

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

“CALLED MEETING”  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

5:00 PM

CHAIRMAN	DR. CAROLYN A. PRINCE
VICE-CHAIRMAN	JASON STEEN
ADMINISTRATOR	RON MUNNERLYN
CLERK TO COUNCIL	PATRICIA BUNDY
COUNTY ATTORNEY	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

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\* 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 Ms. Lynn McQueen and Mr. Dan McNiel 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 Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Discussion of legal/contractual issues and an economic development project, pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70)

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to enter into executive session to discuss legal/contractual issues and an economic**

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**development project, pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70). Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

The executive session lasted approximately 65 minutes.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to reconvene to open meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that two new items needed to be added to the agenda. The first item was to establish a task force to explore issues of the County's emergency medical services, and the second was to approve a request from staff to proceed with Project Phoenix.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to amend the agenda to include two new items of business under New Business as (a) Authorize County Administrator to proceed with necessary legal/procedural action related to a new economic development project known as Project Phoenix; and (b) Establish a Task Force to Explore Issues of the County's existing Emergency Medical Services. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROCEED WITH NECESSARY LEGAL/PROCEDURAL ACTION RELATED TO A NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT KNOWN AS PROJECT PHOENIX

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this project would rehabilitate property in Marlboro /county which is not currently being disclosed but would be very positive for Marlboro County. He stated that staff requests authorization for three separate items to be taken on this project: (1) to authorize county administrator and staff to do obtain clear title to the property Phoenix; (2) provide staff and legal action to encourage clean-up of the property; and (3) to approve a budget amendment to allow up to \$200,000 to be transferred from the County's Economic Development fund to take the actions needed on this project.

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to authorize County Administrator to proceed with necessary legal/procedural action to obtain "clear" title to property related to Project Phoenix, to execute documents necessary to enter into a Voluntary Clean-up Contract with DHEC related to Project Phoenix and to amend the FY 2017-2018 Budget to approve expenditures from the county's Economic Development Fund not to exceed \$200,000 for completion of an environmental assessment and expenses related to the Project. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

#### ESTABLISH AN EMS TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING ISSUES OF THE COUNTY'S CURRENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that Marlboro General Hospital Charities Trust has stated that they are willing to discuss heading off any problems which the county is experiencing with our EMS services due to the closing of the hospital which took place approximately two years ago. Dr. Prince stated that the struggle was real for our poor county. She stated that there was a need to establish an EMS Task Force. Dr. Prince appointed the following: Marlboro County Council Chair, Marlboro County Council Vice Chairman, County Administrator, Chairman and Treasurer of Marlboro General Hospital Charities Trust Board, and three members of the Marlboro Rescue Squad Board. Dr. Prince stated that the committee would examine issues and then determine the actual cost of operating EMS at an appropriate level and examine the operating agreement between Marlboro Rescue and Marlboro County to be sure it addresses all operational requirements of providing the service in our county.

**Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to establish an EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Task Force to include the Marlboro County Chairman, Marlboro County Vice-Chairman, County Administrator, Chairman and Treasurer of Marlboro General Hospital Charities Trust, and three members of the Marlboro Rescue Squad Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated that there was one other issue that he needed to bring to Council's attention. He stated that the City of Bennettsville has recently terminated the agreement which the city has with the county regarding municipal judges. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the funds for this are currently ran through the county's finance department. He stated that he wanted to make sure that members of Council were aware of this action by the city. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there were other contracts that the county has with the city and he had some concerns about whether or not the city would do the same with those contracts and terminate the contracts leaving citizens in the county without fire service. He stated that this was a very sensitive matter.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if the municipal judges were given notice of the termination of the contract. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the assistant municipal judge, Mr. Grover McQueen, who is employed by Marlboro County, has not received any type of written notice directly other than the letter which the city provided to himself as the county administrator. He stated that he was unsure if Judge Rob Stanton had received any written notice or not.

Chair Prince asked when the contract which the county has with the city for fire services expired and Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt the contract was coming up in April. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he did not want the citizens of Marlboro County to suffer because of politics.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that as a member of the Public Safety Committee, he felt that the fire services provided by the city was very important and that the annual contract would expire soon. He stated that he did not want to be in the same type situation as the contract for the municipal judges.

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Mr. Anthony Woods stated that no one wants to be blindsided and stated that the administrator should look into all other contract which the county has with the city and have a contingent plan in place should they be terminated by the city.

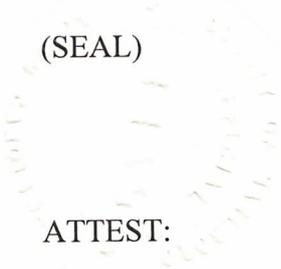
Chair Prince stated that it was the duty of council to protect the citizens of Marlboro County and provide the services for which the citizens are paying.

Chair Prince asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

ADJOURN

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

(SEAL)



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carolyn A. Prince", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair  
Marlboro County Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Patricia M. Bundy", is written over a horizontal line.

Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk  
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: February 13, 2018