

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, July 12, 2022

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR

VICE CHAIRMAN  
CLERK TO COUNCIL  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

JASON STEEN  
SUSAN RIVERS  
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. Donald Hamilton, Environmental Control Officer; Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director; and Ms. Jacqueline Hough, Marlboro Herald Advocate.

A copy of the agenda and Public notice were posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building and on the Marlboro County Website. A copy of the agenda was provided to Ms. Jacqueline Hough, Herald Advocate prior to the meeting.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Midgley, Chairman advised Council needed to go immediately into executive session for discussion of a legal and contractual issue. He needed a motion to amend the agenda and move and enter into executive session.

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**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman to amend the agenda and move immediately into executive session for the purpose of discussion a legal and contractual issue. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

**Motion made at 7:30 pm by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

Mr. Midgley advised there was one item in executive session regarding the recreation department that council had made a decision on and it would be further discussed at section 3 a of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman to approve the agenda. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2022 – “CALLED” COUNCIL MEETING

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the Called Council meeting minutes of June 16, 2022 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried**

June 21, 2022 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve regular meeting minutes of June 21, 2022 as presented. Vote in Favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Dr. Damien Johnson, Mr. Steve Blackmon, Ms. Corrie Plato. Abstain: Mr. Verd Odom (attended through zoom). Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF RECREATION PROJECT

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator questioned if any action had been taken in executive session regarding the contractual issue. Mr. Midgley, Chairman advised no action had been taken.

**Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to authorize the County Administrator to proceed with the option of securing the purchase of the Marlboro County Golf Course with the due diligence of using it for a Recreational Complex. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

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**Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to cease consideration of the East Side School property as use for a recreational facility. Vote in favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Dr. Damien Johnson, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Opposed: Mr. Kenneth Stroman. Motion carried.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

No new business was heard.

#### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

##### APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. SAM BASS TO THE PEE DEE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised that Mr. Sam Bass had served on the Board for a number of years and Pee Dee COG was pleased with his service and requested for him to be reappointed.

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve the reappointment of Mr. Sam Bass to the Pee Dee Workforce Development Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

#### ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

None.

#### STAFF REPORTS

##### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT – MR. ANTHONY WOODS, CHAIR

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman, recognized Mr. Anthony Woods, Chair to present his report.

**Mr. Anthony Woods, Chair** – advised the committee had met earlier that day and would hold meetings every month. He advised the Public Service Committee was a very broad committee for the county.

They are responsible for roads, drainage and other services for the county. In order for them to get a better understanding of what's going on, the committee has decided to include 2 department heads in sub-committee meeting to give them insight into their needs.

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Previously, a few years ago, the county had received funds dedicated to a recycle bin through the COVID Relief funds. COVID hit and the project was never completed. Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director was able to find some of the funds that are still available and the committee would like to use these funds to find property for a larger recycle bin for cans, glass, etc.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – MR. JASON STEEN, CHAIR

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman, recognized Mr. Jason Steen, Chair to present his report.

**Mr. Jason Steen, Chair** – advised the Public Safety Committee has been meeting and looking at a site for several years in the Wallace area to use as a Public Safety Complex. This would house EMS and the Fire Departments. It would also provide an area for the Sheriff Department to use. He advised staff could meet with the various agencies to see if this is something that can help everyone.

He advised that he has been made aware of some legal requirements county council contracts for some Marlboro County elected officials. Also, the Sheriff is still working on the federal inmate program.

Mr. Steen advised the committee has also discussed various regulations to deal with the explosive issues in the county. They are not looking to violate anyone's second amendment rights. The committee would like to make a motion to approve a first reading (title only) of Ordinance # - An Ordinance to regulate the usage of explosive devices in Marlboro County. They will provide additional information for the second reading.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised that since this is part of their report, they could add it by a motion.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve a first reading (title only) of Ordinance # 831 - An Ordinance to implement the regulation regarding the detonation of explosive devices in Marlboro County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK, FINANCE DIRECTOR

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman, recognized Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, for his report.

Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, stated the revenues for the twelve months ended June 30, 2022 with a total of \$12,295,179. General fund expenditures for the twelve months ended June 30, 2022 with a total of \$11,674,970 of a \$12,825,594 budget or 91.03% of budget year to date. Before year end, accruals and adjustments will be made. Currently revenues exceed expenditures. Over the following three months considerable work will be performed by finance staff to close the books and the financial auditors will prepare the finalized reporting in the form of the annual audit report.

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**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – MR. RON MUNNERLYN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator to present his report.

**EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES**

The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of June: Mr. Harvey Patterson (7 years); Ms. Sharonica Henegan (15 years); and Mr. Robert Stanton (24 years).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The S.C. Association of Counties Annual Conference** – Monday August 1 – Thursday, August 4, 2022. In response to feedback from participants across the state, the SCAC annual conference locations has been moved from Hilton Head Island to the Isle of Palms near Charleston, S.C. Note that the conference now starts on Monday and runs to Thursday of that week. Staff will be in touch with each of you to determine classes and other details.

**Family Fun Day and Back to School Bash**, Saturday, July 30, 2022 at Lindsay Park. Marlboro County Recreation will hold a Family Fun Day and Back to School Bash, Saturday, July 30, 2022 at Lindsay Park. The event will be held beginning at 3:00 pm and last until 7:30 pm. This will be a free event for first come, first serve. There will be free food and drinks to include fish, hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel cakes, and ice cream for the first 300. There will be Bingo with prizes, back to school supplies, bounce houses, and more. Also, included will be a special recognition for upcoming retiree Ms. Corrie Plato for 20+ years of service. Ms. Plato has requested the county help with this event in place of a retiree party for her. Everyone was encouraged to join.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

**Council Committee Meetings** - As council heard, there were committee meetings during the week prior to the council meeting. These committees each have an area of focus and are in place to examine policy issues and then make recommendations to council for action where warranted. In a typical month, these meetings will be scheduled the week prior to a council meeting. Next month will be difficult as the SCAC convention is the week prior.

**Digital sign** -The digital sign is installed on Broad Street. Mr. Munnerlyn encouraged council to drive by and take a look. Staff will be receiving training in the next week as to the operation and we will begin to post messages on the sign soon.

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### RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Deacon Bright - advised he did not have any comments.

Ms. Pealie Lawson – recognized Councilman Anthony Woods and Council woman Corrie Plato for their service to their community. She was grateful for everything they had done. Ms. Lawson said there was still a lot of trash along the roads in the county and would appreciate anyone's help in cleaning it up. She was looking forward to serving on council. She thanked Mr. Munnerlyn for the county's donation of equipment and other items to help them with their trash pickup.

Mr. Al McLamb – advised he was a member of the Saddlebrook community near the prison. He said he had previously spoken with Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Works Director about a drainage issue they have had for some time. When it rains, it floods their yards. He requested council have a word with Mr. Carabo and try to get their issues resolved.

Mr. McLamb also expressed his irritation with the length of the executive session council held while the citizens had to wait. He stated he had to sit there from 6 pm to approximately 7:25 pm. He asked council to take this into consideration whenever they have to go into executive session.

Mr. Demarco Bostic – advised he was a 36 year old resident of Marlboro County. He advised he has been using his platform in helping people through personal fitness. He has been back home in Marlboro County for the last two years and working as a personal trainer. He also uses his platform to help the youth by offering them various options of how to prosper and follow the right path. He offered his help to Marlboro County with the recreation project to help with recreational activities for the youth. He expressed his love for his community.

Mr. Luke Johnakin – thanked Council for their consideration of helping with the East Side School project. He said they were thankful to council and looked forward to them fulfilling their commitment to the School Board. Mr. Johnakin asked what the motion made by Council earlier regarding the project meant. He was advised by the Council Chairman that this portion of the meeting was only for citizens to express their concerns without any response from council. Mr. Johnakin kept insisting on the status of the project. Dr. Damien Johnson advised Council had decided not to pursue the project.

### RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman recognized each Council Member.

**Mr. Anthony Woods** – congratulated Ms. Lawson on her win and was looking forward to working with her. He advised Clio would also hold a Family Fun Day and Back to School event. He stated the recreation project was still a work in progress.

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**Ms. Corrie Plato** –thanked Ms. Lawson for her speech and the job that she does for the community. She offered her help to Ms. Lawson if she ever needed it and knew that she would do well in representing the county.

Ms. Plato addressed Mr. Johnakin stating that she had also graduated from East Side School. She was sad council could not continue, however, she offered her personal help if they needed it.

Ms. Plato discussed the Family Fun Day being held by the Marlboro County Recreation Department at Lindsay Park on Saturday, July 30th from 3:00 pm until 7:30 pm. She expressed her desire to be a part of this event before retiring. She said there would be plenty of food and lots of fun and encouraged everyone to come out. She expressed her thanks to Ms. Susan Rivers, Ms. Doris Sumpter, and Mr. Ron Munnerlyn for all the help they had given her throughout the years. She said she was going to miss everyone. She stated she would be 76 years old her next birthday.

**Mr. Kenneth Stroman** – congratulated Ms. Lawson on her election. He said he had watched her campaign, she was a go getter. He stated she had achieved her success through working for her community.

Mr. Stroman asked Mr. Bostic to meet with him before leaving the meeting. He stated that his offer to help is needed.

He addressed the East Side Alumni by wishing them good luck and hoped things worked out for the better. He said they had tried to come up with compromises but it did not work out. He advised he would support their efforts.

He thanked Mr. Munnerlyn for a very good and productive meeting and for his leadership. He thanked him for the installation of the digital sign and stated there were no more excuses for anyone not being able to find a job in Marlboro County. There are jobs available.

**Mr. Jason Steen** – said the Delta project was progressing well. He said a good part of the building was down and hopefully it will be cleaned up and an Industry will come in soon and provide jobs. He congratulated Ms. Pearlie Lawson on her election.

**Dr. Damien Johnson** – congratulated Ms. Lawson for her election to Council. He also thanked Mr. Demarco Bostic for the tireless work he has done for the children of Marlboro County. He recognized Mr. McLamb and advised they would speak with Mr. Carabo.

Dr. Johnson thanked Mr. Munnerlyn for the digital sign. He said he and Mr. Stroman had discussed various ways it could be used.

Dr. Johnson expressed his apologies to council for his actions at times, however, he would not apologize for his tenacity in addressing various issues he has a problem with. He said it was their responsibility to serve the citizens.

Dr. Johnson recognized Mr. Larry Turner, Chief Deputy with the Marlboro County Sheriff Department and asked if he had any comments.

**Mr. Larry Turner**, Chief Deputy advised the Sheriff intended to promote 4 deputies to corporals. They were pursuing funds for the department to obtain ammo and other needed equipment. The Sheriff's Department would also hold a Back to School event to provide supplies to the children returning to school. Mr. Turner thanked council for all they do for the citizens of Marlboro County.

**Mr. Steve Blackmon** – congratulated Ms. Lawson on her hard work and winning the election. He told Ms. Plato that he was going to miss her. He told Ms. Lawson that she had big shoes to fill. He told Mr. Bostic that he appreciated him coming before council and offering his help.

**Mr. Verd Odom** – recognized Ms. Plato on her 23 years of service and wished her well with her retirement. He congratulated Ms. Lawson on her election. Mr. Odom asked everyone to keep the Sheriff Department, EMS, and Fire Departments in their prayers as they worked to help the citizens of the county. He thanked Mr. Bostic for his contributions to the community. Mr. Odom recognized Mr. Ron Munneryn for his excellent work as County Administrator and Economic Development Director.

**Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. Chairman** – congratulated Ms. Lawson on her election. He recognized Ms. Plato for her years of service to the county.

**Ms. Corrie Plato** – addressed Mr. Bostic advising him that she was out of shape and she needed help getting back into shape.

ADJOURN

**Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman  
Marlboro County Council



Susan Rivers, Clerk  
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: August 9, 2022