

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 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

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

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough and Mr. Dan McNiel 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. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 818 – AN ORDINANCE TO OUTLINE CONDITIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the companion to third reading for Ordinance # 818 referred to as the Solar Ordinance which establishes regulations and rules for solar energy systems. He stated this has been discussed during the last couple of council meetings. He stated the Ordinance sets forth conditions for setbacks from dwellings and adjoining property lines, as well as conditions for decommissioning and other requirements.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a couple of the key points were (1) the Ordinance requires a vegetative buffer of about three feet tall be erected around the edge of the property to block the solar farm from the public view; and (2) requires setbacks of not less than 100 feet from property lines and not less than 400 feet from any dwelling. Mr. Munnerlyn stated if someone wanted to develop near a residential area, these setback requirements would provide residents in the area some protection.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Ordinance has been reviewed by the county’s environmental attorney to confirm the legality of its content.

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

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JULY 13, 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 Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the regular council meeting minutes of July 13, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 818 – AN ORDINANCE TO OUTLINE CONDITIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated the public hearing was just held on this Ordinance and comments were made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, the County Administrator. He stated staff has worked hard in the drafting of this Ordinance and has recommended that Council approve third and final reading.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 818 – an Ordinance to Outline Conditions for Renewable Energy Systems and to Establish the Effective Date of this Ordinance. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 819 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE NEGOTIATION OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY AND COHN CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPECULATIVE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING TO BE LOCATED IN THE MARLBORO COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance would allow for the negotiation of a construction contract for the speculative industrial building. He stated Council had approved the bid from Cohn Construction. He stated staff has met with the County Attorney and were in the process of reviewing the drafted contract and he was hopeful that the review would be complete by the third reading. He stated the contract was a standard contract, but it was very lengthy with many details. He stated he felt that construction would begin later this year. He stated as everyone was aware, even steel materials needed for the project are now weeks out from being available.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if the bid would be good for a certain period while the contract is being negotiated. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the bid would be locked in as long as the contract is signed and approved in the next 30 days. He stated if a called meeting was necessary to move the matter along, he would let Council know.

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

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 819 – an Ordinance to Approve the Negotiation of a Contract Between Marlboro County and Cohn Construction Services for the Construction of a Speculative Industrial Building to be Located in the Marlboro County Industrial Park. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION # 08-21-01 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MARLBORO COUNTY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (SCDJJ) FOR THE DETENTION OF JUVENILES

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this agreement is reviewed annually. He stated juveniles cannot be detained at the local detention center but must be transported to a state facility. He stated this Resolution approves the terms of the agreement which remain the same as previous years.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Resolution # 08-21-01 – a Resolution Authorizing Marlboro County to Enter into an Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) for the Detention of Juveniles. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 08-21-02 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SET THE LOST CREDIT FACTOR

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Council had adopted the annual budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 and there have been some discussion about the revaluation which occurred this year where all properties were reviewed. He stated the staff bases the millage on the budget which was adopted. He stated it was a little different this year since the revaluation of properties has taken place. He stated if the values of properties go up, staff cannot use those inflated numbers to increase taxes. He stated by law, staff is required to look at the numbers and then adjust it down or up so that the same amount is brought in for properties where nothing has changed. He stated there was good news in that when values increase, it means more money will come in for the future. He stated by law the county must reduce taxes for the current year. He stated right now the county's ordinary millage is 93.3 mils. He stated staff is suggesting that the millage be reduced to 90 mils to be in line with the required adjustments due to revaluation. He stated this would not affect any of the other jurisdictions, like the towns or school, and stated they must handle their adjustments in the same fashion as the county. He stated it was important to note that the County has not raised the county's ordinary tax millage for the past three years.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the second part was the LOST credit. He stated on all tax bills there appears a tax credit (LOST). He stated this credit is based on monies received from the state for

sales tax received locally, as well as a share of sales tax incurred from other larger areas in the state. He stated staff works to estimate how much sales tax will come in the next year, and based on that estimate, staff sets a percentage of how much taxes will be reduced for county residents. He stated at the end of every year, staff looks at the amount of sales tax received, and any extra funds are carried forward to the next year. He stated this year (2021-2022), staff estimates that more funds will be received from the state and believes that we will have additional surplus from the prior year. He stated folks spent a lot of money during COVID which generated a lot of sales taxes. He stated staff sets the LOST credit every year and this may not happen every year, but we must react as it occurs. He stated the millage rate and LOST together would likely result in a reduction of taxes for residents for the county portion only. He stated a pamphlet prepared by the SC Department of Revenue has been shared with each council member for their review which may help them to better understand the setting of millage rates for the county.

Mr. Munnerlyn recommended approval of the Resolution setting the millage rates for FY 2021-2022 and allowing the County Administrator, Mr. Wes Park as the Finance Director, and the County Auditor to set the LOST credit factor.

Chairman asked if the School Board needed to adjust their rates, as well as the municipalities. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the School District, and all municipalities are required to do the same work as our staff has to make the appropriate adjustments.

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

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Resolution # 08-21-02 – a Resolution Establishing the Millage Rates for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and Authorizing the County Auditor and County Administrator to set the LOST Credit Factor. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 08-21-03 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2021-2022 BUDGET

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Council has discussed the overtime rate for the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center several times in executive session. He stated as everyone was aware, the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center employees are currently paid on fluctuating overtime which means the more they work, the less they earn. He stated this was legal and most counties all over the state have used this method at one time, but Marlboro County is currently one of the few that still handles overtime this way. He stated he understood that every member of Council felt that a change was necessary.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff has estimated that the cost will be around \$167,000 with the effort to reduce 40% of the Detention Center's overtime hours and to reduce 10% of the Sheriff's

Department's overtime hours. He stated that means that some of the full-time vacant positions must be filled. He stated all counties are having trouble filling these type positions. He stated staff did not feel that a tax increase was needed for the additional \$167,000. He stated in the past, staff has had to wait until the end of the year or until the external auditors had completed their audit to find out how the county is doing financially. He stated the County currently has Mr. Wes Park as their Finance Director, who is a CPA. He stated with his help, staff can get a better understanding of the revenue growth that is not a part of the revaluation. He stated staff recommends and believes the County can absorb the \$167,000 without a tax increase. He stated staff could see how this works out and go from there. He mentioned Councilman Blackmon which always reminds us that taxes should not be increased unless it is necessary. He stated staff recommends approval of the resolution amending the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 for the overtime rate increase. He stated an Ordinance was needed to change the overtime rate and staff would bring that to Council at the next meeting assuming the Resolution is approved tonight.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman asked when the new overtime rate would take effect. Mr. Munnerlyn stated it would take effect as soon as the Ordinance approving the change is adopted. He stated the Ordinance would require three readings and a called meeting could be scheduled if needed.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Resolution # 08-21-03 – a Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment to the FY 2021-2022 Budget. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 08-21-04 – A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INITIATIVE TO FOUR-LANE SC HIGHWAY 9 FROM THE COAST TO LANCASTER UTILIZING SC 34, SC 38 SOUTH AND SC 9 WEST THROUGH MALBORO COUNTY AS WELL AS A FOUR-LANE CONNECTOR FROM BENNETTSVILLE NORTH TO NC74

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a map of the proposed route was sharedone of Council's strategic initiatives was to try to connect Bennettsville with I73/74 in Rockingham. He stated staff learned of an effort that folks in Chesterfield and Lancaster Counties were trying to four-lane Highway 9 from the beach to Lancaster. He stated we were able to insert ourselves in those discussions for a couple of reasons. He stated first, it is important that these folks understand our desire to connect 38; and second, it would be disruptive to Clio in that it would provide a four-lane through the town. He stated he felt this should be done without disrupting areas if possible.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the proposal to come out of Dillon Highway 34 and cut over on Highway 38 South and name the route maybe 9A. He stated Highway 38 would then provide a four-lane road to Bennettsville and Highway 9 would provide a four-lane road to Cheraw. He stated the

other part was to include a push to have a connector from Highway 38 N to NC and to not be very disruptive to communities and residents in the area.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff has gotten the plan on board with the Pee Dee Council on Governments. He stated Mayor Carolyn Prince, who remains on the Pee Dee COG Board, and speaks on behalf of Council, is helping with the push of this project. He stated utilizing Highway 34 along with Highway 38 would be a huge help to the traffic for the Inland Port in Dillon County. He stated there may be some costs Marlboro County would have in order to have a study prepared for this project, but staff was sure that these proposed routes were on the plan, and both would benefit Marlboro County. He stated staff would keep Council updated as matters progress.

Mr. Munnerlyn recommended approval of the Resolution supporting the project with utilizing Highways 34 and 38 South, as well as Highway 38 North.

Chairman Steen stated the traffic on Highway 38 was very heavy and this project would help a lot with ensuring safety for everyone traveling that road. He stated the four-lane of Highway 38 has been discussed for some time and he was happy to see that things were moving forward.

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 Resolution # 08-21-04 – a Resolution Supporting Initiative to Four-Lane SC Highway 9 from the Coast to Lancaster Utilizing SC 34, SC 38 South and SC 9 West Through Marlboro County as well as a Four-Lane Connector from Bennettsville North to NC74. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF GRANT REQUEST BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Library Director, Ms. Bobbie Grooms, has discussed with him the possibility of getting money via grant from the State to purchase a smaller vehicle for the library. He stated the grant would require no match from the County. He stated Ms. Grooms stated there was a need for another smaller vehicle that could be used for literacy events and other functions. He stated Ms. Grooms assured him there would be no costs to the county and all costs for the vehicle would be provided by the state.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff has always brought grant requests to Council to keep them informed.

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

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the Grant Request by Marian Wright Edelman Public Library to Purchase a Vehicle. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON OLD WIRE ROAD AND ACADEMY ROAD CLOSURES

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated the state has given the County a run around on their request for maintenance records on Old Wire Road but stated they have finally advised that records would be made available in the next 30 days. He stated no meeting has been scheduled with the SC Department of Transportation folks at this time, but he hoped that a meeting would be scheduled soon to include the landowners and any other needed parties. He stated once the meeting is held, he hopes that things will move forward on the repair of the road. He stated he understood that citizens have signed a petition requesting that the road be repaired and forwarded it to the State, and nothing has been done in response to the citizens' request.

Mr. Steen mentioned Academy Road and it's time for things to move forward and he did not feel the need to continue to wait. He stated there were details with lawyers and getting the actual legal work done and once that is done, the process will be moving forward. In the next month or so, we should have a start date and completion date on this road as well as Old Wire Rd.

Mr. Steen stated it is now hurricane season and there was a storm forming now in the tropics. He stated he understood that it was a bad time to repair these roads but stated the roads should have already been repaired. He mentioned the additional distances the Sheriff's deputies and EMS staff are required to travel to reach certain areas due to these roads being closed. He stated the extra time spent in traveling could cost a person's life. He stated it was time for these roads to be repaired and he was determined to get some answers to make it happen.

UPDATE ON REQUEST BY MARLBORO ELECTRIC COOPERTIVE FOR PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVES

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, for update on the requested by Marlboro Electric Cooperative for property tax incentives.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated in late April, Marlboro Electric Cooperative requested that Council consider providing property tax incentives for reduced property tax assessment rates on future investments and their headquarters' building here in Marlboro County. He stated Council discussed this matter in executive session on July 20th and he responded to the Cooperative's legal counsel the following Thursday.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that while Council could not make decisions or take votes in executive session, he did convey the general willingness to consider incentives for the new industrial projects or other new investments as in other counties. He stated he also conveyed to the Coop's counsel that Council had concerns in providing tax incentives for new or replaced electric lines, poles, etc. He stated they felt that with the number of other utility companies in the county, the

same incentives would have to be considered and the net result would be a significant loss of revenue.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a property tax reduction on their headquarters' building was discussed and he requested more information regarding the value of the building so that Council could consider further. He stated to date he had not received a response with the information requested but would update Council as warranted.

Chairman Steen stated it had been brought to his attention that staff had not responded to the Coop's request. He stated he called Mr. Munnerlyn and he advised that he did respond as Council requested.

Mr. Ken Stroman asked if folks from Marlboro Electric Cooperative could come to address Council and advise as to what their plans were to help Marlboro County. Mr. Munnerlyn stated Council could certainly ask them to appear if they wish.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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 one month ending July 31, 2021 total \$862,211. He stated general fund expenditures through July 31, 2021 total \$694,530 of a \$12,658,582 budget or 5.49% of the budget year to date.

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 were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of July: Sharon Sanders (10 years); Emma Ocean (7 years); Sandy Wilkes (27 years); Lashawn Wheeler (19 years); Keith Hughes (9 years); Katherine Leggett (33 years); and Ophelia Dickey (13 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch provided at the Community Kitchen – Mr. Munnerlyn stated Marlboro County will provide lunch at the Community Kitchen tomorrow. He stated the Administration staff will be leading the group.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Recreation Project RFP

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff received three proposals for the Recreation Project. He stated the Partnership's Image Committee will be meeting soon to review and rate the proposals and make a recommendation to Council for consideration.

ARP EMS Expenditures

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff was moving forward with EMS equipment that will limit exposure to COVID patients. He stated this includes items such as lifts on ambulances and other equipment with a combined cost of approximately \$300,000. He stated these expenditures were approved in the overall budget.

Employee Compensation Challenges

Mr. Munnerlyn stated even with an aggressive program to increase employee pay, staff finds it increasingly difficult to fill jobs, particularly entry and mid-level positions. He stated with per hour wages at fast food and other establishments increasing to \$15 and above, it is clear that staff and council will have to continue to stay on top of salaries and possibly make more adjustments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Delta

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff was able to obtain estimates on the demolition of a section of the Delta complex and are now awaiting the asbestos assessment report necessary to complete the CDBG grant information. He stated the Sheriff's Department and our Codes Enforcement staff has initiated several arrests over the past month for trespassing at the site. He stated the gates are locked, and the site is off limits but amazingly people have cut the padlocks and helped themselves to scrap metal, etc. He stated staff is monitoring the site and will prosecute anyone that trespasses.

Spec Building

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he and Attorney McLeod are reviewing the contract for construction of the spec building and expect to have that completed by third reading. He stated he felt the County needed to have a consultant on our end to review pay applications and confirm that work completed meets the plans and contract. He stated staff is looking at options for that need. He stated he felt the site work would begin in the last quarter of this calendar year.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Anthony Woods mentioned the recreation project. He stated football season was fast approaching and asked if a plan had been discussed for the youth in the county. He stated he had several recreation commissioners calling him inquiring about the Recreation Department's plans for the football program and other programs. He asked Mr. Munnerlyn to please work to get input and ideas from the Commissioners on recreation for the county.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the county would have a football league program and folks were encouraged to sign participants up on-line. He stated the Recreation staff would be communicating with the Parks and Recreation committee members. He stated an adult league of flag football was also discussed since there was such a large interest in the adult basketball league.

Mr. Woods asked if everyone needed to sign up on-line. Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director, confirmed that folks did need to sign up online. Mr. Woods stated in the past everyone was able to sign up in their own area and he did not think the Commissioners were aware that folks needed to sign up online.

Mr. Munnerlyn agreed that there needed to be better communication between the Recreation staff and the Commissioners. He stated although sign ups were requested online, staff is working hard to get the word out and assisting folks in getting participants signed up. He stated he hoped this season would be as successful as basketball.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman asked where staff was in hiring a Recreation Director. Mr. Munnerlyn responded staff had agreed to await the results of the Recreation Study which was being done which he mentioned earlier in the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated two citizens had signed up to address Council.

Ms. Nan Fleming – thanked members of Council for allowing her to address them. She stated she wanted to talk about the importance of getting folks vaccinated to prevent the spreading of COVID-19. She stated there were several vaccination clinics throughout the county and prizes were being given away to folks that are willing to be vaccinated. Ms. Fleming requested the county provide financial assistance so that gift cards and prizes may be purchased to provide incentives for folks to consider being vaccinated. She stated a clinic was held Saturday and about 20 folks received their vaccinations. She stated another clinic was scheduled for Thursday and they needed partners to make it successful. She invited the county to partner with them.

Ms. Pearlie Lawson – thanked members of Council for allowing her to speak about the importance of having folks receive their COVID-19 vaccinations. She stated that she and Ms. Fleming were ambassadors for DHEC to help increase the vaccination rate in Marlboro County. She stated they partner with CVS, Walmart and DHEC to share information about vaccination clinics that are available so that folks may be vaccinated. She stated there was no cost to get

vaccinated and they have been encouraging that folks get the Pfizer vaccination since it is available for 12 years and older.

Ms. Lawson stated that Marlboro County was one of eight counties in the state with low vaccination rates. She stated it was very important that everyone receive their COVID vaccination. She stated the next vaccination clinic was scheduled for Thursday from 4 pm – 7 pm at the Blenheim School of Discovery.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated things in Clio were good. Mr. Woods thanked Ms. Patricia Bundy, the Clerk, for her help last weekend with the issues with the SC Association of Counties' annual conference.

Mr. Woods stated his grandmother celebrated her 105th birthday on August 14th. He stated they had members of five generations together to celebrate his grandmother's amazing longevity and he was very thankful. He stated his grandmother's mind was still sharp and stated that was a real blessing.

Ms. Corrie Plato – stated God was good, and she was thankful to still be here. She encouraged folks to stay prayed up.

Ms. Plato thanked and commended Ms. Nan Fleming and Ms. Pearlie Lawson for all that they do in our community. She stated she would be happy to help them in providing something to encourage folks to get vaccinated and stated she would be getting with them.

Ms. Plato mentioned a resident on the By-Pass that had an issue with some of the buildings in the area. She stated the resident had talked with the building inspector and asked that Mr. Munnerlyn follow up on that if he would.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – thanked Ms. Lawson and Ms. Fleming for all they are doing to help get folks in the county vaccinated. He stated these two ladies have been on the battlefield and were getting things done. He stated he felt something could be done to help them in providing incentives to encourage folks to receive their vaccinations.

Mr. Stroman stated he wanted to give Richmond County and their staff condolences for the loss of Sheriff Clemmons. He stated that news was a hard pill to swallow and asked that the County send a letter to Richmond County expressing Council's condolences.

Mr. Stroman addressed Sheriff Lemon and stated that overtime help was on its way. He stated some of the law enforcement staff was very tired and stated the County was doing the best they could to help with providing the overtime rate increase.

August 10, 2021 County Council Meeting

Mr. Stroman thanked Ms. Patricia Bundy, the Clerk, for her help with the SC Association of Counties' conference.

Mr. Stroman mentioned jobs in the county and stated that some say that \$300 checks are preventing folks from going back to work. He stated jobs are now available at the rate of \$15 - \$17/hour. He stated he felt that employers are competing for employees, and he felt it was a good thing. He stated he understood that the county has issues but there were issues that staff needed to deal with. He stated citizens need to know about openings the county has available, and he felt communication was important. He stated he did not think there were lazy people in Marlboro County.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – thanked Ms. Nan Fleming and Ms. Pearlie Lawson for all their efforts in encouraging folks to get vaccinated.

Mr. Midgley thanked Ms. Patricia Bundy, the Clerk, for her help in planning for the SC Association of Counties Conference.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – thanked Ms. Nan Fleming and Ms. Pearlie Lawson for all their efforts in trying to get folks vaccinated. He stated folks needed to be informed about COVID.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – thanked Chairman Steen, members of County Council, County Administrator Ron Munnerlyn, Ms. Doris Sumpter, and Mr. Wes Park for helping to scratch the surface to find funds to help the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center employees with providing an increase in the overtime rate. He stated he and his employees appreciate all their efforts and help.

Sheriff Lemon thanked Ms. Nan Fleming and Ms. Pearlie Lawson for all their help in getting folks educated about the need to receive their vaccinations. He stated his department would help their cause by providing some Walmart gift cards to be used as door prizes.

Sheriff Lemon mentioned the passing of his good friend, Sheriff Clem Clemmons. He stated that was a big loss personally and for Richmond County.

Sheriff Lemon invited members of Council to join he and his staff for dinner following their department staff meeting on Thursday at 5 pm.

Mr. Jason Steen -. thanked staff for all they do with regards to Recreation. He stated it was certainly a real task.

Mr. Steen mentioned the loss of Richmond County Sheriff Clemmons and stated his death was a great loss, but he felt he was a man of God. He shared condolences to the Richmond County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Steen thanked Ms. Nan Fleming and Ms. Pearlie Lawson for all their efforts in working to get all citizens in the county vaccinated. He stated Ms. Pearlie Lawson has been working since day one on trying to increase the number of vaccinations in the county. He stated faith without works is dead and these ladies continue to keep working. Mr. Steen stated that COVID is widespread, and he stated that his prayer was that all of us could outlast it. He encouraged everyone to continue to stay safe by washing their hands and doing what we need to do.

Mr. Steen stated that Dr. Damien Johnson joined the meeting via zoom and thanked him for participating in the meeting online.

Mr. Steen mentioned Old Wire Road and stated he hoped to get the road repaired soon. He stated he was tired of citizens being required to go miles out of their way to get to their destination simply because a road is not yet repaired. He stated gas prices are continuing to rise, as well as gas taxes, and the state needs to repair it as soon as possible.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS


There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

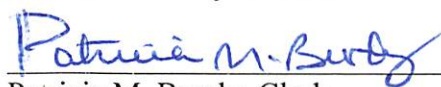
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: September 14, 2021