

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING
214 EAST MARKET STREET, BENNETTSVILLE, SC

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019 **WORK SESSION**

5:00 PM

Present at the meeting: Dr. Carolyn Prince, Mr. Verd Odom, Mr. Steve Blackmon, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. and Mr. Anthony Woods

Absent: Mr. Willie Gladden

Others Present: Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator; Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director; Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director; Ms. Doris Sumpter, Director of Administrative Services; Ms. Jackie Hough, Reporter for Herald-Advocate; and Ms. Patricia Bundy, Clerk to Council

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Dan McNeil and Jackie Hough 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).

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, called the work session meeting to order.

Mr. Anthony Woods gave the invocation.

Chair Prince recognized Ms. Ellen Hamilton, Director of Pee Dee Coalition. Ms. Hamilton thanked Council for allowing representatives from Pee Dee Coalition to attend the meeting to provide an update and stated that Ms. Janice Hamlin and Mr. Allen McBride would be making a few remarks.

Ms. Janice Hamlin, Director of New Beginnings Transitional Shelter, thanked Council for allowing her to speak. She stated the New Beginnings Transitional Shelter opened in June of 2017. She stated that the shelter prior to that time served as an emergency shelter where women and children could stay for no more than 30 days. She stated it is now a transitional shelter which allows women and children to stay up to two years. She stated a total of 81 women and kids have been served to date and the shelter could hold up to 25 at any given time. She stated the Marlboro County School District had donated a building to the shelter which will allow the shelter to offer life skills and provide resources to the women and children in the shelter. She stated staff at the shelter included herself as Director, two Case Managers, a Volunteer Coordinator, a House Administrator, and two Shelter Advocates. She stated the shelter had interior security cameras, as well as exterior cameras.

Ms. Hamlin stated the shelter provided women and children with a new beginning with the hope of breaking the cycle of domestic violence, while providing a place to start over by

securing the skills and resources needed to live both independently and free from threat of harm.

Chair Prince asked if the women at the shelter were able to find work prior to their leaving. Ms. Hamlin stated that the shelter worked with the Vocational Rehabilitation office and many women were able to secure jobs before leaving.

Chair Prince asked if the shelter provided services for the women to obtain their GED. Ms. Hamlin responded that they did work with the School District and that two have completed that program.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked where the shelter was located. Ms. Hamlin stated that when the shelter was operating as an emergency shelter, the location could not be disclosed but since it is now operated as a transitional shelter, it is located at 3615 Hickson Road in Wallace, SC.

Mr. Allen McBride, Director of Alternatives to Violence Program, appeared to provide an update. He stated that this program serves clients that are referred by the Magistrate's office or clients that receive Pretrial Intervention through the Solicitor's office, and Probation and Parole offices, due to anger issues in relationships and marriages, or if they have affected their children with their anger issues. Mr. McBride stated that the program consists of 26 weekly sessions and has services in seven counties. He stated each session lasted about 90 minutes and the program targets on ideas as to how clients can respond to their anger and helps them to learn how to make healthy choices rather than using physical force to hurt others that they say they love.

Mr. McBride stated anger was learned in our failed culture. He stated that statistics confirm that 60% of folks in America are frustrated and angry because of their diet. He stated that the new death rate in SC confirms that SC is tied with Tennessee for 5th for more women being killed by men and 92% of the women killed were by the use of guns.

Mr. McBride stated that this program served 288 clients last year and 218 successfully completed the program which confirmed a 75% success rate.

Chair Prince asked how long this program had been in operation in Marlboro County. Mr. McBride stated the Alternatives to Violence Program had been in Marlboro County for 21 years.

Chair Prince asked if clients were referred by the Solicitor's office and Magistrate's office and if so, how did the referral help with their cases. Mr. McBride stated the clients may be given a lighter sentence if they successfully complete the program when referred and also could possibly get their records expunged. He stated if they do not complete the program, their cases may be referred back to the Court for further sentencing.

Chair Prince stated that she understood that SC was in the top 10 states in Domestic Violence for women being murdered and stated that was unfortunate. She thanked Mr.

McBride and the Pee Dee Coalition for all their help and was happy to hear that the success rate for the program achieved a success rate of 75%.

Chair Prince stated that she understood that council needed to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual and economic development project pursuant and requested a motion.

Motion made at 5:15 pm by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual and economic development project. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

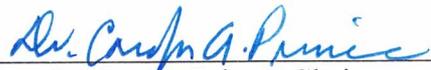
Motion made at 6:05 pm by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chair Prince stated that based on conversation held during executive session, Council would like the County Administrator to draft a letter in support of the Wild Turkey Project and provide regular updates to Council.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato to request County Administrator to draft letter of support of the Wild Turkey Project and to provide regular updates to County Council. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

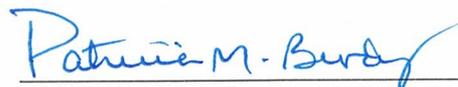
The work session was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

(SEAL)



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk

Date Adopted: November 12, 2019