

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 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 – Zoom (Information Only)  
ANTHONY WOODS

- Absent

Others Present: Ms. Doris Sumpter, Administrative Services Director; Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director; Mr. Steve Pollard, IT Director; Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director; and Ms. Jacqueline Hough, Marlboro Herald Advocate.

A copy of the agenda was posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building and on the Marlboro County Website. The Public Hearing Notice was posted in the Marlboro Herald Advocate, Morning News, Front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building, and posted on the Marlboro County Website as required by law. A copy of the agenda was provided to Ms. Jacqueline Hough, Marlboro Herald Advocate prior to the meeting.

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

**Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in Favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 827 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 – THIRD READING.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator discussed briefly. He said that information that had been discussed in their “Called” meeting was presented to them with the changes they requested. It included the chart they has seen in their work session. Mr. Munnerlyn advised the proposed budget includes an increase of 5 mils and uses \$376,925 from reserve. “This reserve amount is a little more than the targeted \$350,000, but, a little less than the \$425,000”. It is the first tax increase the county has had in 5 years. It is very important to protect the reserve in light of the uncertain economy and inflation.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the annual Solid Waste Roll Cart fee will increase to \$235 for residences and \$185 for resident recurring Homestead exemptions. Council has taken a firm stance on protecting the citizens on Homestead. , which includes citizens over 65 or disabled. This is a 3 year commitment which staff feels good about considering the economy and the cost of fuel.

The General Fund includes increases which Council cannot control such as state retirement and employer contribution and previous year COLA/compensation adjustments (\$325,000); Sheriff and Detention Center increases over the prior year and approved requests for FY 2022-2023 (\$566,000) and Cost of Living/Compensation increases (6 months) for all employees (\$120,000).

The Rural Fire Fund has adequate reserve funds now in place, so the budget is set to spend all of the revenue forecasted for next year. Council 5 or 6 years ago increased the rural fire millage to try to adopt recommendations of the ISO plan, to reduce citizen’s insurance costs, and make the county safer. The rural fire departments have done a great job. The rural fire departments have requested several this this year including: increased amount paid per fire call for volunteers from \$15 a call to \$17 per call; Increased funds for part-time fire personnel on day shift (maintenance, respond with equipment to calls, and other cost as required). The proposed budget also provides \$100,000 to be used to offset insurance and possible fuel costs for all departments. “No tax increases are required for these requests”. Mr. Munnerlyn asked council to approve the budget ordinance when we get to the third and final reading.

Mr. Anthony Woods requested Mr. Munnerlyn to elaborate on the dollar amount impact of 5 mils on citizen’s tax bills.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised for regular residences it was \$2.00 per mil and for rental properties it was \$3.00 per mil.

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ORDINANCE # 828 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF FY 2023 – 2027 – THIRD READING.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised the county would utilize General Obligation bond funds for the Capital Improvement Plan. He requested Council table the vote for the Ordinance at the appropriate time during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRIL 26, 2022 – BUDGET WORKSHOP

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the Budget Workshop meeting minutes of April 26, 2022 as presented. Vote in favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, and Mr. Steve Blackmon. Abstain: Mr. Verd Odom (not present for meeting).**

May 10, 2022 – BUDGET WORK SESSION

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the Budget Work Session Minutes for May 10, 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, and Mr. Verd Odom. Abstain: Ms. Corrie Plato (not present for meeting)**

May 10, 2022 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

**Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve regular meeting minutes of May 10, 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, and Mr. Verd Odom. Abstain: Ms. Corrie Plato (not present for meeting)**

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 827 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 – THIRD READING.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that current budget includes information showing the number of employees per Department.

**Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman , seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 827 - An Ordinance to Adopt the Annual Budget and to Make Appropriations for Marlboro County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023. Vote in favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, and Mr. Steve Blackmon. Opposed: Dr. Damien Johnson. Motion Carried.**

ORDINANCE # 828 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF FY 2023 – 2027 - THIRD READING

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to table the third reading of Ordinance # 828 – An Ordinance to Approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Marlboro County for the Period of FY 2023 – 2027. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

ORDINANCE # 829 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND MARLBORO COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES (ORDINANCE # 601), CHAPTER 58 (TAXATION), BY ADDING ARTICLE VI. (SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES), TO AUTHORIZE AND ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO GRANT SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS TO CERTAIN REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES – SECOND READING.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator advised that the City of Bennettsville had approached the County concerning this issue. It would provide a tax break for someone who restores a downtown building or house. Marlboro County had originally passed an Ordinance for Historic Properties in 2006. Mr. Munnerlyn requested Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director elaborate more on the details.

Mr. Wes Park advised that Ordinance # 829 has been created to amend Ordinance # 601 to follow the new guidelines to meet the Department of Interior standards. He also noted that the previous ordinance only provided the tax break for 10 years. The current ordinance provides the tax break for 20 years. All applications have to go through the State Historic Property Tax Office.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen , seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 829 An Ordinance to amend Marlboro County Code of Ordinances (Ordinance # 601), Chapter 58 (Taxation), By Adding Article VI. (Special Property Tax Assessment Program for Rehabilitated Historic Properties), to authorize and establish a program to grant Special Property Tax Assessments to certain Rehabilitated Historic Properties. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION # 06-22-01 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR AIRPORT RESCUE GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,000 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn advised this is a COVID type grant without any match. The grant can be used for multiple purposes at the Airport. He recommended Council approve the Resolution.

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Resolution # 06-22-01 – A Resolution authorizing submission of an application by Marlboro County for Airport Rescue Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$22,000 and authorization to accept grant if awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

RESOLUTION # 06-22-02 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC) BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR FY2023 WASTE TIRE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,750 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised this is a grant the County applies for every year for marketing with billboards. It does not require a match. Mr. Munnerlyn advised he had spoken to Mr. Stroman about whether these funds may help with the disposal of tires. In 2018 Council approved a month for citizens to bring their tires in for disposal at no charge. Staff will investigate if grant funds can be used specifically for this and bring it back to council. Such a program would be for private citizens and not commercial businesses.

**Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve Resolution # 06-22-02 – A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Office of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) by Marlboro County for FY2023 Waste Tire Grant Funds in the amount of \$2,750 and authorization to accept grant if awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION # 06-22-03 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY MARLBORO COUNTY TO THE S.C. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE FOR THE FY 2022 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (LEMPG) AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED.

Mr. Munnerlyn this is another grant approval that is put before Council every year. It pays for the operations of the Emergency Management Department managed by Mr. Steve Akers. There is no cash match. Mr. Anthony Woods asked how much the grant is for this year. He was advised

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this year the county can apply for \$65,182. The funds may only be used for the Emergency Management Department and the county depends on it.

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, Seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Resolution # 06-22-03 – A Resolution authorizing submission of an application by Marlboro County to the S.C. Emergency Management Office for the FY 2022 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) and authorization to accept grant if awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION # 06-22-04 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC) BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR FY2023 USED OIL GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,250 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised this is another recurring grant each year. It helps with the disposal of oil that people bring into the convenience centers and materials needed. The grant does not require a match.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman to approve Resolution # 06-22-04 – A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Office of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) by Marlboro County for FY2023 Used Oil Grant Funds in the amount of \$18,250 and authorization to accept grant if awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No appointments were made.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

APPROVAL OF SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT AGGREGATES FOR COUNTY UNPAVED ROADS.

The contract amount for obtaining slag from TMS International, LLC is \$100,000. Mr. Munnerlyn advised this is the continuation of a program with the Marlboro County Transportation Committee for the last 5 to 6 years. This process is required in order to get reimbursed by South Carolina DOT. We have to use sole source because TMS is the only company we can use, they are the only ones with slag in our area. This is approval required by the State. Mr. Munnerlyn requested Council approve the request.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the request for approval of the Sole Source Procurement Aggregates for County Unpaved Roads and**

**awarding the contract to TMS International, LLC in the amount of \$100,000. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No appointments were made.

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 general fund revenue for the eleven months ending May 31, 2022 was a total of \$11,904,474 compared with the eleven months ending May 31, 2021 in the amount of \$11,015,039. The revenue is \$900,000 greater than last year. General Fund expenditures through May 31, 2022 were \$10,528,671 of the budgeted \$12,825,534 compared to the eleven months ending May 31, 2021 of \$10,180,710. In summary, income is higher due to increases with state and local tax revenues and expenditures are slightly higher for the same year to date period versus last year. Overall, the County is in a better position approaching year end.

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 May: Ms. Deborah Weldon (22 years); Ms. Jackie Baldwin (18 years); Mr. Johnny Fair (17 years); and Ms. Bianca Ivery (9) years.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The S.C. Association of Counties Annual Conference – Monday, August 1 – Thursday, August 4, 2022.** – In 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, SC. Mr. Munnerlyn advised that the conference now begins on Monday and runs to Thursday of that week. He advised staff would contact Council to determine classes and other details.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Spec Building Update** – Mr. Munnerlyn advised that the Spec Industrial building has been completed. He advised that Ms. Susan Rivers would be in touch to schedule a ribbon cutting and

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marketing launch during the coming month. Staff is working with NESAs to market the building. Hopefully, we can get businesses in there soon and provide jobs.

**Delta Project** – Demolition work is well underway. Demolition of the center building (Plant 2) is progressing well. The contractor's had to do an asbestos abatement first. They are about through with that part. However, they have been able to demolish parts of the building down as they go. Mr. Munnerlyn advised that council needed to schedule a photo op pretty quick before it is torn down. He said that Ms. Rivers would be in touch to schedule a photo op for the following week. We are negotiating with the contractor for the partial demolition of the front building, Plant 3. There are parts of the building we plan to save.

### **Administrator's Report**

**Employee Appreciation Day** – The event was a huge success. There was great food and activities including a dunking booth and karaoke. All departments were well represented. Mr. Munnerlyn wanted to give a special thanks to Ms. Doris Sumpter and the committee responsible for planning the event. Staff is already looking forward to next year.

**Recreation Project** – Was discussed in Work Session. Staff is working to develop actionable plans/options for recreation that will be discussed at next month's council meeting. The good news is that the County received the second installment of ARP money, and now have in place a total of \$4,500,000 in County funds. Representative Henegan and Senator Malloy advised that there is also \$2,000,000 of funds in the state budget "earmarked" for a Marlboro County Recreation project, however, we are waiting to see if the Governor veto's these earmarks which is very possible. Or he may approve it. He asked Council to keep their fingers crossed.

**Capital Project Funding** – The third reading was tabled. Mr. Munnerlyn advised that this funding was discussed in Council workshops. There are a number of large maintenance type projects like roof replacement and parking lot repaving. There are also needs for large, long-life equipment like a backhoe and dump truck; these items can be funded through the GO Bond revenue. Staff is preparing an ordinance and related documents for Council approval in order to access these funds. This action will not increase taxes, but, could be best described as a refinance of existing debt to utilize equity. The county usually does this every 5 years.

**Digital Sign Delay** – the sign was set to ship Friday, June 24, 2022 with installation scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL**

Mr. Alton Roller addressed Council on behalf of their community in Wallace: Delta Heights and Albert Lane. He said they have a guy in their neighborhood who has been shooting off tan nerite explosives that shake their houses. They have made calls for help and have 23 files on it. There is one lady whose house is only 12 feet from where he is shooting them off. He made the response that he shot off 5 lbs. this past weekend and he intends to shoot 15 lbs. on the fourth of July. Mr.



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Roller asked what they were supposed to do if it messes up their homes. The guy thinks it's a game. Mr. Roller thought that everyone in the community has talked to him. There is no reasoning with him. He had done it the previous Friday, then immediately jumped into his truck and drove to Chesterfield County. He had to speak to some of the community members and ask them not to take physical action. It's getting worse. The community is tired of it. They have elderly people in their community and they are just asking assistance to get it stopped. His brother in-law lives with him and went into a-fib one night because it scared him so bad because at the time they did not know what it was. He ended up in the hospital. There's something that needs to be put in place to fix this. They had to call 911 one time because he also plays extremely loud music. They probably live 350 yards from him and it was so loud that 911 could hear it from inside his house. They know it is not illegal and the Sheriff Department Officers are doing an excellent job. The officers have tried, but their hands are tied because it is not illegal. Something has to be done before someone gets hurt. On Albert Lane which is a county maintained road, he speeds on the road throwing the rocks into the other people's yards. There are kids in the community and they have even put up signs to try to get him to stop. He thinks it is a game. Mr. Roller requested Council please help them in finding a solution.

### RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

**Mr. Anthony Woods** – stated that he agreed with Mr. Roller. It must be a serious issue with so many citizens coming from one community. They have a similar situation in Clio with the shooting of fire arms after legal hours. A lady in Clio has people shooting guns at night when she is trying to sleep. She jumps up because everyone knows that bullets do not have a destination. Fireworks are one thing, but, guns or shotguns are another thing being shot around people's homes. People are diving on their floors. These people came as a community. If the guy thinks it is a game, games change. It's up to Council to change the game. He wanted to bring up Clio because his grandmother is 105 years old and he loves her to death. The last thing she needs is gunfire across the street. Not just her, but other people of all ages are suffering. At work, he is hearing gunfire which sounds like an AR-47 very close to his business. We do not need the Sheriff Department Officers going out on calls knowing they do not have anything in place that will allow them to either arrest or fine someone. He said Council needs to implement an Ordinance to address these issues for all areas of the county. They must take the initiative to make changes.

He also wanted to applaud the financial staff for their work on the budget during hard times.

**Ms. Corrie Plato** – thanked the officers in attendance for the excellent job they are doing. She addressed Mr. Roller stating that she sympathized with his community. She also has the same situation in her area. Sometimes she is scared to come out of her door because of the shooting. If she does, she gets out of the way and gets back in as fast as she can. She stated Council was here to protect and safe guard the citizens of Marlboro County. She stated a lot of people in various areas of the county are having the same situations with others acting crazy. You can't control them acting crazy, but, you don't need them acting crazy around you. A man shot at a girl running down

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her road. The girl jumped over her fence into her yard. She said she told her she had to go because she didn't want to pull her gun out and start shooting. This was a serious situation.

**Mr. Kenneth Stroman** – expressed his sympathies to Mr. Roller. He requested the Council Chairman and County Administrator to form a committee to address these situations. He knows that the ordinance has to coincide with State law. He asked if Council could form a committee that can work with law enforcement to see what can be done to assist these citizens. He knows they probably cannot get this done by the next meeting, but, hopefully soon. He thanked Sheriff McNeil for the job he is doing. He stated that he guaranteed the officers in attendance would do everything possible to help them. He has full confidence in them. He knows the citizens appreciate it. The citizens can feel the difference and Marlboro County is blessed for having him.

They had an event over the weekend with almost 2,000 people without any incidents that he was aware of. He told Sheriff McNeil that their presence made this possible.

He asked Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director as far as paving roads, was he was correct in thinking the green signs on dirt roads mean they are county maintained. Mr. Carabo responded yes. He asked what the blue signs and white signs meant. Mr. Carabo advised the blue signs meant private roads and the white signs meant the City of Bennettsville. Mr. Stroman asked to what extent do we maintain our roads. If it's a dirt road, do we automatically pave it? Mr. Carabo stated the Transportation Committee where the officials that paved dirt roads and they are not currently doing this. The County does not pave roads. It was clarified that the county does not pave roads, they only repair them and put down slag. Mr. Stroman stated this is information that he needed to know.

He stated he is ready to get the Recreation project on the road. He didn't think they could act on it tonight. Mr. Munnerlyn advised it would be on the next meeting agenda. He will be working on some of the things they had discussed and meeting with some people the next meeting to get more details.

Mr. Stroman thanked Mr. Munnerlyn for the work on the budget. It was hard work. Council tried every way they could to do certain things to their fullest amount. However, they had to make some tough decisions and hopefully, everyone could compromise and come to an agreement.

**Mr. Jason Steen** – advised Mr. Roller had come by the previous day and spoken with him. He had not had a chance to speak with council, but maybe some type of ordinance could be put in place. This is basically like farmers used years ago when they used dynamite to blow up stumps. With society today, people are doing things irresponsibly. This is basically the same as using dynamite. Five pounds is like one stick of dynamite. Fifteen pounds is like 3 sticks of dynamite. Mr. Steen believed there was something council could do to help with this situation. He asked staff to look into the situation and to try and put something in force to help the sheriff's office. He agreed with Ms. Plato that this should be their number one priority to protect the citizens of Marlboro County. It's sad that some citizens do not have any respect for their neighbors. They forgot the two greatest commandments. If they would get back to those, everything else would

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fall into place. Mr. Steen stated that growing up in a rural area they had guns but were taught to use them responsibly. He thanked Sheriff McNeil for everything they were doing. With the traffic these days and accidents, he knew they had to handle them. He asked the citizens in attendance to look out for the officers, if they saw them beside the road, slow down, if they are injured, they may not be able to answer the calls the citizens may have to make.

He said Council worked hard on the budget. These were hard times with inflation. Prices for eggs, milk and gas are at an all time high. For people on a fixed income it's hard. He stated that \$20 may not seem like a lot to some, but, if you don't have it, you don't have it. They had to make some hard decisions for the whole county. He wanted to thank his fellow council members for their hard work. He also wanted to thank the Administrator and staff for their hard work.

With traffic, the county is fixing to get real busy from now until school starts back. With the kids out playing, he asked everyone to look out for each other. We are Marlboro County; we are family from CL10 to Wallace and every other district. He stated we need to keep an eye out for each other.

Regarding the Delta Project, it's one of those things that he didn't know if it would ever happen. But, it did. He was glad it did and was thankful to everyone for the hard work on it. Hopefully down the road they can get some jobs back in there.

**Dr. Damien Johnson** – asked Sheriff McNeil if he had any comments.

**Sheriff McNeil** recognized Mr. Travis Bragg who would assume the position of Warden at the Detention Center the first of the month. He is retired from a federal institution and will replace Warden Thomas. He advised the application for Federal Inmates had been completed and the captain has already begun having conversations with the Feds. Sheriff McNeil addressed Mr. Roller and told him that as of Saturday night they had been out to his place 23 times. The same gentleman had a confrontation with an officer in Cheraw Sunday and made some threats about the Marlboro County Sheriff's Department coming out there. He said the closest thing they have been able to come up with, as of yesterday, is they reached out to the South Carolina Fire Marshall and they may be able to come up with something to help them. If not, he would like to ask the county attorney to see what he can come up with. They need an ordinance in place that would help him in dealing with these situations. He would like to put the man in jail that made the threats, but they can't. It is not fair to the people. He stated that as soon as they get something in place, they will act on these situations. They had 22 calls within a 12 hour period. They had a lot of activity with the storms the previous weekend. With the storms, they had a lot of calls and travel. On Sunday, they had 18 calls. In reference to the budget, he needs help. They are 1 man short. They have too many calls and cannot continue at the same pace. He is not talking money, he's talking the work. The Detention Center is 5 men short. They are doing well, but, the Warden needs help. He wanted to invite everyone out to Family Day at the Sheriff's Office on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am until 12 pm. There was going to be some good food and fun. There was going to be laughter. They were going to let their hair down for a few minutes, which is needed.

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**Dr. Johnson** commended staff for the work done on the budget. He knows council talked and verbally sparred over the budget. He wanted to let everyone know they did their due diligence for this process. He expressed his feeling of Council's leadership to the citizens of Marlboro County. With this being said, he did not get into this service position for popularity; or to be liked; or to project some type of image". He prayed for this position so he could do what he thought was right. He's been on boards and committees since he was 16 years old and he could honestly say this has been the worse dispensation of the most important board he has ever been on with the worse depiction of what a board should be. He is disappointed with Council leadership and with what they are supposed to be doing. In January they said they were going to make some strategic changes that they would engage among themselves that has not happened. Until this happens, they will continue to have to revisit a lot of these issues because they have not done their due diligence". Dr. Johnson stated that in January Mr. Munnerlyn said that a lot of issues the county are having were not because of him and his position, it is because council has not done what they are supposed to do and what their obligations mandate that they do. They are in service positions, however, they are not serving. He said it may not be the most popular thing to say, people may not like him, but, he did not get into this position to be liked, but 741 Craig Circle loves him. They are not doing what they are supposed to do as council members and it's impacting our county. When they go out to campaign they make promises of what they plan to do to make the citizens lives better. But, when they get the position, they do the total opposite. It's not fair to them. It's not fair to him as a citizen. It's not fair that council does not do what they are mandated to do for the voters. By putting their names on the ballot they promise to serve, but, then they get up there and do less serving for the community but serving themselves, it's sad. It's depressing and disheartening that people want to do better, but, leadership, he is not in a leadership position. He is not in a leadership position, so there are certain things that he cannot do; certain leaders he cannot call; and certain people he cannot get in touch with. Their leadership is not doing what they are supposed to do which is to lead and govern. Until this council does what they supposed to do, we will be in the same position which includes: the highest unemployment, lack of economic development, lack of progressive action, lack of anything with substance. It's sad that you get these positions and the people vote for you and when you get these positions you do the bare minimum. There were policies made about committees being established and committee meetings. We have failed ourselves, which means we have failed the citizens of Marlboro County. Dr. Johnson said he was not ashamed to say it. He said council is failing our citizens. But, they are prospering because they get more of what the citizens don't get. They get the opportunity for monetary gain and to have health insurance. They are getting what most of our citizens are not getting and they are getting it at the expense of the citizens. He said that council is doing very little to improve the circumstances of our county. Again, it is depressing, distressing and disheartening. Until council can improve operations, they cannot help this county.

**Mr. Steve Blackmon** – thanked staff for their work on the budget. He does want to work with the Sheriff and wants to help him. Everyone wants to do what's right for the county. Council did what they had to do with the budget. He believes the rest of council want the same thing. They want the best for the county. It was a tough year this year. They are going to get it right. They

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will do more and more each year. It was a tough budget for them also. They had to take some funds out of reserve for the 5 mils. They took more than they wanted to, but it was the right thing to do to help the citizens.

He addressed Mr. Roller stating it was a shame what they were going through. He asked Mr. Roller if the guy was doing this was 12 feet from the lady's house. Mr. Roller responded yes. Mr. Blackmon advised if he were the lady he would start taking dated pictures right now and with the first crack he would go get a lawyer and hit him in the pocket book. He would quit that mess. He advised it may take council three months to do something. They may need to do something in three weeks. If they have damages to a window, they may have to take this route. However, do not make anything up. Council does intend to take action, but, the community needs to go ahead and take some type of action sooner rather than later. This would be the way to get started. If they does not have any more respect than doing this 12 feet from a residence they may need to go ahead and take action.

**Verd Odom** – participated by Zoom. No comments were made.

**Mr. Charles P. Midgley** – stated it was sad the citizens had to come before council because of an unruly neighbor and ask for help. You need to be respectful of your fellow citizens. If you cannot work it out among yourselves and he is being unreasonable, council will see what they can do to help.

He addressed Sheriff McNeil stating that he appreciated the work they did. He knew they had a bid budget request, however, it was a tough year and they did what they could do. By raising the taxes by 5 mils, they really could not hit the citizens any harder than that. He wanted the Sheriff to know that Council stands behind them and they have council's full support. Hopefully they will be able to do more next year.

He thanked Mr. Munnerlyn, Mr. Wes Park and staff for their work on the budget.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No items were added.

ADJOURN

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

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The meeting adjourned at 7:00 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: July 12, 2022