

COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

6 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.

PEARLY LAWSON

KENNETH STROMAN

VERD ODOM

STEVE BLACKMON, AND

ANTHONY WOODS

- Absent

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

A copy of the Regular Meeting Notice and agenda 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.

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

REMARKS – U.S. CONGRESSMAN RUSSELL FRY – DISTRICT 7

U. S. Congressman Russell Fry addressed Council advising he had spent the whole day in Marlboro County in which he saw and heard a lot. He was here a great deal of his campaign. He has spoken with residents, small business owners, and local industries. Congressman Fry said that he took a full tour of the county and enjoyed it. He said what was striking to him was that Marlboro County is not immune of challenges that other counties are faced with. He said they had spoken about it earlier in the day. Because of the people they met earlier, the leadership of and within this county, he thought the challenges could become real opportunities for the county to move forward.

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Congressman Fry said it was an honor to be here. He told a little about himself advising that he was originally from Surf Side Beach and served as a State Representative of District 106 in Columbia, so he has worked the legislative process before. He knows how important it is to have partnerships within the local governments, state governments, and certainly the federal government. Washington is very fast pace, which he expected and relishes. There are no shortages of things to do there. However, what is equally important is dealing with the country's business back home and remembering where you came from and the people you serve. One of the biggest things he learned was listening to the people and what they face every day, it's important to him because it helps him to do his job. You have to talk with people, you have to learn to deal with them and do it in good faith. You're going to have differences of opinion, you're not going to agree on everything, but you find ways you can work together to make sure you are driving for the greater good. He said we are called as Christians, we are called just as people to further our communities to make sure we are being good public servants first. Congressman Fry said in the boy scouts that they had a motto "Leave your camp fire better than you found it". He likes to apply that to what he does in his everyday life. He wants to leave his Church, his community, his state, his country in better shape than he found it. He wanted to say hello and stated it was an honor to work along side them. He advised they were not alone in the challenges they face. He said the county has a unique set of circumstances they face and to be an advocate for them was a goal for him and his office. They are always trying to keep an eye on things back home, even when they are in Washington. Even when they are focusing on big things in Washington, they need to remember the things that are going on back home. He thanked Council for letting him speak and said they had a great asset which is their people. With meeting some of the business owners down town earlier it was actually remarkable how optimistic they were. He said if his office could ever be of service, a resource for the communities which council serve, please let him know. They want an open door policy.

Chairman Midgley thanked Congressman Fry for coming and speaking. He advised that he was always welcome in Marlboro County.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Pearly Lawson requested adding an item to the agenda as Item 6 d for the purpose of scheduling a work session to discuss the Economic Development Organization - Ordinance # 803.

Motion made by Ms. Pearly Lawson, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to add item 6d – scheduling a work session to discuss the Economic Development Organization. Vote in favor: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the Agenda as amended. Vote in favor: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve the February 14, 2023 Council Meeting minutes as written. Vote in favor: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

FINANCIAL AUDIT FY2021-22

Mr. Marc Wood advised Marlboro County received an “unmodified opinion” for the period ending 6/30/2022 which is the highest opinion to be received for financial statements.

Brief Breakdown of Audit report given:

Page 16:

- Total Assets – approximately \$9.7 Million
- Total Liability & Deferred Inflows – approximately \$3 Million
- Fund Balance for General Fund – approximately \$6.7 Million
- Nonspendable of \$94,000 related to prepaid expenses.
- Restricted – approximately \$689,000
- Unassigned Fund Balance – a little over \$5.9 Million

He advised he wanted to give them a breakdown and then go back 5 years and show them where their fund balance has gone.

Page 18:

- Revenues – approximately \$12.9 Million
- Expenditures – a little over \$12.8 Million
- Other Transfers & Financing Sources – approximate \$13,000 change to the fund balance
- Net change to last year fund balance is a little over \$120,000

Page 20 – EMS & Solid Waste Proprietary Funds:

- Total Assets & Deferred Outflows of Resources - \$3.9 Million
- Liabilities - \$1.7 Million
- Difference of \$1.2 Million
- Leaving net position of \$2.1 Million Dollars
- Broken out between Investments in Capital Assets of \$930,000 unrestricted.
- Unrestricted Net position \$1.2 Million
- EMS is approximately \$970,000
- Solid Waste is approximately \$280,000

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Page 21 – EMS & Solid Waste Proprietary Funds

- Revenues - \$4.7 Million
- Expenditures - \$4.5 Million
- Transfers from other funds leaving a positive change net position for the year of \$694,000 broken out between EMS and Solid Waste.
- EMS had a positive change of approximately \$800,000
- Solid Waste had a loss of \$130,000 mostly due to depreciation. It is pretty much self sustaining (breaking even) which is pretty good when dealing with solid waste.

Fund Balance

He went back to 2017 to see what the fund balance has done over the last 5 years.

In 2017 – the unassigned fund balance was \$4.2 Million. Today it is \$5.9 Million. He thought it was important for council to recognize this and realize that there has been a very conservative action to try and strengthen the fund balance. Right now the County has a cushion of 5 to 6 months, this is where you really want to be. Reserves are important because the main source of revenue is property taxes which the county is getting right now. However, once you get to July, the revenue resources will run thin. You need these reserves to continue to pay expenses during the period of July until December. Then the county will begin receiving property taxes again in January.

Page 65 – General Fund Budgetary Comparison Schedule:

	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
• Total Revenues -	12,193,803	12,974,055	780,252
• Total Expenditures -	13,074,860	12,866,317	208,543
• Excess of Revenues/Expenditures -	(881,057)	107,738	988,795
• Total Other Financing Sources -	881,057	13,838	867,219
• Net Change Fund Balance -		121,576	121,576
• Fund Balance Beginning Year -	6,623,979	6,623,979	--
• Fund Balance, End of Year	6,623,979	6,745,555	121,576

Overall, Council and Administration should be very proud. He thanked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, Mr. Wes Park and the Finance Staff for all of their help in gathering the information to complete the audit report.

Mr. Verd Odom asked in comparing with 2017, and battling Covid, would they consider that the county came out pretty good?

Mr. Wood said “Yes”, Marlboro County weathered it and came out stronger.

The audit report Summary of results (Page 90):

- The financial statement opinion is unmodified.
- No significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting were disclosed by the audit of the financial statements.
- The audit disclosed no instances of noncompliance to the financial statements for Marlboro County, South Carolina.
- No material weakness in internal control over major programs were disclosed by the audit. No significant deficiencies in internal control over major programs were disclosed by the audit.
- Auditors have issued an unqualified report on compliance for major programs.
- The audit disclosed no audit findings.
- Major programs are as follow:
 - a. U.S. Department of Treasury - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Type A programs are those exceeding \$750,000. Type B programs are those not exceeding \$750,000
- Marlboro County, South Carolina did qualify as a low-risk auditee.

REQUEST FROM INTERIM SHERIFF LARRY MCNEIL TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON THE HOUSING OF FEDERAL INMATES AND TOWN OF CLIO LAW ENFORCEMENT COVERAGE

FEDERAL INMATES

Interim Sheriff Larry McNeil advised that as of the day of the meeting they had 11 Federal Inmates at the Marlboro County Detention Center. They had received the first deposit of \$13,500 on March 13th for six (6) to (7) inmates. They should have 15 inmates by the end of March. He did want to let Council know that he would be asking for changes in the Sheriff's budget.

CLIO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Interim Sheriff Larry McNeil advised that a new Police Chief had been hired for Clio giving them one employee. He has provided a copy of his schedule: 7 to 3 Monday through Friday, leaving the county to cover 18 hours a day on evenings and weekends. They have to cover any calls that come in.

Interim Sheriff McNeil advised he had some other things that he needed to discuss with council and continued.

First Item - He stated he had some grants that need approval. The first grant is a \$66,000 JAG grant with no match to purchase 12 new portable hand held radios. He advised he needed immediate approval.

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Second Item - they may have to amend the contract with the School District. AMI is moving to Clio and will need a SRO at that school. The cost should be approximately \$70,000 - \$80,000, or possibly more. It should be no cost to the county. The state will amend the contract.

Third Item – the Sheriff’s department had received a \$40,000 contribution for a Training Facility & Firing Range through an anonymous source. They will need more funding. This will be our own firing range.

Fourth Item – the Detention Center needs the doors re-done because of the design. This is a huge need. There is a USDA Grant which will pay up to 55% or \$50,000 to make the changes. The approximate cost of the repairs is \$94,533. The grant will pay approximately ½ of the cost for the doors and the windows. He advised he needs approval to apply for the grant. They are looking for other sources of funds. Mr. Jason Steen asked “When they came in a few months ago, didn’t the State say everything is up to par”? Sheriff McNeil said “those were, but the doors never were”. Mr. Steen said he had the impression everything was alright. Sheriff McNeil responded “Yes, but, they’re not”. He referred to Warden Bragg for more details. Warden Bragg said “at present staff is required to cuff the inmates from the front before removing from the cell, not the back, this includes the federal inmates”. The other option with the food flaps being at the bottom of the door, is opening the door, letting them step out, then cuffing them from the back. Sheriff McNeil advised they are only trained to cuff from the back at the Academy. Mr. Steen said “bringing in more people is presenting more problems. They do not need to bring more in if it is creating a liability. He along with Dr. Johnson both have family out there. How can they move forward knowing there’s a problem out there. If it’s not safe, why bring in more”?

Ms. Pearly Lawson asked how many inmates does the Detention Center currently have. Warden Bragg responded “averaging 70”. She asked how many Federal are expected. Warden Bragg responded “15 total”. Ms. Lawson asked what is the maximum capacity. Warden Bragg responded “150”. Ms. Lawson asked “what is the ratio of officers to inmates”? Warden Bragg responded “5/6 to 1”.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn where the money for the doors used for the grant would come from. Mr. Munnerlyn advised with all the grants being discussed, the items first would have to be put on the agenda for council approval. Then it would be a budget amendment even though there is not match and the difference would come from “Fund Balance” of the General Fund. Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. asked if there were other sources of funding. Sheriff McNeil said they are looking for other sources. Mr. Munnerlyn advised council would have to do a Resolution to approve. Mr. Woods said “with the JAG, no match, no brainer”. He said they definitely need to make sure the officers are safe. They definitely need to put it in motion if possible.

Dr. Damien Johnson said he had been through the Detention Center. He encouraged others to go. He advised he had been out there several times. It’s a dangerous situation. It’s not safe.

Mr. Munnerlyn recommended adding the Resolution for the JAG grant to the next agenda grant –

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council had discussed having a called meeting. He said he believed the SRO agreement was written so it could be increased. Sheriff McNeil advised that was correct. Both could be put on the next agenda. The agreement was approved by Ordinance which allows the Sheriff to make changes. Chairman Midgley advised it would be put on the next "Called" Meeting agenda.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman questioned whether the 18 hours the Sheriff's Department is working for the Clio area in the evenings is Over Time. Sheriff McNeil advised it is just like McColl, they have to take the calls. Then they give the information to the Police Chief so they can follow up.

OLD BUSINESS

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES – STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

A written Phase 1 Update was provided to Council along with the projected costs. Mr. Munnerlyn went over the updates for the various projects:

Board Walk

- RFQ issued for engineers/designers. RFQ responses due this week. They will design and draft specifications for bid. Council and the Lake Authority will have to approve the bid. There have been 4 responses to our RFQ.
- Lake Authority requests max budget of \$400,000 which would leave some funds for other projects.
- SC DNR will lower the lake levels to facilitate construction – saving money.

Golf Course

- New manager (Eric Dusa) starts March 27th, staff hired. Now advertising for "pro shop" staff. Part-time retired with golf experience preferred.
- Purchase requisition has been issued for golf carts (on state contract). 12 to 16 months lead time! Lease existing carts for time being.
- Equipment purchase order issued (on state contract). Need existing equipment to hold us over as 12 to 16 month lead time on equipment also.
- Pool leak has been assessed by consultant. Getting an estimate for repairs. The pool is not in good shape.

Council Action Needed:

- Chairman appoint "golf committee" ASAP – appoint as an Ad-Hoc Committee. This will allow council members to serve on the committee. If there is a desire for a permanent committee, staff will develop ordinance for next Council meeting. Council members may not serve on the permanent committee.
- Name for facility – all agree name needs to be changed with "country club" removed at a

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- minimum. Administrator suggested council include putting “Public” in the name to make it clear that this facility is open to everyone. An example “Marlboro Public Golf Course”.
- Swimming Pool – repair and operate or wait for Phase 2 possibilities.

Discussion:

- Ms. Lawson questioned if any women would be on the committee. She wanted them on there.
- Mr. Midgley asked if there was any further discussion.
- Mr. Woods said he liked “Marlboro Public Golf Course”.
- Dr. Johnson said the county is limiting the use with the “Golf Course” left in the name.
- Mr. Verd Odom said the county had originally discussed it being used for a “Marlboro County Golf & Recreation Complex”.
- Mr. Kenneth Stroman said he wanted to let the Public submit names.
- Mr. Odom stated needed to be done quickly, need to move on. He still recommended naming it “Marlboro County Golf and Recreation Complex”.
- Mr. Stroman said the Public needs to be involved.
- Dr. Johnson wanted to know why they were in such a haste, take a breath, and wait a month.
- Mr. Woods agreed with Dr. Johnson in waiting.
- Ms. Lawson agreed they needed to wait. She suggested advertising and allowing the Public to submit names.
- Mr. Midgley said it needed to be put on the agenda for a “Called Meeting”.
- Mr. Woods said staff could just cover the current sign.
- Dr. Johnson asked if there were any environmental issues with the property.
- Mr. Munnerlyn advised there was nothing on record.

Broad Street

- Closed on the property, County now owns the site.
- Some Asbestos in the building
- Now preparing RFP to solicit demolition estimates/bids. Council will have to approve bids.

Council Action Needed:

- Once the county has the demolition numbers, develop plan for remaining County funds if no City participation. \$650,000 available.

Splash Pad

- Reevaluate location since no City participation

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- Awaiting assessment of pool at Golf Course for final discussion of splash pad/water facility.
- Work Shop discussion.

Council Action Needed:

- Does Council wish to reconsider this item? Possibly move to Phase 2?
- Discuss in Work Shop.

Phase 2

- Approximately \$2,000,000 left and a \$5,000,000 request was submitted to legislative delegation.

Council Action Needed:

- What are council's wishes?
- Per Chairman Midgley, Councilman Johnson wishes to discuss improvements to Brightsville Park.

Council Discussion:

- Mr. Stroman asked to change the amount requested from the legislative delegation to \$8,000,000.

Brightsville Park – Dr. Damien Johnson

Dr. Johnson stated that in looking at Phase I or 2, there was nothing allocated to any of the local parks. He wanted money allocated to each one of them. He said Brightsville needs some tender loving care. A lot of people from Marlboro County and North Carolina utilize that park. It needs basketball courts, pavement, and new improved sheds. He said the park needs improvement.

Ms. Lawson said she had visited the park. The speeds passing the park were very fast.

Mr. Munnerlyn said a better road out of the back with rock was needed.

Mr. Woods said that if the county uses PARD funds, you must be very particular in how you request. He suggested a work shop with everyone bringing their wish list for all the areas. He advised basketball courts can be built using PARD funds.

ORDINANCE # 833 -AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PARK (2016 PARK) OF DILLON AND MARLBORO COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK – SECOND READING

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Mr. Munnerlyn advised this is a Dillon County project.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 833 – An Ordinance to amend the agreement for the development of a joint county Industrial Business Park (2016 Park) of Dillon and Marlboro counties so as to enlarge the park. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 834 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MARLBORO COUNTY TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF MCCOLL TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE WITHIN A DESIGNATED UNINCORPORATED AREA OF MARLBORO COUNTY – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

Mr. Munnerlyn advised this is an agreement that Marlboro County and McColl have had for years.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance # 834 – An Ordinance authorizing Marlboro County to renew the agreement with the Town of McColl to provide Fire Protection Service within a designated unincorporated area of Marlboro County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 03-23-01 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVED FY2022-23 RURAL FIRE SERVICE BUDGET TO ALLOCATE FUNDING FROM THE FUND BALANCE AND OTHER SOURCES FOR THE PURCHASE OF AIR PACK.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised an Ordinance was not needed.

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, approving Resolution 03-23-01 – A Resolution approving an Amendment to the approved FY2022-23 Rural Fire Service Budget to Allocate Funding from the Fund Balance and other Sources for the Purchase of Air Packs. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE # 835 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTHEASTER TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND MARLBORO COUNTY WITH
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REGARDS TO THE USE OF CERTAIN AIRPORT FACILITIES. – FIRST READING.

Mr. Munnerlyn advised Northeastern Technical College would like the use of certain Airport facilities for an Aviation Mechanical Program. He recommended sending the request to the Airport Commission for their recommendation. He requested Council approve the First Reading Title Only.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackman, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance # 835 by Title Only. – An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement between Northeastern Technical College and Marlboro County with Regards to the use of certain Airport Facilities. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD DISCUSSION

Ms. Pearly Lawson requested that a workshop be called to discuss the Ordinance establishing the Partnership Board and board appointments. Council was provided a copy of the Ordinance in their packets.

Mr. Stroman requested Council discuss all the boards and term limits.

Chairman Midgley advised they needed to discuss how to proceed with the search for a New Administrator.

After much discussion, it was decided that Council would meet Friday, March 17, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. for a work shop to discuss how to proceed with the search for a New Administrator which was top priority and then hold another work shop the following week to discuss the various boards. Everyone was in agreement.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSION

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

This item has been tabled several times for further discussion and review of the Ordinance creating the Partnership Board.

A letter was received from the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership’s Executive Board dated December 21, 2022 advising that at their December meeting, the Board voted to reappoint Mr. Andy Rogers as Chairman, Mr. Fred Thomas as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Frankie Frazier as Secretary/Treasurer.

They respectfully requested the reappointment of the following Board Members whose terms expired at the end of December 2022.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
| Mr. Andy Rogers, Chairman | Business & Industry | Palmetto Brick |
| Mr. Wes Park | Small Business, Service Business | Breeden Inn |
| Mr. Fred Thomas, Vice-Chair | Bennettsville Resident with related experience | |
| Mr. Frankie Frazier | Marlboro County Resident with related experience | |
| Mr. Luke Johnakin | Marlboro County Resident with related experience | |

A copy of the letter with the list of requested appointees was included in council packets for the

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March 14, 2023 meeting along with a copy of Ordinance # 803 – An Ordinance establishing the Organization of the Marlboro County Economic Development Agency.

No discussion was heard.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS OR REAPPOINTMENTS TO EXISTING BOARDS

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

LINDSAY PARK ATHLETIC FIELD LIGHTING PROJECT

Bids were opened March 3rd. Bids received were:

- Triple T Electric \$322,900
- Ridgeway Electric \$456,675

Mr. Park advised \$200,000 is identified in the GO Bond to provide for lighting at the Lindsay and Wallace Parks. Bids were received for 5 fields. There are significant safety concerns with 3 of the fields at Lindsay Park. Staff recommends addressing those 3 fields. The costs for lighting of the 3 fields is \$252,730. The bids also presented included the 2 optional fields. Staff recommended breaking the bid down and awarding the bid to Triple T Electric in the amount of \$252,730. Mr. Munnerlyn advised we will only be replacing the lights that are there with more modern lighting. Will not be adding lights to the other 2 fields that do not have any. The bids came in too high.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to accept the bid in the amount of \$252,730 as presented by Triple T Electric for 3 fields at Lindsay Park. Vote in favor: Mr. Anthony Woods, Ms. Pearly Lawson, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Dr. Damien Johnson, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Motion: Vote: 7/1/0. Motion Carried.

JENNINGS BROWN ROOF PROJECT

Bids received and opened were:

- Welch's Quality Builders \$142,767.99 (Vinyl) \$ (Composite)
- J. W. Contractors \$ 72,546.86 (Vinyl) \$ 21,500.00 (Composite)

Mr. Park advised a third bid was received after the deadline. The bid was not opened. There were two options for the roof: Vinyl and Composite. Staff recommended approving the bid in the amount of \$72,546.86 for the vinyl as presented by J. W. Contractors.

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Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon to accept the bid of \$72,546.86 as presented by J. W. Contractors for the vinyl roofing. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK, FINANCE DIRECTOR

General Fund revenues for the eight months ending February 28, 2023 total \$10,381,639 in comparison to \$9,424,063 for the eight months ending February 28, 2022. General Fund expenditures through February 28, 2023 total \$8,953,191 of a \$13,904,125 budget or 64.39% of budget year to date. General fund expenditures totaled \$7,525,309 for the same seven months ending February 28, 2022. In conclusion revenues are up in comparison to the prior year but not as much as the increase in expenditures.

Ms. Lawson asked if this included the salaries for all employees. Mr. Park responded that EMS and Solid Waste were not included. She asked if this included State Office Employees. Mr. Park responded yes, Treasurer, Auditor, Coroner, and Clerk of Court. She asked if any of the boards were paid any funds. Mr. Park responded “no”. She advised she wanted transparency in the salaries. Mr. Munnerlyn advised they could not release the names, only the pay grades.

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 February: Lynn McQueen - 5 years; Montrena Kelly 6 - years; Brandi Ritter - 8 years; Bobbie Grooms – 8 years; Vanessa Dowdy – 13 years; Bobbie Latham – 19 years; and Dwan Bostic – 20 years.

County-wide Clean-up Day 2023

The County will hold a week-long clean up initiative culminating with a Saturday event on April 1st. Teams will sign up and be assigned certain areas and then will be allowed to complete their work during the week or on that Saturday. Supplies for the event will be distributed to teams and will include bags, gloves, vest, t-shirts and “picker upper” tools.

Budget Process

The Budget process for FY2023-24 will begin in the coming weeks first with staff level preparation of current year data and expenditures then followed by solicitation of department level budgets. Once these steps are completed, staff will develop a draft “status quo budget” as in past years, showing what it would cost to continue county operations at their present level, then show know additional expenses and gain or loss of revenue.

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Budget Schedule

March 22	Budget packets distributed to Department heads / Elected Officials
March 31	Completed packets due to Finance.
April 11 (Council Meeting)	Staff will present a draft budget based on continuing to operate at current service levels taking into account known mandatory increases in expenses (retirement contributions, insurance, etc.) and + known revenue changes (additional or reduced revenue changes)
Week of April 17	Workshop to discuss requests for additional funding. Known increase requests from Sheriff/Detention Center, Recreation operations, etc.
May 9 (Council Meeting)	Workshop and 2 nd Reading of budget
Period between May 10-June 12	Workshops as needed.
June 13 (Council Meeting)	Final reading and required public hearing.

RECREATION NOTES PHASE 1 Updates Lake Board Walk

- RFQ issued for engineers/designers. RFQ responses due this week. They will design and draft specifications for bid. Council and the Lake Authority will have to approve bid.
- Lake Authority requests max budget of \$400,000 (would leave some \$\$ for other projects).
- SC DNR will lower lake levels to facilitate construction- saving money.

Golf Course

- New manager starts March 27th staff hired. Now advertising for “pro shop” staff. Part-time retired with golf experience preferred.
- Purchase requisition has been issued for golf carts(on state contract). 12 to 16 month lead time! Lease existing carts for time being.
- Equipment purchase order issued (on state contract.) Need existing equipment to hold us over as 12 to 16 month lead time on equipment also.
- Pool leak has been assessed by consultant (attached). Getting estimate to repair.

Council action

- Chairman appoint “golf committee” ASAP –appoint as an Ad-Hoc Committee. If there is a desire for a permanent committee, staff will develop ordinance for next Council meeting.

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- Name for facility – all agree name needs to be changed with “country club” removed at a minimum. I’d suggest considering putting “Public” in the name to make it clear that this facility is open to everyone. “Marlboro Public Golf Course”
- Swimming Pool – repair and operate or waiting for Phase 2 possibilities

Broad Street

- Closed on property, County now owns the site.
- Now preparing RFP to solicit demolition estimates/bids. Council will have to approve bids.

Council action

- Once have demolition numbers, develop plan for remaining County funds if no City participation

Splash Pad

- Reevaluate location since no City participation.
- Awaiting assessment of pool at Golf Course for final discussion of splash pad/water facility

Council action

- Does Council wish to reconsider this item? Move to Phase 2?

Phase 2

Approximately \$2,000,000 left and a \$5,000,000 request was submitted to legislative delegation.

Council action

- 1) What are council’s wishes?
- 2) Per Chairman Midgley, Councilman Johnson wishes to discuss improvements to Brightsville Park

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN’S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

No citizens were heard.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – said it was a very good meeting. He was looking forward to the work shop on Friday. He advised there was a Clio event coming up “Hot Rods” and invited everyone. He asked Ms. Doris Sumpter to be present for the Friday meeting.

Ms. Pearly Lawson – thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She was thankful they were able to agree and disagree and move forward with the business.

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Mr. Kenneth Stroman – thanked everyone for coming. He asked Council to please be mindful and give other council members courtesy of communications in scheduling or cancelling of meetings. He said each member goes out of their way to make these meetings, however, it's an embarrassment when 4 council members are standing outside with the doors locked unaware that the meeting had been cancelled. He asked that every council member be communicated with.

Chairman Midgley advised he took full responsibility and apologized for the situation which happened.

Mr. Jason Steen – no comments.

Dr. Damien Johnson – recognized and commended the Recreation Department for a successful basketball season. A lot of kids participated in and a lot of effort went into playing the games. He said they went undefeated in the regular season and won a tournament. He is looking forward at what they can do to improve recreation. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said no matter what political affiliation, they are one county that wants to make it better for all the citizens.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – thanked everyone for coming. He thanked staff for doing a good job on the audit.

Mr. Verd Odom – thanked everyone for coming. He said he appreciated everything the Sheriff does. It was a long day with Congressman Fry and stated that Congressman Fry would be back during the second quarter.

Chairman Midgley – thanked the staff for doing a good job for the audit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (AS NEEDED BY COUNCIL)

None.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

March 14, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M..

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Adopted: April 11, 2023



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



Susan Rivers, Clerk
Marlboro County Council