

Ms. Moore mentioned the NonDepartmental account and stated that the line for Other Charges/Special Projects were reduced substantially due to the bond which will allow funds for these items.

Ms. Moore mentioned the Treasurer's account and stated that the line item for part-time salaries had increased due to her adding two part-time folks to that department.

Ms. Moore mentioned the Delinquent Tax Collector account and stated that the line for Professional Services had a big increase due a posting service being used for future postings and all of these charges will be paid for by the user fees.

Ms. Moore mentioned the Tax Assessor's office and stated that the salaries line decreased due to not filling the position of Ms. Annie Ruth Caulder who will be retiring in December. This position will not need to be filled due to the GIS services which have helped this department a great deal.

Ms. Moore mentioned the GIS account and stated that the training and travel line had increased but that Ms. Lisa Hood in that office has done an outstanding job on getting educated with the GIS system and has spent much of time in obtaining the appropriate training to get the most up to date information available for this so that she may serve the citizens in our county. Ms. Moore stated that her efforts are appreciated and felt that the training should be continued to be paid for since she is willing to learn as much as she can.

Mr. Munnerlyn took over and began with the Coroner's account and stated that the salaries line had increased to accommodate the pay for a Deputy Coroner.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if the county paid for autopsies that are done when the Coroner feels they are need and Mr. Munnerlyn confirmed that the county did pay for these costs.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Road Maintenance account and stated that the capital outlay line increased due to the Work Crew Supervisor being included in that department.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Planning/Zoning Department and stated the salary line had decreased due to the creation of the Solid Waste Enforcement account which is indicated below. He stated that this will allow us to track the costs of Mr. Keith Williams' position which is currently the Environmental Control guy.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Animal Shelter Department and stated that some of those numbers changed on various line items due to the numbers being estimated since it was a new department and facility last year.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Public Buildings Department did not see much change its budget.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Sheriff's Department and stated that was the largest department of the county. He stated that the budget presented does include the two new deputies which Sheriff Lemon requested and the vehicles and supplies needed for them. He stated that capital outlay line indicates \$100,000 which would be used to purchase 4 new cars which would be two for the two new deputies and two to update and replace two of the existing cars.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Detention Center and stated that this was the second largest department and stated that Mr. Kevin Thomas, Warden, had been doing a great job with keeping cost down.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Recreation Department and stated that the salaries line had been increased to include the vacant museum director's position into the Recreation Department. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he would like to see the position of the Museum Director to be a person who could be cross-trained to do work for the Recreation as well for inside projects.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Library Department and stated that this is one department that gets money from state. He stated that Ms. Bobbie Grooms, the Director, does a great job in finding funds to run that department and runs it well.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Veterans Affairs department and stated that they had requested additional funds for events they would like to have but stated that they needed to reach out and find private funding for some of these events.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned Economic Development Department and stated that the salaries line decreased a good bid since most of his salary was in the Administrator/Clerk to Council Department salary line. He also stated that some of the funds in the O&M Buildings line had been removed which had been used in the past for the BORO buildings.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the total budget came to \$11,300,187.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the General Taxes on page 17 of the budget packet and stated that the millage rate affects the LOST numbers and the road fees. He also mentioned the Local Government Funding and stated that the county may receive additional funds this year but we cannot depend on that because the amount has decreased for years now.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that on page 19 of the proposed budget the funds from the fund balance to be used to balance the budget as presented would be \$689,887.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Rural Fire Service account expenses on page 28 are shown at \$850,000. He stated that the rural fire departments did request an additional \$5,000 for discretionary expenses but he did not include in the budget but asked the Fire Chiefs to let him know what they needed and request requisitions for those amounts. Mr. Munnerlyn stated by doing it this way, staff could better track what is being spent. He stated that the rural Fire Chiefs were ok with this and is happy with what the County does to help them.

He did stated that included in the budget were funds for part-time folk(s) to work 60 hours a week to stagger between stations to answer calls and work at the stations.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the EMS department on page 31 of the proposed budget projects income of \$775,000. He stated that last year a total of \$740,000 was paid to the Marlboro County Rescue Squad for emergency medic and transfer services. He stated that this year the County agreed to pay the Marlboro County Rescue Squad the sum of \$725,000 and will plan to use a portion of the income to pay a portion of the salary for a dispatcher and will try to keep a reserve of \$50,000 in the account.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Willie Gladden asked if there was anything that could be done to improve the equipment that the county now has. He stated that the equipment that the county has currently is in real bad shape. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there was approximately \$195,000 in the capital outlay to replace things as they needed to be replaced. He stated that he felt that it was important to replace things as needed but more importantly to have a system in place that will track the need for the service of our equipment and the age so that staff could determine if it would make more sense to replace or to repair an item. Mr. Gladden agreed that we needed to be in a position to watch what we spend.

He stated that the County has a contract with the City of Bennettsville and the Town of McColl to house their inmates but we have no way of tracking the number of nights, etc. He stated that we needed a way to track this type of data so that we will know if the agreements are in our favor.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked if there were any questions from members of Council as to fees and services that he had suggested are cut from the budget. Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Beaver program and stated that he could not find anything indicating that the county had to maintain such a program.

Mr. Steve Blackmon stated that he agreed with the cutting of the Beaver program and stated that he felt that the folks that owned the lands with running waters should maintain and pay for this type of service. Mr. Blackmon stated that \$30,000 which the service cost equals a half of a tax mil.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the position in the Tax Assessor's office and stated that one employee, Ms. Annie Ruth Caulder, was planning to retire in December and that due to the success of the GIS program that is currently in place, the position is no longer needed in that office.

Mr. Munnerlyn also mentioned the building repairs that were taken from the budget and stated that these repairs could be made from the proceeds of the bond funds.

Everyone agreed that the cuts were appropriate.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the user fees proposed for the Delinquent Tax office and the Building Codes office and everyone agreed with the proposed user fees proposed.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that with the cuts proposed and the increase in user fees proposed the current budget would call for a tax increase of 6.5 mills. He stated that on a residential home valued at \$50,000, the increase of property taxes would be around \$13. He also stated that on a commercial property valued at \$50,000, the increase of property taxes would be around \$19.50.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that Council should definitely recover the unfunded mandate tax millage of 2.8 mills.

Mr. Verd Odom stated that if the unfunded mandate tax millage was imposed that it should be advertised and make all citizens aware of why the taxes were increased and why. He stated that if people can be made to understand why taxes are increased, it makes it a little easier to digest.

Mr. Steve Blackmon stated that a lot of money is spent in the Sheriff's office and he stated that Sheriff Lemon does a great job. He asked if Sheriff Lemon could get by with three cars rather than four.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if the two new deputies were not provided that he would only need two new cars. He also stated that he understood that there were four or five vacancies in his department currently.

Mr. Gladden stated that in other counties, county deputies give out tickets for those speeding and stated that our Sheriff should look into that.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Sheriff's office has two deputies writing tickets now but that two-thirds of the money charged and collected goes to the state.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that she felt that we needed to wait on the two new Sheriff's deputies right now since the Sheriff has some vacancies in his office that have not been filled.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if we did hire the two deputies that we could state that they be hired as "patrol deputies". Mr. Gladden agreed to this and stated that since he has eight investigators, we would have to label them.

Mr. Charles Midgley, Jr. stated that he felt that the 2% cost-of-living increase should be placed on hold. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council could wait on the 2% raise until December and bring up those below minimum to the bare minimum. Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned again that 34% of the counties' employees make less than the bare minimum for same positions in other counties.

Dr. Prince mentioned the 401(k) match and asked how that would work. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if put in place that this would be a cost each year.

Ms. Corrie Plato stated that she thought the 401(k) match was a great idea.

Chairman Steen stated that he felt that the cost-of-living increase should be left in and the 401(k) match should be taken out.

Dr. Prince asked if staff could get Mr. Grover McQueen to do a survey to see if folks would participate in the 401(k) program. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he did not feel that \$20,000 would be enough to worry about. Dr. Prince agreed.

Mr. Verd Odom stated that the 401(k) match was a drop in the bucket but was a good incentive.

Mr. Charles Midgley, Jr. stated that he felt that the 2% cost-of-living increase should be taken out since we are already dipping into fund reserves.

Mr. Anthony Woods agreed and stated that the 2% cost-of-living increase should be pulled but that all those that were making below minimum should be brought up to bare minimum.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there was another option to consider. He stated that he was big on fees. He stated that the county currently has a three year contract with J. Davis Enterprises to handle the trash pick-up in our county. He stated that Dillon and Darlington County, as well as Richmond County, have imposed fees on all dwellings for recycling and convenience centers. He stated that the fees would allow the county to update convenience centers in the county and not charge folks for the trash to be taken at these centers. He stated that the fee would be \$40 and would be added to the tax bills on an annual basis. He stated that he felt this was a great idea.

Dr. Prince asked the solid waste plan would bring in funds immediately. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if we imposed this fee on all dwellings, that the fees would come in along with property taxes.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the solid waste fee could be done after the budget.

Mr. Charles Midgley, Jr. stated that he was on board with the \$40/year solid waste fee.

Dr. Prince stated that she was also on board. She stated that \$40 comes to two burgers and sodas.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff could work on improving things in county and suggested recreation and trash clean up in the county.

Mr. Gladden stated that he felt folks would be ok with the fee if cleaning up the county could be done.

Dr. Prince stated that staff could publicize and promote the things to be accomplished with the fee. She stated that good PR would work.

Mr. Verd Odom agreed that staff would have to publicize and do PR so that folks would understand.

Chairman Steen stated that we should get an idea as to where members of Council stood on these suggestions.

<u>Council</u>	<u>401(k) Match</u>	<u>Sheriff's Deputies</u>	<u>2% Raise</u>	<u>Solid Waste Fee</u>
Woods	In favor	Against	Against	In favor
Plato	In favor	Undecided	Against	In favor
Gladden	No comment	Against	Against	In favor
Prince	No comment	Against	Against	In favor
Blackmon	No comment	Against	Against	In favor
Odom	No comment	Against	For 1%	In favor
Steen	In favor	Against	For 1%	In favor

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he would highly suggest that they leave the millage increase for the unfunded state mandates.

Dr. Prince stated that she wanted to give credit to the Administrator and the Finance Department for the great job that they have done in presenting the budget.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had a better idea as to what members of Council were in favor of now and he would look at the numbers and see what could be done.

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Munnerlyn and the Finance Department for their hard work on the budget and stated that there were no easy decisions to be made.

#### NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 758 – AN ORDINANCE OF MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO AMEND AN AMENDED RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BY AND AMONG MARLBORO COUNTY, DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND MARION COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK AND MODIFY THE DISTRIBUTION OF PARK REVENUES IN THE EVENT OF THE ISSUANCE BY DILLON COUNTY OF CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE BONDS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Ordinance was for Project Badger which was a Harbor Freight expansion. He stated this was the first reading in title only and more information

will be provided later. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this was a good deal for Marlboro County and recommended approving the first reading in title only.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the first reading in title only of Ordinance # 758 – an Ordinance of Marlboro County, South Carolina to amend an amended and restated agreement for development of Joint-County industrial and business park by and among Marlboro County, Dillon County, South Carolina, and Marion County, South Carolina, so as to Enlarge the Park and Modify the Distribution of Park Revenues in the event of the issuance by Dillon County of certain special source bonds; and other matters related to the foregoing. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION # 06-17-01 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS USA, INC., A DELAWARE CORPORATOIN (THE COMPANY), IN CONNECTION WITH DILLON COUNTY’S PROVISION OF CERTAIN INCENTIVES TO THE COMPANY RELATING TO THE COMPANY’S EXPANSION OF ITS EXISTING FACILITIES IN DILLON COUNTY (THE “PROJECT”), FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CERTAIN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT OF MARLBORO COUNTY TO THE INCLUSION OF THE PROJECT IN A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK AND TO THE FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT INCENTIVES PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Resolution deals with Dillon County where Dillon gives the company a FILOT of somewhere around 4% and Special Source Revenue credit incentives of about 40% and other things like roads and such. He stated that there was one thing that he would mention that there appeared to be about a \$1 million short fall on the grant funds for this project. He stated that he fussed at the folks in Dillon about the shortfall but that money will come in about 5/6 years and stated that it was a good investment. He stated that there were about 246 acres left in the industrial park area.

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

**Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Resolution # 06-17-01 – a Resolution authorizing execution and delivery by Marlboro County, South Carolina of a Memorandum of Understanding between Dillon County, South Carolina and Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc., a Delaware Corporation (the company), in connection with Dillon County’s provision of certain incentives to the company relating to the company’s expansion of its existing facilities in Dillon County**

June 1, 2017 County Council Meeting

(the "project"), for the purpose of providing certain acknowledgement and consent of Marlboro County to the inclusion of the project in a joint county industrial and business park and to the fee in lieu of tax and special source revenue credit incentives provided for under the Memorandum of Understanding; and other matters related Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

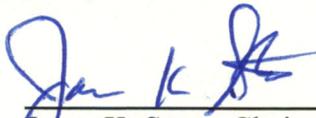
ADJOURN

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

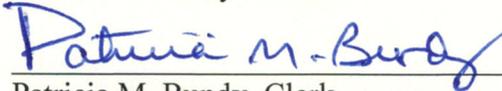
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:23 p.m.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason K. Steen, Chairman  
Marlboro County Council



\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk  
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: July 11, 2017