

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO CIVIC CENTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE CHAIR
ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

CORRIE PLATO
RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
ANDREW MCLEOD

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.
KENNETH STROMAN
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

DR. DAMIEN JOHNSON
CORRIE H. PLATO
VERD ODOM
ANTHONY WOODS

- Absent

The Council meeting is being held at the Marlboro Civic Center to allow adequate space for an open meeting and to allow for social distancing.

Others Present: Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director; Ms. Doris Sumpter, Administrative Services Director; Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director; and Jackie Hough, of the Herald-Advocate.

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough and Mr. Dan McNeil 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).

INVOCATION- Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 807 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT COUNTY ROADWAYS FROM UNNECESSARY OR ADVANCED DETERIORATION AND PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, opened the public hearing and recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the public hearing for Ordinance # 807 that staff refers to as the Road Protection Ordinance. He stated two readings have been held on this Ordinance and third reading would be considered later in the meeting tonight. He stated this Ordinance will allow staff to issue tickets to folks such as logging companies or individuals who cause damage to county-maintained roads. He stated staff works hard to keep these roads in good shape and we hope this Ordinance will cut down on damages to our county-maintained roads.

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

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2021 – 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 Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the regular council meeting minutes of March 9, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 807 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT COUNTY ROADWAYS FROM UNNECESSARY OR ADVANCED DETERIORATION AND PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated this was the third reading on this Ordinance and comments were made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, during the public hearing earlier. He asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if all roads in the County were identified. He stated there were some county-maintained roads near the Clio park and there appeared to be some private roads as well in that area. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that County roads were marked with green signage and private roads were marked with blue signage. He stated this Ordinance would allow County officials to handle enforcement very similar to the way the State handles enforcement for damages to State roads.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 807 - an Ordinance to Protect County Roadways from Unnecessary or Advanced Deterioration and Provide Penalties for Violations. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 809 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF 1.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY MARLBORO COUNTY LOCATED AT INDUSTRIAL LANE TO “PROJECT OX” AND TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY OFFICIALS TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated there is an existing industry that needs additional property for an expansion and staff was working to determine the boundaries. He stated more information will be made available to Council at the third reading. He stated the expansion is estimated to create an additional 25 new jobs.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 809 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of 1.50 Acres, more or less, of Real Property Owned by Marlboro County Located at Industrial Lane to “Project Ox” and to Authorize County Officials to Take Such Action as Necessary to Effectuate the Purposes of this Ordinance, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 810 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND COLLECT A LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX IN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA – FIRST READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance was discussed with the Finance and Administration committee and they felt that we should have first reading in title only available for consideration by Council at tonight’s meeting. He stated the City of Bennettsville has a hospitality tax that pays a penny for every dollar spent for prepared food and those funds are used for recreation and tourism. He stated as Council and staff look at recreation, this would be a source of recurring money and staff estimates that this new tax would bring in approximately \$100,000 per year. He stated staff has asked Council to approve first reading of the Ordinance tonight and more information would be provided at next reading. He stated funds from this tax would create new money for new programs and would not be property tax based. He stated the beach traffic could contribute towards the tax as well.

Mr. Munnerlyn recommended Council approve first reading of the Ordinance.

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve first reading of Ordinance # 810 – an Ordinance to Establish and Collect a Local Hospitality Tax in Marlboro County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 811 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance, along with Ordinance # 812 is a part of the budget process. He stated in years past, first readings have been handled by title only to allow additional time for staff to pull numbers together for the next fiscal year's budget. He stated staff was still working on trying to decipher estimated revenues for the next fiscal year. He stated expenses were easy to predict but revenues were much more difficult to predict.

Mr. Munnerlyn requested that Council approve first reading in title only of this and the next item on the agenda, Ordinance 812. He stated he would have a presentation for Council at the second reading for review and discussion.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 811 – an Ordinance to Adopt the Annual Budget and to Make Appropriations for Marlboro County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 and Ending June 30, 2022. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 812 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF FY 2022-2026 – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, has stated this was a companion document to the budget Ordinance and recommended Council consider approving the first reading in title only of this Ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 812 – An Ordinance to Approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Marlboro County for the Period of FY 2022-2026. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE # 813 - AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MARLBORO COUNTY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was a renewal of the Emergency Ordinance for COVID-19. He stated he hoped that this would be the last time that it would need to be renewed but it was the same as the prior Emergency Ordinances with no additional changes.

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

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve Emergency Ordinance # 813 – an Emergency Ordinance to Declare a State of Emergency in Marlboro County and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 814 – AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN REVENUES DERIVED FROM ONE OR MORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS LOCATED IN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (“COUNTY”) IN THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINSS PARK BETWEEN DARLINGTON AND MARLBORO COUNTIES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a few months back Council had approved an Ordinance extending property tax incentives to Domtar due to some of the property coming off the original agreement. He stated Council had been proactive in renewing these types of agreements. Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance is the second part of the tax incentives agreement with Domtar which sets forth how the revenues from the taxes are split with the Town of Tatum. He stated the Ordinance refers to projects in the joint county industrial and business park to satisfy the state law requirements.

Mr. Munnerlyn recommended approving the first reading by title only and stated that more information would be provided at the time of second reading.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 814 – an Ordinance Ratifying and Authorizing the Allocation of Certain Revenues Derived from one or more Economic Development Projects Located in Marlboro County, South Carolina (“County”) in the Joint County Industrial

and Business Park Between Darlington and Marlboro Counties; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 815 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MARLBORO COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance as well as Ordinances #816 and #817 were basically the same. He stated most Marlboro County Boards and Commissions allow for members of Council to appoint qualified folks in the County to serve for their district without requiring them to reside in their district. He stated this Ordinance and the other next two proposed Ordinances currently specifically state that members of Council shall appoint individuals residing in their district as their representatives on these boards. He stated it was becoming harder to find qualified folks to serve on these Boards and Commissions and many times members of Council can find qualified folks outside their district to serve.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that Councilman Ken Stroman recently appointed someone to serve on a board, but the appointee was not a resident in his district and the Ordinance for that board requires that the appointee be a registered elector residing in the district from which he/she is appointed. He stated these changes to these Ordinances would remove the requirement that appointees must reside in districts for which they are appointed.

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

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 815 – an Ordinance Establishing the Marlboro County Library Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 816 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MARLBORO COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 816 – an Ordinance Establishing the Marlboro County Historic Preservation Commission. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 817 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MARLBORO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 817 – an Ordinance Establishing the Marlboro County Planning Commission. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 04-21-01 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR AIRPORT CARES GRANT FROM THE

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000.00 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Resolution would allow staff to apply for a CARES grant in the amount of \$9,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration. He stated if the grant is awarded, the funds would be used for costs related to operations, cleaning, sanitation, and janitorial services. Mr. Munnerlyn stated it has been the practice of the County staff over the years to have Council approve the application and acceptance if awarded of all grants by Resolutions in case there is ever a need for a match. He stated there was no match required from the County on this grant.

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

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve Resolution # 04-21-01 – a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application by Marlboro County for Airport CARES Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration in the Amount of \$9,000.00 and Authorization to Accept Grant if Awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 04-21-02 – A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE TRI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK PARTNERSHIP WITH MARION AND DILLON COUNTIES WITH REGARDS TO PROPERTY IN MARION COUNTY

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this item had been discussed in the past but felt it necessary to have a Resolution confirming support. He stated Dillon, Marion and Marlboro counties have partnered together to form the Tri-County Industrial Park and this has been in effect since the 1990s. He stated the partnership has worked very well and the county receives revenues from tax revenues that are derived from industries in the park. He stated the park is running out of land and the park agreement between the three counties state that the park may be expanded by adding property from any of the three counties. He stated Marion has a site and is a good position with the state to get funds to help attract industries. He stated Marion County staff has asked that we provide support to move in that direction. Mr. Munnerlyn stated this partnership has worked well in the past and suggests that Council consider approving the Resolution.

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

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Resolution # 04-21-02 – a Resolution Expressing Support for Possible Expansion of the Tri-

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

County Industrial Park Partnership with Marion and Dillon Counties with Regards to Property in Marion County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AMENDED AND RESTATED DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE I-95 GATEWAY INDUSTRIAL PARK AND ADJACENT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the name I-95 Gateway Industrial Park is an alias name for the Tri-County Park that we have with Dillon and Marion counties. He stated there is a new 375,000 square foot building that has been added to the park as a part of Harbor Freight. He stated the document for consideration approves variances to the existing building and this is done from time to time. He stated the park's attorney has reviewed the document.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Amended and Restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for the I-95 Gateway Industrial Park and Adjacent Commercial Property, Dillon, South Carolina. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONSIDERATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. ELLA ROSS TO SERVE ON THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AUTHORITY OF MARLBORO COUNTY BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR (4) YEAR TERM

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to reappoint Ms. Ella Ross to the Housing and Community Authority of Marlboro County Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any recommendations for Board and Commission appointments. There were none.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, for his report.

Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, stated the general fund revenues for the nine months ending March 31st, 2021 total \$9,302,040. He stated general fund expenditures through March 31st,

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

2021 total \$8,351,440 of a \$12,038,883 budget or 69.37% of budget year to date. He stated as of the same date, the County has \$5,050,529 in the four general operating accounts.

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

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

Chairman Steen recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, for the report.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees are recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of March: Patricia Bundy (8 years); Martha McQuage (14 years); Luther Brown (19 years); Beverly McKiver (25) years; and Don Driggers (10 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Lunch provided at the Community Kitchen** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated Marlboro County will provide lunch at the Community Kitchen tomorrow. He stated Ms. Doris Sumpter will be leading the group and the menu will include BBQ, baked beans, slaw, and cookies. He stated the plates will be provided for take-out only.
2. **Sandhill Connexions Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for Sandhill Connexions' new location will be held on Friday, April 16th from 10 am – 2 pm at 221 15-401 ByPass E. He stated members of Council are invited to attend.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Community Clean-Up Event – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Community Clean-Up Event has been scheduled for Saturday, May 15th from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon or until folks finish the clean-up of their designated areas. He stated if folks are unable to participate on Saturday, they may pick up on Friday or anytime that weekend. He stated staff asks that a contact for each group organized notify Ms. Patricia Bundy at 843-479-5600 to provide names and the area which the group will focus on. He stated staff is encouraging folks to focus on the main corridors of the County such as Highway 38 (North and South), Highway 9 (East and West), and Highway 15-501 (East and West) and then move to other problem areas.

CDC Statement on Meeting with Vaccinated Individuals

Mr. Munnerlyn stated The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced their findings that vaccinated people can safely participate in small indoor meetings with other vaccinated without the need for masks. He stated folks are encouraged to continue to wear masks in public spaces or situations with unvaccinated individuals. He stated this was great news and will allow staff to have more in-person meetings. He stated staff proposes to resume all future Council meetings in

its Council Chambers located at 214 E. Market Street, Bennettsville, SC, if Council feels this to be appropriate. All agreed.

Newsletter – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the deadline to have information included in the second edition of our County Newsletter is May 10th.

Recreation-Community Meeting and Subsequent Image Committee Meeting- Mr. Munnerlyn stated there was an excellent turn-out for our meeting with the City of Bennettsville Council and the Image Committee of the MC Economic Development Partnership. He stated all parties expressed interest in moving forward and the Image Committee has since met and is moving forward with advertising for a consultant to study our situation and options for the future. He stated the guiding questions for the study are:

- 1) What do we currently have (facilities, programs – all local entities)?
- 2) What do we need? (based demographics, what works in similar communities, etc.)
- 3) How do we pay for it?
- 4) Who is in charge (how do we operate and govern facilities' programs once completed)?

American Rescue Act Plan of 2021- Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Act signed March 11, 2021 by President Biden provides for \$1.9 TRILLION dollars of which \$65.1 billion is to go directly to Counties. He stated currently it is estimated that approximately \$5.9 million will make its way to us (Marlboro County).

Mr. Munnerlyn stated as with most federal legislation, it is very complicated and difficult to navigate. He stated in this case, so far there are no definitive rules regarding what the money can be used for. He stated the general intent of the funds is to provide financial revitalization of our local economy and to assist with infrastructure issues.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated there are several items which staff feels fit the broad rules and that would have a positive impact on the economic future of our county as well as the immediate quality of life for these citizens:

- 1) Apply aggregate (rock, slag) to all unpaved county roads with people living on them (\$600,000).
- 2) Develop a Revolving Loan Fund for small businesses (\$500,000).
- 3) Set aside funds to remove eyesores and derelict structures along the main roads/highways in the County (\$600,000).
- 4) Hire a consultant to conduct a study on the feasibility and cost of making SC Highway 38 north 4-lane from Bennettsville to the NC line.

He stated staff is working with other counties and officials to interpret the rules as they become clearer from the Federal government.

Broadband - Mr. Munnerlyn stated Sandhill Telephone Cooperative will once again be applying for CARES Act funding to further extend broadband in our county. He stated staff is working with Sandhill to provide support in developing applications for the money. He stated Sandhill

intends to extend service from the main fiber lines added during the first phase of CARES Act funding.

I-73 - Mr. Munnerlyn stated there is renewed talk of I-73 considering the trillions of dollars being allocated for infrastructure and other Federal programs. He stated Marlboro County Council has previously expressed their opposition to I-73 considering its view of the negative impact the highway would have. He stated with only three interchanges in the county, the highway would create a barrier, splitting communities in many areas of the county and would increase transport time to hospitals or fire responses. He stated Council may want to consider revisiting the issue soon and expressing their views more publicly.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Ms. Pearlie Lawson – stated she was present to follow up on flooding issues which she discussed last month. She stated the Senate is talking about flooding issues in Horry County. She stated members of the NAACP want to find a way to get County, City and Legislative Delegation to partner together to get help for those having flooding issues in Richardson Park, Clio, and other areas of the County. She stated the NAACP wrote a letter to Congressman Rice, Senator Malloy, Senator Williams, Representative Henegan and Representative Hayes regarding the flooding issues in the County advising them that they needed their support as well as the support of the City and County. She mentioned state funds and grant funding that may be available to help solve some of the issues with flooding. She stated these folks really need help. She stated the weather was dry now, but rain was coming. She stated we are not even in Hurricane season yet.

Ms. Lawson mentioned redistricting training that would be available in May. She stated the NAACP would like to be a part of that.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – thanked City Councilman Gregory Scott and City Councilman Tyron Abraham for attending the meeting tonight. He suggested a joint meeting between the City and County to sit down for a round table discussion and to brainstorm on how we can work together. He stated he understood that the virus was still a concern but felt that those that have been vaccinated could meet. He mentioned that there were several folks that had not taken the vaccination and it was simply by choice and that was their decision. He stated he felt we should encourage everyone to take the vaccination and encouraged everyone to push our family members and friends to consider taking the vaccination.

Ms. Corrie Plato – thanked Ms. Pearlie Lawson for coming and thought that Council would support her and help her with the issues discussed tonight.

Ms. Plato congratulated Ms. Patricia Bundy on her anniversary.

Ms. Plato stated that a lady called her about cleaning up places on State Road and she told her that she would pass her concerns on to Mr. Doug Carabo.

Ms. Plato mentioned Mr. Dwayne Grace and Ms. Ella Grace who reside off the ByPass about some issues on properties in front of her. She asked Mr. Doug Carabo to look at that area to see what could be done.

Ms. Plato stated she was pleased to hear that appointees to various boards and commissions did not have to reside in the district of the Council member making the appointment. She stated there are two vacancies for district 4 on a couple of boards and commissions, but this would help her a great deal. She stated she would be able to make recommendations for these vacancies at the next meeting.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – thanked Ms. Pearlie Lawson for the information she provided on the flooding issues. He stated these issues are very important to those that live in those areas. It is important that these folks see that members of Council are trying to do something to help them.

Mr. Stroman thanked City Councilmen Abraham and Scott for attending the meeting tonight. He stated he would like to set up a meeting with members of City Council sooner than later.

Mr. Stroman wished Ms. Patricia Bundy a Happy Anniversary. He also thanked Mr. Munnerlyn for his help in addressing the issue requiring that appointees reside in the district for which they are appointed to various boards and commissions. He stated making the change to allow folks outside his district to serve on these boards would be a huge help.

Dr. Damien Johnson – thanked Ms. Pearlie Lawson for contacting the Legislative Delegation and providing the update of the problems and requesting support. He stated we must work together with all elected officials and stated County Council needed to do what we could to help with the issues. He stated it was not fan-fair, but he acknowledged her efforts. He addressed Ms. Lawson and stated she had his support, and the needs of the victims should be addressed.

Dr. Johnson thanked Councilmen Abraham and Scott for attending the meeting. He suggested that a date and time be arranged to meet and collaborate to do what we can to help with the issues with Crooked Creek. He stated all knew there were blockages in Crooked Creek, and he felt the County had the resources to do something. He stated the grounds are dry now, but the rain would come soon. He stated we cannot do everything but there was something that the County could do. The city would appreciate our help in doing something.

Dr. Johnson recognized Ms. Sylvia Murphy, a loyal, vocal, and hardworking district member. He stated she works hard in her district and needs assistance with a dirt road, Edgefield Lane. He stated she has contacted the Transportation Board and due diligence has been done by her. He stated that area needed to be looked at to see what could be done. He stated we are one county, and we need to work together to make this place a better place to live. He stated it was time for the County to put our money where our mouth is. We are in good financial shape and we should look outside the box help others. He stated we needed to improve things in Marlboro County so that it will be a better place to live, work and play.

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – commended Ms. Pearlie Lawson on her efforts. Thanked City Councilmen Scott and Abraham for attending the meeting and stated he looked forward to working with them in future endeavors.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – commended staff on revisions recommended to some of the Board and Commission Ordinances to allow members of Council to appoint folks outside their district to serve. He stated this would help him a great deal in finding qualified folks to serve to represent his district.

Mr. Verd Odom – congratulated Ms. Patricia Bundy on her anniversary.

Mr. Odom thanked Ms. Pearlie Lawson for coming and providing the update.

Mr. Odom mentioned the Johnson & Johnson vaccination and stated the one-shot vaccination was suspended today by the FDA. It needs some more studies.

Mr. Odom stated there had been a lot of shootings around the county and law enforcement has had to report to these calls. He asked that everyone keep Sheriff and Police officers in mind because they never know how a call will turn out. He stated they work 24/7, 365 days a year.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – thanked Councilman Odom for his comments and stated his office has been in the middle of a situation all day today. He also thanked members of Council for all they do for him and his department. He asked that all continue to pray for him and his staff.

Mr. Jason Steen – thanked City Councilmen Abraham and Scott for attending the meeting tonight.

Mr. Steen thanked Ms. Pearlie Lawson for the update. He stated the issues in Conway were being addressed and stated Congressman Tom Rice has done some things to help with those issues. Mr. Steen stated a few folks from the City and County's staff were going to Conway tomorrow to see what was done and will bring information back. We do not want to reinvent the wheel, but we are working on the issues. He stated it takes time and stated Council does want to alleviate the problems these folks are having. He stated if there was a way that something could be done, he wanted to know how it could be done.

Mr. Steen stated that he had learned recently that the State Transport Police and SC Highway Patrol have been asked to enforce litter control. He stated there is a lot of trash along the roadways. He stated he picked up six bags of trash about a quarter of a mile in front of his home. He stated trash carts were placed at every household and Council thought this would make a difference, but it really has not. He stated folks throw couches along roadsides rather than take them to the convenience centers. He stated Council does what it feels is best for Marlboro County but if folks do not take pride in where they work and live, there was not much Council could do. He stated if there was a way to fix the litter problem to please let him know and he will try and put it in place. He stated the litter was a problem in North Carolina as well. He stated folks must take care of our land. He stated litter in the County was getting worse and the trash carts did not help. He stated folks in the County want industry and recreation but when

April 13, 2021 County Council Meeting

folks visit our County see all the trash, he felt it was very discouraging. Mr. Steen challenged everyone to report anyone that they may find littering.

Mr. Steen commended Sheriff Lemon and his department for the work they do. He stated he would keep them all in his prayers.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

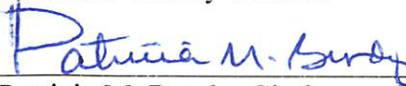
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

(SEAL)



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: May 11, 2021