

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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 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).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated he felt that the Strategic Planning session which was planned to follow the regular meeting should be incorporated into regular meeting agenda. He stated that the agenda was short and recommended that the Strategic Planning session be added as a new item to the agenda.

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to add a new item 8.a. to the agenda, Strategic Planning Session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

November 14, 2017 County Council Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the amended agenda to include a new item 8.a, Strategic Planning Session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 10, 2017 – Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were no recommended changes.

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of October 10, 2017 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 10, 2017 – Strategic Planning Session 1

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Strategic Planning Session 1 minutes of October 10, 2017 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 763 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK (2016 PARK) OF DILLON AND MARLBORO COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK – FIRST READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this was the first reading of an Ordinance to add additional property to the joint county industrial park which Marlboro County has with Dillon County. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this was a different park than the Tri-County Industrial Park and that only Marlboro and Dillon Counties have an interest in this park revenues. He suggested that Council approve the first reading and that more information on this Ordinance would be provided at the next reading.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if this was being done for a specific project and Mr. Munnerlyn confirmed that it was.

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

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the first reading of Ordinance # 763 – an Ordinance to amend an Agreement for the Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park (2016 Park) of Dillon and Marlboro Counties so as to Enlarge the Park. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 764 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY AND HUMANE SOCIETY OF MARLBORO COUNTY, INC. – 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 dealt with a Lease Agreement to lease the existing animal shelter on Ag Street to the Humane Society of Marlboro County, Inc. He stated that actions of this type require three readings and a Public Hearing and that this item is on the agenda for first reading in title only. He stated that there were many details to be worked out but he was hopeful that this could be done. He stated that he had received an email from the leadership of the Humane Society that they were interested in the proposal that staff had presented but that additional details would need to be discussed and agreed upon.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the first reading in title only of Ordinance # 764 – an Ordinance to Approve the Lease Agreement by and Between Marlboro County and Humane Society of Marlboro County, Inc. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2018 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that each year Council approves the holiday schedule for the next year. He stated that President's Day has been added as an additional holiday for county staff and stated that most other counties also recognize this holiday as well as the banks.

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

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, to approve the 2018 Holiday Schedule as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were appointments to Boards and Commissions.

There were no recommended appointments.

REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

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

Ms. Moore stated that for the month of October, expenditures were at 31% of the budgeted amount and revenues were at 14% of the budgeted amount. She stated that revenues were under budget by approximately 19% for the fiscal year but the amount is almost the same percentage as they were at this point last fiscal year. She stated that tax notices had been mailed out and she was sure that there would be a significant increase in collections over the next few months would level out expenses versus revenues.

Ms. Moore stated that she was pleased that the Local Government allocation received this month had increased by about \$8,400 which was always a positive. She stated that if the trend continued each quarter, there would be approximately \$30,000 more in revenue.

Ms. Moore stated that the annual audit was still progressing well. She stated that the auditors were still gathering a few remaining pieces of information but were on track with a timely audit completion.

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

Chairman Steen thanked Ms. Moore for the financial report.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – MR. RON MUNNERLYN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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

Mr. Munneryn stated that his report was as follows:

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES - The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of October: Lori Davis-Moses (13 years); Richard Gooden (6 years); Phyllis Hagan (26 years); Gary Harrington (12 years); Jessica Jones (14 years); and Christina Thompson (11 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. The Ribbon Cutting for the new Clio Eastside Fire Station has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 4:00 pm at the new station’s site located on Highway 9 East, Clio, SC. There will be a brief ceremony with refreshments to follow.
2. The McColl Christmas Parade has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 4:00 pm. We have not yet determined whether Marlboro County Council will have a float reserved for this parade but more information will be provided later this week.

3. The Clio Christmas Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 10:00 am. A float for Marlboro County Council has been reserved so all those that plan to participate should arrive at the Marlboro School of Discovery located at 201 Jefferson Street, Clio, SC not later than 9:00 am. Clio will also have the Lighting of the Christmas Tree in the Town Square right after the parade.

4. The Bennettsville Christmas Parade will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 4:30 pm. A float for Marlboro County Council has been reserved and all of those that plan to participate should arrive at the designated location on Broad Street not later than 3:30 pm. The route will be the same as last year and the line-up will basically be the same as well.

5. The Sixth Annual Marlboro County Employee Christmas Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Wade H. Prince Recreation Center in Blenheim.

6. The Economic Development Partnership Drop In will be held on Monday, December 11, 2017 from 4 – 6 pm at the Partnership office.

7. The Marlboro County Annual Drop In will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Administration office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Prospect Activity

Since the last Council meeting staff has had one return visit from a prospect looking at the Baldor Building in Clio.

NESA quarterly meeting

Mr. Munnerlyn reported that he attended NESA's quarterly meeting last Thursday in Florence. Consultants that spoke to the group echoed some of staff's previous discussions:

- Promote what we are and not what we're not.
- It is unreasonable to attempt to recruit large industry requiring large work force need of 30 candidates for each job.
- Rural counties are best to focus on smaller industries. Best strategy may be to work for 10, 30 job plants instead of one 300 job facility
- Counties need a speculative building. Base size on actual inquiries in the region over a period of time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Brownsville Fire Station

Congratulations to Blenheim Fire District on the opening of their Brownsville station. The ribbon cutting was a big success.

Work Order System

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that in the next few weeks staff would roll-out the new Maintenance work order system. All departments will be required to use the system which will include Fleet Maintenance by the end of January. The system will track man-hours, plus the cost of labor and materials. With this information staff will be able to make more informed decisions and better use the tax payer's dollars.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that once this was done, the staff will begin work on the 311 system. Once configured, this system can create a special number, 311, for citizens to call in complaints about roads, trash pickup, animal control and any other issue. Staff will potentially approach the City of Bennettsville about the system to see if they have an interest in using it and partially funding the program.

City of Bennettsville Tax Liens for Abatement of Derelict Property

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he would be scheduling a meeting with appropriate City and County officials to discuss this issue. Staff has concerns that placing a lien to recover the cost of demolishing a building (for example) would create a lien valued much more than the value of the property. Since no one would be willing to bid more than property is worth at a tax sale, the result would be the property going to the Forfeited Land Commission where no one is paying annual taxes. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he thought Council would agree that we all want to clean-up the City and the County, we do want to be sure we do it in the best manner.

Blue Laws

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council took action several years ago to allow Sunday sales of everything except alcohol. He stated that the County Attorney has revisited the issue and he also looked into what Marion County did to allow Sunday sales since there had been some information at somehow Marion County was able to make the change with just an ordinance.

Bottom line is: Council can pass an Ordinance setting a referendum on the issue of Sunday alcohol sales. If the voter approve the lifting of a Sunday alcohol sales ban, then sales would be allowed. This referendum must occur in a general election year, therefore next year, November 2018, would be the earliest the referendum could occur.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he knew that some council members were getting repeated questions from local businesses but this is the law and this is what they did in Marion County.

Solid Waste Fee

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that in the next few weeks, staff would be announcing a number of initiatives aimed at cleaning up our county and improving service to our citizens with regards to solid waste.

Council approved the Fee in their budget after 3 separate meetings in 3 months and a public hearing. The Fee appeared in the newspaper stories during that time period. The County understands citizens' concerns about more taxes or fees. However, as we try to bring in new businesses, industry and even residents, the condition of the county has become so bad

November 14, 2017 County Council Meeting

that these industries have commented on the appearance AND the mentality of people that would allow it look so bad.

The Fee is a move that had to be made in order to address issues that quite frankly are keeping us down. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that it was the County's goal to show the citizens what this money is going towards and see real results in the coming months. Over the coming weeks staff would publish information regarding the new Fee, its uses and the efforts it is funding

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that no citizens had signed up to address Council.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Verd Odom – No comments.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – thanked everyone that attended the Brownsville Fire Station Ribbon Cutting ceremony and stated that everything was really nice. He stated that this new station was a good thing and all the other new stations were as well. He stated that it was a proven fact that working together will take you a long way.

Dr. Carolyn Prince – stated that the annual turkey give-away was scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2017 in the parking lot of Marlboro County High School as in past years and would begin at 9:00 am. She stated that there would be special provisions for the elderly and disabled to be served first.

Mr. Willie Gladden – stated that it was the holiday season and he was very thankful. He mentioned the new Brightsville Fire Station which would be completed soon on Family Farm Road and stated that this would benefit all residents in this area with lower fire insurance rates.

Mr. Gladden mentioned the walking trail at the Brightsville Park and stated that the work on the trail had begun and pavement is getting ready to be poured. He stated that by the second week in December it will be ready for the citizens. He was very happy to report this and stated that this was a good investment for the citizens.

Mr. Gladden wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – stated that he was happy to see representatives from the Humane Society at the meeting tonight and he looked forward to working with them.

Mr. Midgley also stated that it was nice to have Boy Scouts from Troop 625 present at the meeting and hoped that they would be able to get the credits they needed for their scout leader. Mrs. Sharon Beaty.

Ms. Corrie Plato – No comments.

November 14, 2017 County Council Meeting

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated that he was looking forward to the ribbon cutting for the new Clio Eastside Fire Station scheduled for December 5th. He stated that Clio had the best fire department in the county.

Mr. Woods stated that there would be a Thanksgiving Dinner for everyone on Saturday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Clio Depot. He stated that everyone was welcome to come eat or help.

Mr. Woods announced that Clio now has another restaurant – Backyard Café. He stated that the new restaurant was owned and operated by local folks. He stated that he was pleased to now have two restaurants in Clio, CL-10 Grill and Backyard Café.

Mr. Jason Steen – stated that it was good to see the new stations in Brownsville, Brightsville and Clio. He stated the work on this started with a small fire board and fire chiefs to help reduce the ISO ratings in the county and these stations would certainly help do just that.

Mr. Steen stated that there were many good things going on. He mentioned the big sign “NETC Marlboro Campus” at the old winn-dixie property and stated that it makes him feel good to see this. He stated that he was expecting great things from this transfer and moving forward.

Mr. Steen stated that Council had input on the \$40 solid waste fee to assist with the clean up of the county. He stated that the county has all kinds of trash and stated that it had been said time and time again that we can be poor but we do not have to be trashy. He stated that we have a good group of folks working on this and he looked forward to great results.

Chairman Steen stated that they would go directly into the Strategic Planning Session #3. He stated that staff had done a good job in making the presentations regarding the various concerns in the community and taking Council’s comments to come up with a plan to work towards for the next three to five years. Chairman Steen recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make his third and last presentation for Strategic Planning.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council had met on two prior occasions to discuss strategic planning. He stated that the first meeting was to identify issues and concerns that we as a community have, and the second meeting was to identify what issues or concerns Council had control over and what could be done. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that during this third meeting, staff would look at the list to see what Council could do to address the large issues and concerns and who might help with getting those issues or concerns resolved.

Mr. Munnerlyn provided a power point presentation and it was broken down into eight issues: (1) Health; (2) Environment; (3) Personal Financial Well-Being; (4) Public Safety; (5) Education; (6) Recreation and Amenities; (7) Transportation and Infrastructure; and (8) Need for Increased Efficiency of County Government. A copy of the power point is attached.

HEALTH

1ST SUB ISSUE – NO HOSPITAL OR FACILITY TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY EMS CALLS - Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the main concern was that the county had no local hospital or facility to receive emergency EMS calls and this resulted in problems with response times. He stated that there were two partners/related organizations that could help with this issue. Marlboro County General Hospital Charities Trust and Marlboro County Rescue. He stated that the Charities Trust had funds and also stated that Marlboro Rescue has their separate tax millage. He stated that Marlboro County has worked with Marlboro Rescue for years to provide EMS services and they have worked well together in the past.

2ND SUB ISSUE – NO HOSPITAL OR FACILITY – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council could lobby for a change in state law to permit NC hospitals to construct free standing emergency rooms in SC. He stated that this action would have to be taken by the Legislative Delegation to create a change in the law to allow NC to construct free standing emergency rooms in SC and this might be a way that Scotland might consider constructing a free-standing ER facility in our area.

3RD SUB ISSUE – NO HOSPITAL OR FACILITY – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council could also lobby and/or provide incentives to hospital systems which are currently permitted under state law to construct a free-standing emergency room in the county such as McLeod Health, Carolinas, or other company that currently operates a hospital in SC.

4TH SUB ISSUE – NO HOSPITAL OR FACILITY – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that another step Council could take on this would be to lobby to change DHEC regulations to allow EMS to transport emergency patients to Urgent Care facilities and this action would have to be taken by DHEC and the Legislative Delegation. He stated that Lexington County recently had a pilot program that allowed EMS to transport general sickness calls to Urgent Care facilities. He stated that EMS is currently transporting general sickness calls to Cheraw, Florence, Dillon and Laurinburg and this is taking a lot of time. He stated whereas before, the EMS could transport folks to our local hospital and drop them off and go to the next call.. They are now having to travel a distance and this is causing a lag in response times. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if the regulations and laws were changed allow EMS to transfer these general sickness calls to an Urgent Care facility locally, it would free up the vehicles for more immediate calls such as automobile accidents, strokes and heart attacks.

ENVIRONMENT

1ST SUB ISSUE – LITTER PROBLEM – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council had already gotten a start on this by imposing the \$40 solid waste fee. He stated that the revenue from this fee would allow county-wide clean-up effort regarding litter and illegal dumping. He also mentioned that grants were available for these programs such as Palmetto Pride and that the county had applied for this grant. He also mentioned the 62-day community service program to allow inmates to work out their community service by cleaning up roadsides.

2ND SUB ISSUE – DERELICT HOMES, MOBILE HOMES & STRUCTURES – Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that revenues from the derelict mobile home fees, general fund, solid waste and old CDBG could be used for this purpose to clean up abated structures and gateways to the county such as Marshall Street and the By-Pass which look really bad.

3RD SUB ISSUE – ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS & SITES – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that industrial sites in the county such as Delta which is located in the county, and Firestone in the City, would be very expensive to clean up. He mentioned that since the Firestone plant was located in the City that the City of Bennettsville might be willing to partner with the county to clean up the site. He also mentioned that federal grants of some kind would most likely be available to assist in the clean up of these sites.

4TH SUB ISSUE – SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM ISSUES – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the current service of solid waste collection (trash roll cart pickup) needed improvement. He stated that many residents are not using the service due to poor service and that these issues should be discussed with J. Davis Enterprises, our current provider, in order to better serve the citizens.

5TH SUB ISSUE – LITTER PROBLEM – Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that the county had purchased a large yellow dumpster for community clean-up support programs. He stated that this purchase was made from the solid waste fee proceeds and that communities could request the dumpster for their area at no charge and once the area was cleaned up the county would have the dumpster picked up, emptied and taken to another location.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

1ST SUB ISSUE – DECLINE IN INDUSTRY – JOBS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that one thing that could be done to improve this issue was to develop additional industrial site(s), and improve existing sites. He stated that a spec building would be most beneficial to have available for prospects to look at but that it would be expensive to build. He stated that monies were available through the general fund, economic development fund and grants and organizations that could assist would be SC Commerce, Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership, City of Bennettsville, utility companies and NESAs.

2ND SUB ISSUE – DECLINE IN INDUSTRY – JOBS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that another idea that could be done would be to have Marlboro County participate in additional multi-county industrial sites. He stated that we partnered with Dillon and Marion Counties for the Tri-County Industrial site for which Harbor Freight is a part of and this has been and will become even more successful. He stated that Harbor Freight has announced another expansion and it will double in size which means more money for Marlboro County. He stated that these parks allow counties to share a portion of the tax revenue from industries in the park which has been proven to be beneficial financially.

3RD SUB ISSUE – DECLINE IN INDUSTRY – JOBS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that another suggestion would be to improve our county-owned railroad system. He stated that the County owns the railroad and it is currently operated by Aberdeen and Rockfish. He stated that since diesel fuel has been at an all-time low, the railroad transport has decreased. He stated that he felt that once diesel fuel rises again, that the railroad transport would increase. He stated that the railroad needed to be better prepared for the needs which the existing industry has. He mentioned that Domtar's business with the railroad has recently decreased due to the railroad not being able to transport some of the large rolls of paper which they need to have transported. He suggested that the railroad could look into purchasing a cart that could handle the size of their paper and that would increase the railroad transport.

4TH SUB ISSUE – LOSS OF POPULATION – Mr. Munnerlyn suggested that we target recruitment of new residents with the Destination Marlboro approach. He stated that Clio has recently had folks come back and open a couple of restaurants such as CL-10 and Backyard Café. He stated that many folks are coming back to our area to retire because of the historic homes which Marlboro County has and he stated that we need to use that to our advantage and push it. He stated that the Economic Partnership, Marlboro Chamber of Commerce, City of Bennettsville and other regional agencies could help us push this. He stated that the result would be a net increase in target population and sale of vacant homes and buildings.

5TH SUB ISSUE – OVERALL ECONOMY – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that we could leverage tourism opportunities here in Marlboro. He stated that the county would be hiring a Museum and Cultural Affairs Director soon and that this would be an area that this person could focus. He stated that we should take advantage of folks coming through our area on the weekends and offer tours of our historical districts and this would result in sales tax revenue.

Chairman Steen asked Mr. Munnerlyn to go over the population information which was a real eye-opener for him. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that in doing research for this strategic planning he found that the population for Marlboro County back in 1990 was around 30,000 folks. He stated that as of 2016 the population had decreased to 26,945 and that that number actually includes a total of 1,308 inmates housed in Evans Correctional, as well as 1,688 inmates housed in the federal prison, which decreases the actual population to 23,949. He stated that as a result of this decrease, it is hard to support a local hospital and restaurants.

PUBLIC SAFETY

1ST SUB ISSUE – LIMITED PATROL DEPUTIES IN COUNTY – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that we needed improvement in coverage by patrol deputies in rural areas of the county. He stated that during the budget process, the Sheriff had requested funds for two additional deputies but this was not provided due to the number of vacancies that he currently had in his department. Council stated that once he filled all the positions this could be looked at again. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Sheriff's office did need more officers in uniform actually patrolling the county. He stated that it was his understanding that there were only two active deputies in uniform patrolling the entire county and these guys are running constantly from one end of the county to the other.

2ND SUB ISSUE – FIRE SERVICE (VOLUNTEER AND AGING FIREFIGHTERS) – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that our firefighters are aging and the interest of young folks to become involved as volunteers is not like it once was. He stated that staff has been working on developing incentives and providing expense reimbursement policies to recruit and retain volunteer firefighter. He stated that the county is currently paying volunteers a set fee each time that they respond to a call.

3RD SUB ISSUE – CITY 5-MILE RADIUS FIRE SERVICE CONTRACT – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff needed to evaluate the City of Bennettsville – Marlboro County “5-mile fire coverage” arrangement which has been in effect for years. He stated that the two entities swap services such as housing of inmates from the city at the county's detention center in

exchange for fire service to residents within a five mile radius of the city limits. He stated that the agreement had been in effect for years but that staff needed to look into to see if improvements could be made to benefit the county.

EDUCATION

1ST SUB ISSUE – LACK OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there were a lot of education problems but that these were not problems that Council could fix. He stated that Council discussed the need for vocational training and that they would certainly support this. The support has been confirmed by transferring the old Winn-Dixie building to Northeastern Technical College and will continue to support programs that Tech will propose to provide.

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

1ST SUB ISSUE – FIELD/TEAM SPORT FOCUS BY RECREATION – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff should complete deferred maintenance on existing County “field sport” facilities (including park/playground facilities). He stated that he did not feel that the County needed more soccer or ball fields with the population of our youth has decreased. He stated that he felt that we needed to improve and maintain what the County currently had.

2ND SUB ISSUE – FIELD/TEAM SPORT FOCUS BY RECREATION – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that more sports and activities needed to be developed for individuals with more focus on activities for girls and women.

3RD SUB ISSUE – NO PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS OR SENIORS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that more recreation programs and activities needed to be made available to our adults and seniors.

4TH SUB ISSUE – BLUE LAWS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there seemed to be a lot of interest in amending our “blue laws” to allow Sunday alcohol sales. He stated that Council had adopted a couple of years ago an Ordinance to allow for blue law sales with the exception of alcohol and that this would have to be put to a vote during a General Election for the citizens to make this decision. He stated that Council had agreed that it should be a personal decision made by the citizens and not a political decision. This will hopefully be done next year.

5TH SUB ISSUE – CULTURAL & HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS NOT UTILIZED – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff was in the process of hiring a museum director and one of the director’s responsibilities will be to improve the utilization of cultural and historical attractions and resources.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1ST SUB ISSUE – CONDITION OF ROADS (PAVED) – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the conditions of the roads needed improvement and the monies for this would come from state and federal funds and would require assistance from the Marlboro County Transportation Committee and SC Department of Transportation.

2ND SUB ISSUE – CONDITION OF ROADS (UNPAVED) – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that condition of the unpaved roads needed to be improved and that uninhabited or no public purpose roads could be retired and rock could be applied to populated roads. He stated that this was something that the current Public Works Director was looking into and assistance would be needed from the Marlboro County Transportation Committee to accomplish this.

3RD SUB ISSUE – LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that public transportation routes could be developed to service key county and regional employers such as Mohawk and Harbor Freight. He stated that sometimes four and five folks ride with one driver and when that one driver is sick it causes the others riding with him to not have transportation to work. He stated that there were economic development funds and grants available to develop this service.

4TH SUB ISSUE – NO INTERSTATE (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that we should propose and lobby for “I-73” north of Bennettsville to US-74 in Richmond County. He stated that when industries look at rural counties, they look for easy interstate access. He suggested that we work on getting Highway 38 North converted to a four-lane to NC 74. He stated that if we really fought hard enough for this that folks like NESAs and others would support and help make it a reality.

5TH SUB ISSUE – POOR INTERNET AND CELL PHONE SERVICE – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that we need to lobby for improved cell phone and internet service in the county. He stated that staff could contact the Legislative Delegation and the SC Public Service Commission since Mr. O’Neal Hamilton was a previous County Council Chairman and understands the need for better service.

NEED FOR INCREASED EFFICIENCY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that a few ideas on how efficiency could be increased for county government was as follows:

(1) IMPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTING – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that new software had been purchased at a cost of \$25,000 to provide for better financial reporting and this would assist staff in providing more accurate financial reports to allow staff and Council to understand how monies are spent.

(2) RESTRUCTURE COUNTY ORGANIZATION – FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY & SUCCESSION PLANNING. IMPROVE RECRUITING OF EMPLOYEES – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there were a number of employees retiring in the upcoming months and this time could be used as an opportunity to look at job descriptions and reorganize duties if there was a need to do so.

(3) CREATE AND IMPLEMENT METRICS TO TRACK PERFORMANCE OF ALL DEPARTMENTS. SET ANNUAL GOALS FOR PERFORMANCE – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that department heads will be providing monthly reports on what is going on so that staff and Council may review this and understand if there is a need for additional employees or what their other needs may be.

(4) IMPLEMENT FACILITY AND FLEET MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the County had purchased a software program that cost less than \$25,000 that will allow every office in the county to create a work order by computer to send to the appropriate person for service. He stated that this would allow staff to track the amount of work being done by the department, the amount spent for the work to be completed, as well as time. He stated that this program would also eventually track all fleet maintenance to allow staff to determine when the need for new vehicles may be near.

(5) IMPLEMENT 311 SYSTEM FOR CITIZEN COMPLAINTS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this software program could be implemented to allow citizens to call the number “311” to report any road problems, trash problems, dog complaints, etc. so that these calls could go directly to the department for handling. He stated that this was a system that the City of Bennettsville could also partner with the county to use the service.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that was the conclusion of his presentation but that he would answer any questions that Council members may have. There were no questions.

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Munnerlyn for his presentation and stated that much work had been put into the last three presentations over the last couple of months and he appreciated Mr. Munnerlyn’s efforts on this.

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested that Council consider going into executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel issues and contractual issues.

Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. to enter into executive session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

After approximately 65 minutes, a Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Corrie Plato, to end executive session and convene to the open meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to amend the agenda to add a new item of business as 10.a., Approval of Budget Transfer and approve Administrator authority over retiring employees. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chairman Steen recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn to make comments on this item. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that pursuant to County budget policy, staff requests an interdepartmental transfer of \$90,000 from the departments below to the non-departmental budget. He stated that the purpose of this request was to fund the hiring of personnel for the replacement of several key positions who have provided notice of their intent to retire prior to end of FY 2017-18. He stated that the transfers would fund hiring of replacements prior to the department of retiring employees thereby allowing for a smooth transition of key positions in the organization.

November 14, 2017 County Council Meeting

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. to approve staff's request relating to a budget transfer of \$90,000 to cover expenses related to recruiting replacement for retiring employees and to grant authority to the Administrator to enter into agreement with retiring employees that allows benefits to be paid to employees working less than 30 hours as part of a formal succession plan. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 pm.

(SEAL)



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: December 12, 2017

2017 Strategic Planning

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

Session 3 – November 13, 2017



Strategic Planning Process

- Meeting 3
 - Determine County initiatives for next 1-5 years
- Outcome
 - Guiding document for County for next 3-5 years
 - Road show?



ISSUE:		Health				
SUB ISSUE	INITIATIVE	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
No hospital or facility to receive emergency EMS calls	Improve response times of EMS	\$\$\$\$	Dedicated EMS tax millage	Marlboro Rescue	reduction in response times	
No hospital or facility...	Lobby for change in state law to permit N.C. hospitals to construct free standing emergency rooms in S.C.	\$0	N/A	Legislative Delegation	change in law	
No hospital or facility...	Lobby/incentivize hospital systems (permitted under state law) to construct a free-standing emergency department in the county	\$0	N/A	McLeod Health, Carolinas, others	decision to construct facility	
No hospital or facility...	Lobby to change DHEC regs to allow EMS to transport emergency patients to Urgent Care facilities	\$0	N/A	Legislative Delegation	change in regulation	

ISSUE: Environment

SUB ISSUE	INITIATIVE	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Litter Problem	County-wide clean-up effort (Litter and illegal dumping)	\$300,000	General fund taxes, Solid Waste Fee	City/towns, law enforcement, Palmetto Pride, Judicial System	
Derelict homes, mobile homes & structures	Identify and abate derelict structures & mobile homes	\$50,000	Derelict mobile home fee, General fund, Solid Waste Fee, old CDBG	City/towns, MCED Partnership	number of structures abated, appearance of gateways to County
Abandoned industrial buildings & sites	Identify & abate abandoned Industrial Buildings (Delta in county, Firestone in City)	\$1 million+	???	City of Bennettsville	abatement of properties
Solid waste collection system issues	Improve service of Solid Waste Collection (trash roll cart pickup)	??	Contractor	J. Davis Enterprises	reduction in complaints, increase in users previously lost due to service
Litter Problem	Yellow Dumpster - Community clean-up support program	\$40,000	Solid Waste Fee		number of organized clean-up events

ISSUE: Personal Financial Well-Being						
SUB ISSUE	INITIATIVE	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Decline in industry - jobs	Development of additional industrial site(s) , improvement of existing sites	\$3 million+	General fund, Economic Development funds, grants	SC Commerce, MC ED Partnership, City of Bennettsville, utilities, NESAs	Net increase in jobs and capital investment	
Decline in industry - jobs	Participation in additional multi-county industrial sites	??	Economic development funds, grants, SC Commerce, NESAs	Marion County and/or other interested counties in close proximity		
Decline in industry - jobs	Leverage County-owned railroad	Reduction in short term net revenue		Aberdeen and Rockfish (contracted operator)	increase in annual car loads/revenue	
Loss of Population	Target recruitment of new residents - Destination Marlboro	??	General fund, Economic Development funds, grants	MC ED Partnership, Marlboro Chamber of Commerce, City of Bennettsville, state/regional agencies	Net increase in target population, sale of vacant houses and buildings	
Overall economy	Leverage Tourism opportunities - Destination Marlboro	??	General fund, Economic Development funds, grants	MC ED Partnership, Marlboro Chamber of Commerce, City of Bennettsville, state/regional agencies	Increase in sales tax revenue	

ISSUE: Public Safety

SUB ISSUE	INITIATIVE	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Limited Patrol Deputies in County	Improve coverage by patrol deputies in rural areas of county	\$	General fund		increase in number of patrol officers
Fire Service (volunteer and aging firefighters)	Develop incentives, expense reimbursement policies to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters	\$	Dedicated fire tax millage	Volunteer fire districts	number of volunteer firefighters vs. prior year by department
City 5-mile radius fire service contract	Evaluate City of Bennettville - Marlboro County "5-mile fire coverage" arrangement	\$0	N/A	City of Bennettville	

ISSUE: Education

SUB ISSUE	INITIATIVE	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Lack of vocational training	Support NETC effort to develop program in old Winn-Dixie building	\$0	N/A	NETC	increase in students in NETC Bennettsville programs

ISSUE: Recreation and Amenities

SUB ISSUE	INITIATIVE	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Field/Team sport focus by Recreation	Complete deferred maintenance on existing County "field sport" facilities (include park/playground facilities)	\$200,000	General fund	MC Recreation Advisory Board	Completion of work orders
Field/Team Sport focus by Recreation	Develop sports and activities for individuals. More focus on activities for girls/women	\$50,000	General fund	MC Recreation Advisory Board	Program listing, schedule of events
No programs for Adults or Seniors	Develop adult and senior recreation programs	\$300,000	General fund	MC Recreation Advisory Board	number of programs offered, participation statistics
Blue Laws	Amend "Blue Laws" to allow Sunday alcohol sales	0	N/A		sales tax revenue
Cultural & Historical attractions not utilized	Improve utilization of cultural and historical attractions/resources	\$300,000	General fund	MC Historic Preservation Commission	

ISSUE: Transportation and Infrastructure

SUB ISSUE	INITIATIVE	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Condition of roads (paved)	Improve conditions of paved roads in County	\$\$\$\$	State and federal funds	MC Paving Committee, SC Department of Transportation	miles of resurfacing
Condition of roads (unpaved)	Improve condition of unpaved roads -retire uninhabited or no public purpose roads & apply "rock" to populated roads	\$\$\$\$	MC Road Maintenance Fee, MCTC grants	MC Transportation Committee	Reduce number of "uninhabited" roads. Increase total miles of road with "rock"
Lack of public transportation	Develop public transportation routes to service key county and regional employers	\$\$\$\$	Economic Development funds, grants	PDRTA?, SC Commerce, existing industries	ridership
No interstate (economic development)	Propose and lobby for "I-73" north of Bennettville to US-74 in Richmond County, NC	\$\$\$\$		SCDOT, Federal Transportation agencies, NESAs, SC Commerce, PD Council of Governments	
Poor Internet and cell phone service	Lobby for improved cell phone and internet service in County	N/A		Legislative Delegation, SC Public Service Commission	

ISSUE: Need for Increased Efficiency of County Government

INITIATIVES	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE	PARTNERS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Improve financial reporting	\$25,000	FY17-18	elected officials, software vendors	final reports
Restructure County organization - focus on efficiency & succession planning. Improve recruiting of employees.	\$100,000	FY17-18	elected officials, software vendors	successful recruiting and on-boarding of key employees
Create and implement metrics to track performance of all departments. Set annual goals for performance.	\$0	FY17-18	Department heads, elected officials	monthly reports from each department
Implement facility and fleet maintenance software programs	\$25,000	FY17-18 General Fund	software vendors, consultants	implementation and uses of system
Implement 311 system for citizen complaints	\$75,000	FY17-18 (\$25k software) FY18-19 (\$50k dispatch personnel)	City of Bennettsville, towns?	implementation and use of system

Next Steps