

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

5:00 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. 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 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.marlbocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION- Ms. Corrie Plato

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (DISCUSSION OF OVERTIME FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND DETENTION CENTER, PURSUANT TO SC CODE SECTION 30-4-70)

Motion made at 5:05 pm by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to enter executive session to discuss overtime for Sheriff's Department and Detention Center. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made at 6:43 pm by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chairman Steen advised that no votes had been taken and no decisions were made during the executive session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 811 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a copy of the proposed budget for the next fiscal year was included in the agenda packet which included minor changes since the last presentation. He stated the general fund budget is \$12.6 million and includes the use of \$464,000 from fund reserves. He stated the general fund, along with Rural Fire, EMS, and Solid Waste constitutes a total of \$17.9 million. He stated also included in the overall budget are other special funds and grants which are “pass through” monies which are used for specific purposes. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the American Rescue Plan funds in the amount of \$5,073,000 are also included in the budget. He stated staff will provide a plan of how these funds may be used for Council’s consideration once staff receives more information and once the rules become clearer.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there have been discussions about the overtime situation for the Sheriff’s Department and Detention Center. He stated staff has been working hard on this issue. He stated Council just met with the Sheriff and staff will continue to work on the overtime issue and provide more information to Council at the next council meeting.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated once the county’s budget is adopted to authorize the amount of money to be spent, staff would work on estimating the amount of revenues coming in and would request Council to ratify the tax millage that will be necessary to generate that amount of revenue. He stated a reassessment of properties has been done and as discussed, some property values may increase, and some may decrease. He stated staff will look at the total change and adjust the tax millage accordingly so that property taxes do not increase due to the reassessment.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff is pleased to see an increase in the local option sales tax and hopes that the increase will carry forward to next year. He stated all property tax owners, except for industries, receive a discount on their property tax notices which is based on sales tax revenue funds received from the county, as well as from the state, that represents sales tax from other counties larger than Marlboro. He stated this year, staff has seen a significant increase in the

amount of revenue that has been received which will be available to give back to residents. He stated this increase in sales tax will allow staff to utilize that factor significantly that may result in a tax decrease on the county portion of the residents' property taxes. He stated this would not affect the school taxes in any way.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he felt if there is an increase for the cost due to overtime by the Sheriff's Department and the Detention Center, it may be offset by the increase in the local option sales tax. He stated staff would have more information when they estimate the tax millage for the upcoming year.

Mr. Munnerlyn referred members of Council to the picture of the dollar which was included in their agenda packet. He stated the picture reflects how a dollar is spent on taxes for a county resident. He stated about 33 cents of every dollar goes to county government to include operations and bonds, EMS, and those type services. He stated about 5 cents goes to Rural Fire for those who live outside of any town or municipality. He stated 1 cent goes to Northeastern Technical College and the School District receives about 61 cents of every dollar since they have more expenses than the County by nature of what they provide. He stated he felt this clarified how tax dollars are spent especially since Council is making decisions that impact citizens' monies.

Mr. Munnerlyn also referred members of Council to the pie chart included in the agenda packet that reflects rounded numbers of the percentage of how the funds from the county budget are spent. He stated about 23% of the county's budget goes to the operation for the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center. He stated about 17% of the county's budget goes to the operation of EMS.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Capital Improvement Plan that was scheduled for the public hearing. He stated this was simply a plan and the county is not bound by it in any way. He stated it was an estimated plan for the purchase of equipment and automobiles needed for each operating department of the county.

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

ORDINANCE # 812 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF FY 2022-2026

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, made comments on this Ordinance while commenting on the budget Ordinance.

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

The Public Hearing was closed.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 811 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 - THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated the Public Hearing was just held on this Ordinance.

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

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 811 – an Ordinance to Adopt the Annual Budget and to make Appropriations for Marlboro County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 812 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF FY 2022-2026 – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated the public hearing on this Ordinance was just held.

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

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 812 – an Ordinance to Approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Marlboro County for the Period of FY 2022-2026. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 818 – AN ORDINANCE TO OUTLINE CONDITIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a few citizens appeared at the last council meeting with concerns about a company that is interested in constructing a solar farm in a residential area. He stated staff has been working on an Ordinance to provide protection for our citizens with regards to the construction of solar farms in our county. He stated a drafted Ordinance is currently being reviewed by Attorney Steve Weber who handles these types of environmental issues for the county. He stated the Ordinance would require a shield of vegetation and set-back requirements. He also stated that once a solar farm shuts down or is no longer in operation, the company will

be required to clean up the area and remove all panels and equipment. He stated this is the first step of what is needed to protect our citizens without changing the county's zoning.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he has requested staff to include the county's zoning plan for discussion on the agenda for the next scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Munnerlyn also confirmed a letter was sent to the solar company prospect as requested at the last meeting advising them of the opposition in constructing a solar farm in a residential neighborhood.

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

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve first reading in title only 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.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

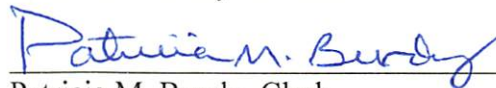
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: July 13, 2021