

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
"CALLED" MEETING

TUESDAY, July 20, 2022

4:00 PM

CHAIRMAN CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR

VICE CHAIRMAN JASON STEEN  
CLERK TO COUNCIL SUSAN RIVERS  
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

Others Present: Ms. Doris Sumpter, Administrative Services Director; Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Works Director, and Ms. Jacqueline Hough, Herald Advocate.

A copy of the agenda and Public notice were posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building, FaceBook, 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 4 p.m.

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Midgley, Chairman advised Council needed to go into executive session for discussion of Contractual, Legal, and Economic Development Matters.

**Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion of Contractual, Legal and Economic Development Matters. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

**Motion made at 4:25 pm by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

While returning from executive session, Dr. Johnson asked Mr. Munnerlyn if he knew Pandora of which Mr. Munnerlyn asked “What”. Dr. Johnson told Mr. Munnerlyn that he (Mr. Munnerlyn had opened Pandora’s box).

Mr. Midgley, Chairman advised no action had been taken in Executive Session regarding discussion of the Administrator’s contract and possible changes.

**NEW BUSINESS RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)**

Mr. Midgley, Chairman read the amendments discussed in executive session for council’s consideration - Request from County Administrator 2/8/2022 to amend the county administrator’s existing employment contract as follows:

- a. The term of the Administrator’s employment contract shall be extended by two years with a revised expiration date of 1/31/2026.
- b. The administrator’s employment contract shall be amended so that there is no reduction of the administrator’s salary should they choose to hire an Economic Developer (Section 4a).
- c. The Administrator’s base salary shall remain at the current level, with no raise acknowledging however, the administrator shall remain at the current level (no raise) acknowledging however that the Administrator shall continue to receive annual cost of living or other increases no less than those provided to other County employees as he has since the commencement of the contract in 2016.
- d. The county shall reimburse the administrator for his employee contribution (9%) to the S.C. Retirement System. This reimbursement shall be included in his regular compensation.
- e. Termination of the Administrator without cause shall require a super majority which for the purposes of this contract shall be defined to 6 votes. If terminated without cause, the County shall pay to the administrator severance pay equivalent to the salary for the remaining months’ term of their contract at the time of termination (Section 3a).

The Chairman advised that all other provisions of the existing contract amendment and subsequent amendments not in conflict with this amendment shall remain in effect.

The Chairman of Council shall be empowered to execute an amendment to this contract per the provisions outlined above.

When the Chairman started reading the amendments (Section a), Dr. Johnson got up and left the meeting. During the reading of the amendments for consideration, section b, Mr. Anthony Woods

asked “Who is they”? Dr. Johnson returned to the meeting while the Chairman was reading the last terms of the amendment. After the reading of the amendment, the Chairman paused for a moment for any comments or discussion by council. With no comments a motion and second were presented by Mr. Verd Odom and Mr. Kenneth Stroman. (**Motion below**). While the motion and second were being made, Mr. Anthony Woods commented that he had discussion. At this point, both Mr. Woods and Dr. Johnson kept stating “Unreadiness” and that council could not take a vote. The Chairman advised that a motion and second had been made, while the Chairman was calling for a vote, both Mr. Woods and Dr. Johnson kept arguing with him. Six Council members raised their hands in favor of the motion.

**Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the stipulations in the amended Administrator’s contract as outlined in the Administrator’s request of 2/08/2022 as stated above. Vote in favor: Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Mr. Anthony Woods and Dr. Damien Johnson did not vote. Vote: 6/0/2.**

After the initial vote of 6 in favor and Dr. Johnson and Mr. Woods not voting, Dr. Johnson and Mr. Woods kept responding with unreadiness. They kept stating that a vote could not be taken because unreadiness was on the table. While the Chairman commented that since a motion and a second had been made, a vote had to be taken (both were yelling over him). Dr. Johnson told the Chairman that he needed to read the Robert’s Rules of Order. Dr. Johnson also told the Chairman that he was out of order. Mr. Verd Odom stated that a motion and second had been made and they needed to vote. Dr. Johnson and Mr. Woods kept stating that unreadiness was on the table, so council could not vote. At this moment the meeting was becoming heated. The Chairman asked to take a vote again.

While other council members were voting, Dr. Johnson kept repeating that this was not a legal vote. The Chairman advised that the motion had been made, a second had been made, a vote had been taken with a result of 6 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion was carried.

Dr. Johnson said that the county needed to really be careful of the procedures they follow. He stated that council was out of order and that the county would burn because of council being out of order. He said that if everybody was ready for Pandora’s box to be opened, they could just move forward without any procedure corrections.

**AMENDMENT**: When approving the minutes on August 9, 2022, Mr. Anthony Woods requested that the following additions be made to the original minutes for future reference:

Mr. Anthony Woods said that he had a couple additions on the “Called” meeting on the second page of the minutes. There was a statement in the minutes where it stated that Mr. Woods and Dr. Johnson did not vote, he said they were not asked to vote. Robert’s Rules of Order always states “there is a motion and a second”. After the second, the Chairman was supposed to say “Council Discussion”. That was not said. At the time of the vote when he said all in favor raise their hands, all opposed raise their hands, this was not carried out. That’s why in the minutes where it said that

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Mr. Woods and Dr. Johnson did not vote, it was because of the fact that he (Chairman) did not follow the Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Woods asked for the additions in making the motion.

ADJOURN


**Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor: Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Mr. Anthony Woods and Dr. Damien Johnson did not vote. Vote: 6/0/2. Motion Carried.**

After the vote was taken, and before the Chairman adjourned the meeting, Dr. Johnson told his fellow council members to get ready.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

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

  
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Susan Rivers, Clerk  
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: August 9, 2022