

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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; and Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline 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).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 823 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF ONE OR MORE PROPERTIES LOCATED IN MARLBORO COUNTY INTO A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PARK; A PLAN FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION

OF THE REVENUES DERIVED FROM THE FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS MADE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH PROPERTIES PLACED INTO THE PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the Public Hearing for an Ordinance to include land in the Industrial Park. He stated this was a legal arrangement to have more of the tax revenue coming from the project to be located in the park to be received by the County. He stated the project is a bitcoin mining operation and the tax revenue will be short-term and would only last for three to five years. He suggested that the County would not want to use those funds to cut taxes or pay certain recurring expenses. He stated the tax revenue from the project will be placed in a capital fund that can be controlled by council during the budget process. He stated he estimated the tax revenue to be somewhere between \$2 and \$3 million over a five-year period. He stated in addition to this parcel, there was also another project in the County that could potentially bring in the same type tax revenue.

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

ORDINANCE # 824 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance would allow the County to transfer property located in the Marlboro County Industrial Park which is located behind the old Musashi plant. He stated Marlboro Electric owns a substation in the park and this property would be directly in front of the Co-op's property. Mr. Munnerlyn recommended that the County transfer the property to Marlboro Development Team, Inc., which in turn would lease the same for the bitcoin project. Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff and legal counsel feel this is the best course of action rather than transferring the property directly to the project. He stated if the property is transferred to the project, there would be a variety of background checks that would be required. He stated the County has a good relationship with the Co-op and the Co-op owns the adjacent property on which the substation is located which would be a better fit.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated action on this project is moving fast and the County does not actually own the property to be transferred. He stated Council approved action a while back to give property to the trailer company for an expansion, and they have agreed to give us a portion of that tract which will in turn be transferred to Marlboro Development Team, Inc. He stated the project will

employ about 15 people and will invest approximately \$40 million. He stated no property tax incentives have been requested by the project.

Dr. Damien Johnson asked if this would negate the actions that were voted on the last couple of months. Mr. Munnerlyn responded that it would not and this was the same ordinance but the property is being transferred to Marlboro Development Team, Inc. rather than the project and the Co-op would in turn lease the property to the project.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NOVEMBER 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 Mr. Charles P. Midgley, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve the regular council meeting minutes of November 9, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NOVEMBER 22, 2021 – “CALLED” 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. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the “called” council meeting minutes of November 22, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 823 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF ONE OR MORE PROPERTIES LOCATED IN MARLBORO COUNTY INTO A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PARK; A PLAN FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION OF THE REVENUES DERIVED FROM THE FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS MADE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH PROPERTIES PLACED INTO THE PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO - THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, made comments on this Ordinance during the Public Hearing. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Dr. Damien Johnson asked if they could earmark the tax revenue received on this project for a specific purpose. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the tax revenues could not be earmarked at this time but

Council could adopt a budget amendment once the tax revenues have been received for a specific project if they decided to do so.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 823 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Inclusion of One or more Properties Located in Marlboro County into a Multi-County Business and Industrial Park; a Plan for an Alternative Allocation of the Revenue Derived from the Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Payments made with Respect to such Properties Placed into the Park; and Other Related Matters. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 824 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, made comments on this Ordinance during the Public Hearing. He asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 824 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Property Owned by Marlboro County for the Purposes of Economic Development. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 825 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL REDEFINING THE EIGHT SINGLE-MEMBER COUNCIL DISTRICTS REAPPORTIONED AS TO POPULATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2020 FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS AND APPLICABLE LAWS AND REQUIREMENTS - 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 requires three readings and a public hearing. He stated the first reading may be accomplished by title only. He stated since the Ordinance needs to be adopted by early March, he suggested that Council approve first reading in title only just to get things moving. He stated staff and members of Council would continue to work on the map.

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, Jr., to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 825 – an Ordinance Adopting a Redistricting Plan for Marlboro County Council Redefining the Eight Single-Member Council Districts

Reapportioned as to Population in Accordance with the 2020 Federal Decennial Census and Applicable Laws and Requirements. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 826 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT, BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT RHODES, AS SPONSOR, AND ONE OR MORE SPONSOR AFFILIATES TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS FOR THE BENEFIT OF A PROJECT IN THE COUNTY; (2) THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK PREVIOUSLY CREATED BY MARLBORO COUNTY AND DARLINGTON COUNTY TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED IN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, NOW OR TO BE HEREAFTER OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY PROJECT RHODES, OR ONE OR MORE COMPANIES RELATED THERETO; AND (3) OTHER RELATED MATTERS – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was a solar project identified as Project Rhodes. He stated Council took action to have certain restrictions in place for solar projects a while back. He stated a map of the project area was included in the agenda packet. He stated the project would be located on Hickson Road near Brickyard Road right across from the brickyard and stated this was a rural area.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the project is expected to make a \$3 million investment and tax incentives of \$4,500 per megawatt are being offered. He stated the last solar project was a larger project and was provided tax incentives of \$3,500 per megawatt.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the project has submitted a plan to the Building Codes office which will be reviewed and a meeting of the Planning Commission would be required to approve the plan. He suggested Council approve first reading of the Ordinance in title only.

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 # 826 – an Ordinance Authorizing (1) Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-in-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement, by and Between Marlboro County, South Carolina and a Company known to the County as Project Rhodes, as Sponsor, and One or More Sponsor Affiliates to Provide for a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive and Certain Special Source Revenue Credits for the Benefit of a Project in

the County; (2) the Enlargement of the Boundaries of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park Previously Created by Marlboro County and Darlington County to Include Certain Property Located in Marlboro County, South Carolina, now or to be Hereafter Owned and/or Operated by Project Rhodes, or One or More Companies Related Thereto; and (3) Other Related Matters . Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 11-21-02 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR AIRPORT GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (ACTING THROUGH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,000 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED

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

Mr. Munneryn stated this Resolution would authorize the County to apply for grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration as we typically do on an annual basis. He stated these funds will be used for the design phase to repave the northern parallel taxiway at the Jetport.

Mr. Munneryn stated staff has contacted the Chairman of the Airport Commission and the members are in agreement with submitting this application for these grant funds.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve Resolution # 11-21-02 – a Resolution Authorizing Submission of an Application by Marlboro County for Airport Grant from the United States of America (Acting Through the Federal Aviation Administration) in the Amount of \$130,000 and Authorization to Accept Grant if Awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 11-21-03 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BUILDING DESIGN FOR PROJECT ORE AND CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE OF SOUND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE MARLBORO COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK

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

Mr. Munneryn stated a copy of the rendering of the bitcoin project was included in the agenda packet. He stated restrictive covenants exists for the Marlboro County Industrial Park which requires that Council approve the building design for the project as well as the pollution and other things that project may produce. He stated the only concern for this project was noise since fans run continuously to cool the computers and staff has learned that they can get noisy.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff has discussed this project with the County's environmental attorney, Steve Weber, and he advised that staff have a study done on noise in the park. He stated staff has done this and the consultant measured the noise levels around the park and roads around the park and also checked to determine the quietest times and came up with a number which would be acceptable. He stated the consultant has determined that 45 decibels is the noise level that the company should not exceed. Mr. Munnerlyn stated if Council approves this Resolution, the project would be legally bound to not exceed a noise level of 45 decibels. He stated staff gave the company that conducted the study a GPS location of Rogers Lane and the north side of the park where the farmer's field is located. He stated staff is asking that you approve the building design and we move forward with this agreement to make sure the County has protection in place regarding the noise in accordance with the park's restrictive covenants.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked what the consequences would be if the noise level exceeds the maximum amount allowed. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that was a good question and he felt that the company would be taken to Court or be required to pay a fine. Mr. Woods stated we would not want them to stop but we would need something in place. Mr. Munnerlyn stated there would be some risk and action would be taken to remedy the issue.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve Resolution # 11-21-03 – a Resolution to Approve the Building Design for Project Ore and Confirmation of Compliance of Sound Restrictions for the Marlboro County Industrial Park. Vote in Favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 11-21-04 – A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING A PROJECT TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE, SO AS TO ALLOW INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT RHODES, ITS AFFILIATES AND RELATED ENTITIES, TO QUALIFY AS EXPENDITURES ELIGIBLE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAXES ARRANGEMENT WITH MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES, INCLUDING SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Resolution is a companion to agenda item 5.b., Ordinance # 826. He stated this Resolution confirms that the project is eligible for tax incentives and confirms the County's support of the project.

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 # 11-21-04 – a Resolution Identifying a Project to Satisfy the Requirements of Title 12, Chapter 44 of the South Carolina Code, so as to Allow Investment Expenditures Incurred by a Company Known to the County as Project Rhodes, its Affiliates and Related Entities, to Qualify as Expenditures Eligible for a Fee-in-Lieu of Taxes Arrangement with Marlboro County, South Carolina; to Provide for Other Related Economic Development Incentives, Including Special Source Revenue Credits; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated a copy of the proposed Holiday Schedule for 2022 was included in the agenda packet. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Holiday Schedule for 2022 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated a copy of Council's suggested meeting schedule for 2022 was included in the agenda packet. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the Council's Regular Meeting Schedule for 2022 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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 ending November 30, 2021 total \$2,422,811. He stated general fund expenditures through November 30, 2021 total \$4,759,142 of a \$12,825,594 budget or 37.11% of 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 Munneryn, 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 November: Mary Hood (15 years); April Driggers (7 years); and Channing Covington (17 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Marlboro County Employee Christmas Dinner** – Mr. Munneryn stated the Marlboro County Employee Christmas Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, December 9th at 5:30 pm at the Wade H. Prince Recreation Center. He stated due to concerns of overcrowding and COVID, the Christmas Planning Committee has asked that only county employees and county elected officials attend.
2. **Marlboro County Economic Development Holiday Drop In** – Mr. Munneryn stated the Partnership’s Holiday Drop In has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 15th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at the Economic Development office located at 214 E. Market Street, Bennettsville, SC and invited everyone to attend.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Redistricting

Mr. Munneryn stated staff has received input from council districts that “touch”. He stated staff would provide the information to the State to draw a first draft which Council can then review with the goal of receiving input and creating a second draft and so on. He stated he has provided Council with a suggested timeline and task list regarding how best to proceed. He stated Council has indicated the desire to have a community meeting and reminded Council that they are also required to have an official public hearing before passing the final version of the Ordinance. He stated he believed this could be accomplished by mid-February.

Recreation Study

Mr. Munneryn stated the recreation study is beginning this week with stakeholder interviews. He asked that members of Council advise if they are available for individual interviews tomorrow and Wednesday. He stated if they are not available in the next couple of days, the consultant would schedule with them ASAP. He stated there will be a number of these meetings as well as focus groups and small groups over the next 30 days.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

End of Year Activity

Mr. Munneryn stated there is a great deal of activity in economic development as we close out the year. He stated we have active projects all of which we believe to be “real” that total over \$125 million in new capital investment and 90 new jobs. He stated needless to say, staff, legal counsel and others have been extremely busy putting these deals together. He stated he

appreciated County Council's dedication to economic development and their willingness to move at a pace that meets the timelines of the companies we are working with.

Spec Building

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a groundbreaking for the new Speculative Building would be held soon. He stated since the County does not have the expertise in house, staff would be advertising for a third-party firm to review pay applications regarding this process. He stated this firm will observe the site work and foundation construction as well as review payment applications that the contractor will make as the project progresses. He stated this will require a licensed construction management firm. He reminded Council that the cost of this oversight is included in the approved budget for the project.

State funding

Mr. Munnerlyn stated in addition to the \$1.7 million the County received from the state to assist with the construction of the spec building, staff has finalized additional funding totaling \$2.3 million. He stated this money requires a 1 to 1 match and is to be used for the rehabilitation of the Delta building and the development of additional industrial land. He stated the Delta project ended up being a lot of back and forth about funding but that has been resolved and we have begun soliciting bids for electrical work in the usable portion and demolition bids on other parts that are not salvageable. He stated the match to the state funding is budgeted and in fact was budgeted for the whole amount, so the state money will allow us to effectively double our efforts. He stated even better news is that money we've already spent can be counted towards the match.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman mentioned redistricting. He stated he would like for staff to consider a Resolution at the next council meeting confirming that Council would abide by the criteria and standards as required by law. He stated he understood that we are not required to have the Department of Justice's approval but felt that the process should be handled as if we did need to have their approval.

Dr. Damien Johnson asked if there was anything that would keep Council from sending the final map to the Department of Justice for review just to make sure the redistricting process was handled in accordance with the law. Mr. Munnerlyn stated he was not sure that the Department of Justice would be willing to review the map since it is not a requirement. He stated he would be happy to check with them.

Mr. Verd Odom stated the criteria for redistricting is set by the State.

Mr. Stroman stated the Justice Department requires certain things. He stated he was certain that citizens would appreciate the fact that Council would consider adopting a Resolution confirming that we are abiding by the criteria and standards required.

Chairman Steen stated he was happy to hear the good news about additional funds for the Delta site. He stated that it has been a long time coming but was happy that things were moving forward on that project.

Mr. Verd Odom stated Mr. A. D. Jordan of Senator Tim Scott's office is always asking him about the status of the Delta site. He stated Senator Scott's office is watching the progress of this site and stated the Delta site is the Senator's pet project. He stated he felt that Senator Scott's office could get some grant funding if needed for the project.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he would love to receive federal funding for the Delta project. He stated there has been a lot of interest by folks to use the Delta site as warehouse space. He stated Council could decide, if they wished, to lease the site for a six month term until the site was ready for a prospect.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated one citizen had signed up to address Council.

Mr. Franklin Smith – stated he resides at 2519 Highway 381 in Clio, SC. He stated he attended a council meeting about a month or so ago about the American Rescue Fund money. He stated he and another coworker worked for the County in 2019 when the money was put in place. He stated he felt it was unfair that he and his coworker were not included in getting the premium pay that other employees received. He stated he felt they deserve it just as much as the current employees. He stated he was laid off on his birthday.

Mr. Smith also mentioned recreation. He stated years ago, there was not much activity going on in the County. He stated Mr. Gordon Hamilton and he put together a county recreation department and recreation became huge for the County. He stated right now, there's a lot of grumbling going on. He stated citizens need activities.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – mentioned the basketball league and stated there was a lot of talk about how signups were being handled. He stated in the past, coaches handled a lot of the signups as they were done at the time of tryouts. He stated in the past there were more than 100 kids in his area participating but now we have less than 100 countywide. He suggested some changes take place. He stated there were times when things needed to be changed, and there were times when things need to remain the same. He stated the county recreation has gone from sugar to shame and the children are suffering and doing without.

Mr. Woods stated he knew that he was "old school" but he would not allow a child of his at the age of eight or nine years old to play ball if he did not know the coach that would be assigned to their team. He stated Clio is a close-knit community and all the parents that have children that play ball know the coaches well and trust them. He stated the coaches play a huge role in these

children's lives and not only teach them how to play ball, but they also teach them to be respectful to one another. He stated these coaches are the only parent figure some of these children have in their lives. He stated some changes need to be made and that it was not too late to make those changes if action is taken in the next ten days or so.

Mr. Woods thanked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, Ms. Patricia Bundy and the County in providing the donation to sponsor the Marlboro County High School Band in the Clio parade which was held Saturday. He stated it was a great parade and the weather was great. He stated a great time was had by all.

Ms. Corrie Plato – stated the County needed to step up on recreation. She mentioned the statement “a mind is a terrible thing to waste”. She stated the County needed to have activities for both children and the elderly citizens.

Ms. Plato wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She stated we should all be thankful that we are still here and encouraged everyone to continue praying for one another.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – mentioned the County's recreation and stated that the young and older citizens needed things to do in Marlboro County. He stated he hoped that the Image Committee can get things moving to get projects under way and the center that Ms. Plato mentioned may be something the County could create a partnership with the Eastside Alumni. He stated he had ideas for the recreation project. He stated it was nice to see that City Council, the School District and the County appears to be coming together. He stated together we can get things accomplished. He stated he would like to see things move faster but understood that this is County government and there is a process to be followed.

Dr. Damien Johnson – thanked Mr. Franklin Smith for addressing council about his concerns with the premium pay to County employees. He asked staff to give his situation a careful look at the specified time which Mr. Smith was employed. He stated Mr. Smith did not quit his job with the County but was laid off. He stated he understood that Mr. Smith worked through the pandemic and actually caught COVID himself. He stated he had a co-worker die from COVID. He asked staff to please review Mr. Smith's work history and see what can be done.

Dr. Johnson mentioned recreation and the issues with recreation. He stated as a pilot, you sometimes have to re-shift and get on course. He stated the County has time to get recreation for the children back on course. He stated it would be difficult for parents that have four children to allow all four children to play with four different coaches. He stated if he was a child's coach and the child lives in Clio, he would be willing to stay late until the parents can come to pick the child up or he would offer to take the child home. He stated the way recreation was handled this summer did not work and it would not work now. He stated these type decisions with recreation should be made based on the best interests of the children. He suggested that contact be made with the recreation commission members requesting that they assist staff in getting children signed up for recreation. Dr. Johnson stated if we do not work to correct the issues with recreation, he was afraid that the County will lose another generation of kids and they will be lost

to other things of no good. He stated the parent of a 10-year-old child that he coached a year ago told him that the child was now at the age of 12 and was unrecognizable. He stated the child has responded to not having recreation in a bad way. He stated these children depend on coaches that have always stood "in the gap" for them. He stated someone stood in the gap for him when he was young, and he would like to continue to do the same. He stated the recreation program prepares children for high school basketball, football and other programs and those programs are already suffering from the lack of County recreation.

Dr. Johnson mentioned the redistricting process. He stated there will be four elections over the next ten years. He stated it was important that Council follow the guidelines correctly so that the citizens understand their district lines, and they will know who their representatives are without any question.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – stated there was not much he could add on recreation or redistricting. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and remember the reason for the season. He encouraged everyone to be safe.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – he echoed what Mr. Midgley said. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and encouraged everyone to be safe. He encouraged everyone to look out for their neighbors and stated if things did not look right to please make a call so that it could be checked out. He stated it takes all of us working together to help one another.

Mr. Verd Odom – wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He encouraged everyone to look out for their neighbors. He stated he had someone under his carport at 3:30 am one morning this week. He stated there was no reason for this person to be under his carport.

Mr. Odom mentioned the Academy Road bridge and stated the cleaning of the roadsides that had taken place in preparing of the dam repair. He stated there were some trees on the bank of the road that would be removed soon. He stated Pastor Bowen has advised that the work on the dam may be completed next week and the road could possibly be completed by the end of the month. He stated the area will be much nicer around Fletcher Pond.

Mr. Anthony Woods - stated members of County Council work well together. He stated Councilman Odom had made calls on the Academy Road to folks at SC DHEC and SC DOT because he had worked with them on getting Highway 381 repaired and opened. He stated since Councilman Odom knew those contacts and had a good relationship with them, he asked that he work with them on the opening of Academy Road. He stated members of Council disagree in private but at the end of the day, the entire Council wants Marlboro County to succeed.

Mr. Jason Steen – stated it has been the goal of County Council for many years to work together to accomplish great things for the County as a whole.

Dr. Damien Johnson asked if the County would continue to handle recreation as it is being done now or will there be any changes. He stated recreation changes lives and he was a product of

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how it can change an individual. He asked if the County could go back and handle recreation the way it was done for years. He stated as a Council, we may not be vested but asked if Council would step-up and re-vamp recreation to the way it was in the past.

Chairman Steen stated there were not enough children in his area to make a team. He suggested the recreation committee should meet to try and move forward because he knew that something needed to happen.

Dr. Johnson continued to make comments on recreation. Chairman Steen stated the meeting was adjourned.

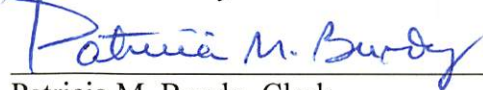
The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: January 11, 2022