

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO CIVIC CENTER

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN	JASON STEEN
VICE CHAIRWOMAN	CORRIE PLATO
ADMINISTRATOR	RON MUNNERLYN
CLERK TO COUNCIL	PARTICIA BUNDY
COUNTY ATTORNEY	ANDREW MCLEOD

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN	DR. DAMIEN JOHNSON *
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.	CORRIE H. PLATO
KENNETH STROMAN	VERD ODOM
STEVE BLACKMON, AND	ANTHONY WOODS

- Absent

The Council meeting is being held at the Marlboro Civic Center in order 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 Ms. Jackie Hough, of the Herald-Advocate.

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough and Mr. Dan McNiell 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.marlbocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION- Mr. Anthony Woods

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their prayers last month while he battled COVID-19. He also thanked Ms. Corrie Plato for handling the meeting in his absence.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated there were members of Council present that needed to be sworn-in due to their re-election. He stated that Dr. Damien Johnson, a newly elected council member for District 2 was self-quarantining and was not able to attend in person but was joining

January 12, 2021 County Council Meeting

via Zoom. He stated Dr. Johnson would be sworn-in at another time. Chairman Steen recognized Judge Grover McQueen to administer the oath.

Magistrate Judge Grover McQueen administered the oath of office to the re-elected council members: Mr. Charles Paul Midgley, Jr. (District 3), Mr. Kenneth Stroman (District 5), and Mr. Verd Odom (District 6). Judge McQueen congratulated the members on their re-elections and thanked them for their willingness to serve the citizens of Marlboro County.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, suggested the agenda be amended to revise the title to item “d” under New Business. He stated the item should read “Resolution # 01-21-01 – A Resolution to Restrict Additional Fund Balance for Use of Non-Recurring or Capital Expenses Only”.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to amend the agenda to revise the title of item d. under New Business from “Consideration of Budget Amendment Request” to “Resolution # 01-21-01 – a Resolution to Restrict Additional Fund Balance for Use of Non-Recurring or Capital Expenses Only”. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon to approve the agenda as amended. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations & Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked for nominations for Chairman of Marlboro County Council.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to elect Mr. Jason Steen to serve as Chairman to Marlboro County Council. Vote in favor. Unanimous.

Chairman Steen stated 2020 was a very challenging year. He thanked everyone for their support. He stated the Council had always worked well together as a group and stated he looked forward to continuing to work together. He stated he would perform his duties as Chairman to the best of his ability for the year 2021.

Chairman Steen asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman of Marlboro County Council.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to elect Ms. Corrie Plato to serve as Vice Chairman to Marlboro County Council. Vote in favor. Unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS

AUDIT REPORT ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 – SHEHEEN, HANCOCK & GODWIN, LLP

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Shane Kirkley of Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP, for the Audit Report ending June 30, 2020.

Mr. Kirkley provided a bound copy of the audit to members of Council along with an Executive Audit Summary. He stated he would make comments from the summary and the three highlighted outlines with his comments to be focused on the General Fund.

Outline of Audited Financial Report – Mr. Kirkley stated the Independent Auditor’s Report could be found on pages 1-3 and an unmodified opinion was given on the audit which is the highest level that could be given. He stated the Management’s Discussion and Analysis could be found on pages 4-11, Basic Financial Statements could be found on pages 12-23, Notes to Financial Statements could be found on pages 24-56, Supplemental Information could be found on pages 57-82, and Compliance Section could be found on pages 83-84.

Analysis of Activity – Mr. Kirkley stated the General Fund total assets were \$9,282,539 and the total liabilities were \$3,079,390. He stated more detailed information on the assets and liabilities could be found on page 14.

Analysis of Activity – Mr. Kirkley stated as of June 30, 2020, the total operating revenues were \$13,037,016, sale of assets totaled \$8,862, and transfers in totaled \$150,262 for a total of \$13,196,140. Mr. Kirkley noted the number on the summary indicated total revenues to be \$11,927,143 which was incorrect. He stated more detailed information regarding total revenues versus budget could be found on pages 57-58.

Mr. Kirkley stated as of June 30, 2020, the total operating expenditures were \$12,371,384. He stated the number on the summary indicated the total to be \$11,748,047 which was incorrect. He stated the total funds transferred out was \$248,859 which resulted in excess revenues over expenses in the amount of \$575,897. He stated more detailed information regarding total expenditures versus budget could be found on pages 58-63.

Mr. Kirkley stated it was recommended that the County maintain approximately four to six months of reserves in its fund balance. He stated with the excess revenue over expenses, the County has approximately five months of reserves as of June 30, 2020. He stated more information summarizing revenue and expenditures could be found on page 16.

Mr. Kirkley stated the County was in a good financial position as of June 30, 2020. He stated 2020 was a crazy year and staff worked hard to stay safe with the increase in COVID-19 numbers. He stated County’s staff provided a safe working environment for the auditors’ staff to visit to perform their on-site work and he really appreciated all their efforts. He stated County staff also worked hard to provide the auditors’ staff everything they needed to get the audit done in a timely fashion and it could not have been done without their efforts.

Mr. Kirkley stated he would be happy to answer any questions.

January 12, 2021 County Council Meeting

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2020 – 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, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the regular council meeting minutes of December 8, 2020 as presented. Vote in favor: Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Anthony Woods. Abstain: Mr. Jason Steen and Mr. Verd Odom (not present at the December 8, 2020 meeting). Vote: 5/0/2. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE # 805 – 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 Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the fourth or fifth time requesting an Emergency Ordinance with regards to COVID-19. He stated he felt we needed to renew the Emergency Ordinance in case staff should need to exercise the powers provided in the Ordinance. He stated staff had not had to use the Emergency Ordinance to date.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve Emergency Ordinance # 805 – an Emergency Ordinance to Declare a State of Emergency in Marlboro County and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 806 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) AND SHORTHORN HOLDINGS, LLC, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE “COMPANY”), WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AT A LOCATION IN THE COUNTY (THE

“PROJECT”) 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 this Ordinance represented good news for the County. He stated it concerned an Economic Development project which is now moving forward. He stated the project would not be a huge employer but would provide a capital investment for which the County would receive tax revenue and he recommended approving the first reading of the Ordinance in title only. He stated more details on the project would be made available at the second reading next month.

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

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance # 806 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by and between Marlboro County, South Carolina (the “County”) and Shorthorn Holdings, LLC, Acting for Itself, One or More Affiliates and/or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, the “Company”) with Respect to the Construction of Certain Facilities at a Location in the County (the “Project”) and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT REPORT ENDING FY JUNE 30, 2020

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, if he had any additional comments on the audit.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the audit was good news for the County and it was always good to hear that there were no deficiencies, problems or issues found during the audit. He mentioned the excess funds and stated staff felt it involved funds from the State but the details were hard to explain. He stated staff was a little timid to depend on the funds and is requesting that the funds be set aside for non-recurring expenses. He stated restricting the funds for non-recurring expenses would allow staff to utilize the funds for building repairs or things of that sort. He also stated that members of Council could re-evaluate the restriction of funds during budget discussions for the next fiscal year. He stated the next item on the agenda was the proposed Resolution which he recommended Council consider approving.

Chairman Steen asked for a motion to accept the Audit Report Ending FY June 30, 2020.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to accept the Audit Report Ending FY June 30, 2020 as presented by Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 01-21-01 – A RESOLUTION TO RESTRICT ADDITIONAL FUND BALANCE FOR USE FOR NON-RECURRING OR CAPITAL EXPENSES ONLY

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that Mr. Munnerlyn had made comments on this Resolution and asked if there was a motion to approve the same.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman to approve Resolution # 01-21-01 – a Resolution to Restrict Additional Fund Balance for Use for Non-Recurring or Capital Expenses Only. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA DESIGNATION PETITION, CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT, AND DESIGNATION OF GRANT RECIPIENT/FISCAL AGENT RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Pee Dee Council on Government has requested that we approve the Workforce Development Area Designation Consortium Agreement, Local Area Subsequent Designation Petition, and Designation of Grant Recipient/Fiscal Agent documents. Mr. Munnerlyn recommended that these documents be approved. He stated the Workforce Development program was great program and he felt Council should do everything possible to keep it active.

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 the Workforce Development Area Designation Petition, Consortium Agreement, and Designation of Grant Recipient/Fiscal Agent Relating to the Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated each year Council reviews the various Boards and Commissions. He stated it was a good time for members of Council to look at the folks on these boards and commissions whose terms are expiring to ensure they are qualified and if so, reappoint them if they desire to continue serving. He stated each Council member was provided with a list of the Boards and Commission and the current members which hold seats on those boards/commission. He asked that they please review and consider making appointments/reappointments next month.

Chairman Steen stated there were some folks that he would like to go ahead and have Council consider reappointing:

Airport Board

Frank Shutt, District 3
Don Evans, District 6
Charles Midgley, Sr., Chairman

Historic Preservation Commission

John I. Rogers, III, District 3
Margaret (Peggy) Kinney, District 5
Dan McNeil, Chairman

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the reappointments for the Airport Commission and Historic Preservation Commission as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any other recommended nominations for Boards and Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to appoint Mr. William B. Shelley to the Planning Commission as a representative from District 6. Vote in favor. Unanimous.

Chairman Steen stated the Executive Committee would need to meet with some of the Boards regarding reappointments in an effort to make sure those qualified are reappointed if they desire to remain on the boards. He stated the Library Board has worked hard during the pandemic and the Administrative committee will most likely want to meet with members of their Board to discuss reappointments. He stated the various Administrative committees would also be reviewed. He mentioned Dr. Johnson and Mr. Anthony Woods were very active in recreation and he wanted them to be involved on the committee that would include recreation.

REPORTS

COMPENSATION STUDY UPDATE – STAFF

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, stated every year staff presents a budget to Council providing a cost-of-living increase and possible increases for some employees that have had adjustments to their job responsibilities.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff reviewed the SC Association of Counties salary survey which provides the salaries paid to employees with the same type position in counties with the same population size as Marlboro. He stated this was referred to as population grouping. He stated this allows staff to compare the salaries of Clerks in Marlboro County to other Clerks in other counties. He stated staff has provided previous salary adjustments to ensure that no employee makes less than the minimum observed salary for a like position in the counties of our population size.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff has found that Marlboro County is not competing with counties with the same type population groups, but are competing with larger counties such as Florence and Darlington counties, as well as Richmond and Scotland counties in North Carolina. He stated Ms. Doris Sumpter worked hard to get numbers from those counties for jobs that could be matched. He stated some salaries could not be matched and that was always the case. He stated the budget which has already been approved by Council will allow staff to take folks to a number comparable to those counties around us rather than those counties in our same population group. He stated staff found that in preparing and reviewing W-2s which would be going out soon, there are many folks that have been hired but are no longer employed by the county. He stated staff's goal is to hire and keep good employees.

Mr. Munnerlyn provided to members of Council a sheet with salary information listed. He stated that staff has used the budget to either give folks a 2% increase or if there is a clear deficiency in employees' salaries compared to the competition, those salaries be adjusted. He stated the sheet provided confirms this can be done. Council approved a budget of \$130,000 and the proposal totals just a little more than \$129,000.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated these numbers did not include law enforcement staff such as Sheriff's Department, Detention Center, or 911. He stated there was a need to adjust some positions even higher so that staff can recruit, hire and retain folks in these positions. He stated staff understands there is a need to make adjustments to salaries and the Sheriff agrees. He stated a fair wage needed to be paid so as to attract folks for these positions and keep them here in the county. Mr. Munnerlyn stated after meeting with the Administration and Finance committee, there was a desire to meet with staff and the Sheriff to discuss in more detail. He stated staff has estimated that approximately \$120,000 is needed to adjust the salaries of the law enforcement staff. He stated there was also another component to the law enforcement salary that needed to be reviewed which was the overtime situation. Mr. Munnerlyn stated currently law enforcement folks are paid on a fluctuating overtime which simply means the more an employee works, the less the employee is paid. He stated it is backwards but other counties have handled overtime this same way. He stated staff feels that this needs to be worked out. He stated if staff decides to pay time and half, based on the hours worked over the last 12 months, the cost would be estimated at approximately \$157,000. He stated if Council decides to handle it the way we have mentioned, the cost would be about \$250,000. He stated Council may feel that this is warranted and there may be a need to cut in some other areas to make this happen.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff has done a lot of work as the Administration and Finance Committee requested and staff is now ready to meet with you all and take directions as to where the County needs to go from here.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated there was no action needed from Council tonight because the budget has already approved the 2% cost-of-living increase or adjustment in salaries, with the exception of the law enforcement staff.

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Munnerlyn and staff for the work done on the compensation study. He stated Council had requested this work a few months ago and now have something to review.

January 12, 2021 County Council Meeting

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

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK

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

Mr. West Park, Finance Director, stated the general fund revenues for the six months ending December 31, 2020 total \$3,184,733. He stated general fund expenditures through December 31, 2020 total \$5,841,607 of a \$12,038,883 budget or 48.52% of budget year to date. He stated as of the same date, the County has \$2,421,529 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

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employee was recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of December: Tajuana Jacobs (7 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch provided at the Community Kitchen – Mr. Munnerlyn stated Marlboro County would be providing lunch at the Community Kitchen tomorrow with Sheriff Charles Lemon leading the group. He stated the menu would include Chili Dogs and chips and plates would be provided for take-out only.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Speculative Building – Mr. Munnerlyn stated in accordance with County Council’s strategic initiatives and recent authorization, staff has applied for grant funding for a speculative industrial building. He stated early feedback was positive and staff looked forward to being able to announce something soon.

Arris Manufacturing - Mr. Munnerlyn stated the County’s most recent new industry, Arris Manufacturing, was doing well as evidenced by the white plastic wrapped modular units seemingly everywhere around Maple Street near the Bypass. He stated the company reported that they are running “wide open” and expect to hire up to 100 more people in the next 6 months bringing their total to 230 employees.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

COVID Testing with MUSC- Mr. Munnerlyn stated the daily COVID testing which was being provided by MUSC along with Marlboro County EMS ended on December 31, 2020. He suggested folks needing to be tested should visit the local Health Department located at 711 S. Parsonage Street, Bennettsville, SC, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm; Palmetto Family Medicine Clinic located at 316 2nd Street, Cheraw, SC, Monday through Friday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm; or contact their primary care provider.

COVID Vaccine – Mr. Munnerlyn stated Public Safety leaders met last week to address the issue of no clear direction from SC DHEC for the vaccination of our public safety personnel. Apparently, vaccines were distributed to hospital systems in South Carolina. He stated counties like Marlboro with no hospital had "fallen between the cracks". He did state that McLeod Health stepped up to assist with the issue but ran out of vaccines yesterday. He stated staff continues to work to secure vaccinations for our first responders and were working with SC DHEC to organize an event in the coming days.

Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members – Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff provided an orientation for Councilman Stroman and Johnson last month. He stated a lot of information was provided to them and staff came back with very positive feedback. He stated he looked forward to having the new members on board and the new energy they would bring to Council.

County Newsletter – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the county would be providing a quarterly County Newsletter and mailing it to residents in the County. He stated Ms. Lynn McQueen would be in charge of the newsletter. He stated this was discussed as a part of the County's strategic initiatives to allow citizens to be updated on things going on in the county and those that may not have access to Facebook or other social media.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Anthony Woods inquired about the status of the broadband internet and asked what carrier would be providing the broadband internet. He stated he had many citizens asking about this.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the broadband internet would be provided by Sandhill Telephone Cooperative and he found their staff working on the installation of lines on Sunday morning. He stated he was not sure exactly what areas the broadband would be available but he recommended that the CEO of Sandhill Connections be requested to attend the next Council meeting to provide an update and provide more information.

Mr. Woods stated that would be great.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated three citizen(s) had signed up to address members of Council

Ms. Elisabeth Cox – stated that she and Ms. Wendy Woods both recently accepted positions with the Pee Dee Coalition and they wanted to come introduce themselves to Council. She stated they work to provide a variety of services to victims of domestic violence and their office was located on Parsonage Street in Bennettsville, SC.

Ms. Wendy Woods – stated she was from the Clio area and had worked with Northeastern Technical College in the past. She stated she was now working with the Pee Dee Coalition and was amazed how all the government resources work together.

January 12, 2021 County Council Meeting

Bishop Ulysses Sullivan – stated he was appearing on behalf of Community Benefits. He mentioned a Father & Son Iron Man Competition which is being hosted by El-Jireth Pentecostal Apostolic Church on Saturday, February 27th from 10 am – 2 pm. He stated the event would be held on the church property located at 5047 Hwy. 38 S., Blenheim, SC and encouraged everyone to join them and bring their children. He stated the competition was to help build character and self-esteem for the County's youth.

Bishop Sullivan also mentioned the center's Computer Lab which is open to the public. He stated the computers were being made available to assist students in getting better grades.

Bishop Sullivan also mentioned vans that would be used to provide transportation to deliver fruits and vegetables at the community drop off on Saturdays. He talked about health awareness and the importance of diet and nutrition in order to build strong immune systems.

Bishop Ulysses stated he would be happy to provide more information to members of Council in the future.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated he felt members of Marlboro County Council worked really well together but had citizens in District 7 voice concerns to him regarding water issues in the Clio area. He stated a citizen residing on Hemphill Circle stated water stands in ditches. He stated citizens residing in the Branchwood area also stated that water was standing in their area and creating a safety hazard.

Mr. Wood asked staff to take a look at these areas and help if possible.

Mr. Woods stated 2020 was a tough year and the first 10 days of 2021 were not good either. He mentioned the riot that occurred last Wednesday in Washington, D.C. He suggested folks make sure they are aware of what is going on and stay safe. He stated Marlboro County could not afford to have anything like this happen in our area. He stated these were critical times for our country. He encouraged Sheriff Charles Lemon to be aware of what's going on in the County.

Ms. Corrie Plato – thanked everyone for their vote and support for her service as Vice Chair of County Council. She encouraged everyone to continue praying hard for everything going on in the world.

Ms. Plato mentioned Union Street and Barnwell Street and stated residents in these areas were having issues with water standing with no proper drainage.

Ms. Plato stated everyone had a pretty rough time in 2020. She stated a lot of folks died and many suffered loss.

Ms. Plato again encouraged everyone to continue to pray and be thankful that we are all still here by the Grace of God.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – stated 2020 was a rough year but stated he saw light at the end of the tunnel. He stated County Council did not have any of the issues that other councils in the County had. He encouraged everyone to continue doing a great job as they have in the past.

Mr. Stroman mentioned the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on Monday, January 18th. He invited all members of Council to participate so that folks could see that Council remains united and stands as one body.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – stated he had nothing to add; that his fellow Council members had covered it all.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – stated COVID-19 was everywhere and encouraged everyone to check on their neighbors to see if they needed anything. He stated he felt the next six months would be tough and stated we needed to look out for each other. He stated hopefully 2021 would be better for everyone.

Mr. Verd Odom – thanked Sheriff Lemon, first responders, firefighters and rescue workers for all they do for the citizens of Marlboro County. He stated while we are sleeping, law enforcement folks are out taking care of everyone. He encouraged everyone to pray for them while they are out serving our citizens.

Mr. Odom stated everyone should respect COVID-19 as it is very dangerous. He stated many folks have died from this virus. He encouraged everyone to limit their contact with others.

Mr. Odom thanked staff and Mr. Munnerlyn for all their hard work.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated on behalf of his staff, he wanted to thank Council and let them know that he appreciates all that they have done for his department in 2020 and he looked forward to working with them in moving forward in 2021.

Sheriff Lemon stated he looked forward to working with Councilman Stroman as he has with the other Council members. He stated he did not want to fight with the folks he has to work with as he fights enough day to day in his field of work.

Sheriff Lemon invited everyone to attend his swearing-in ceremony at the Victory Christian Center, Pastor J. R. Chavis' church on David's Mill Pond Road in Bennettsville. He stated that Judge James E. Lockemy would be performing the swearing-in of his second term as Sheriff. He stated he would like to see everyone there and stated social distancing would be practiced and folks could actually sit in their cars if it made them feel more comfortable.

Sheriff Lemon asked that everyone please pray for him in 2021 and his department.

Mr. Jason Steen – mentioned the new council members, Mr. Stroman and Dr. Johnson and stated that he looked forward to serving with them. He stated he looked forward to the ideas that they have and knew that they would encourage other members of Council to look outside the box.

Mr. Steen stated as Chairman he would work to get recreation back up and running but stated staff must put safety first.

Mr. Steen stated the greatest commandment was to love God and then love your neighbor as yourself. He stated everything else depends on those two actions by us. He stated if everyone would practice these things, it would make things around us better.

Mr. Steen stated he looked forward to leading and working together.

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 7:03 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: February 9, 2021