

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO CIVIC CENTER

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN	JASON STEEN
VICE CHAIRWOMAN	CORRIE PLATO
ADMINISTRATOR	RON MUNNERLYN
CLERK TO COUNCIL	PATRICIA BUNDY
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

The Council meeting is being held at the Marlboro Civic Center in order to allow adequate space for an open meeting and to allow for social distancing.

Others Present: Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director; Ms. Doris Sumpter, Administrative Services Director; Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director; and Jackie Hough, of the Herald-Advocate.

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough and Mr. Dan McNiell 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.marlborocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION- Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 806 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) AND SHORTHORN HOLDINGS, LLC.

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ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE "COMPANY"), WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AT A LOCATION IN THE COUNTY (THE "PROJECT") AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, opened the public hearing and recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance was on the agenda for third reading tonight and, if approved, would provide property tax incentives for a solar project to be located in Marlboro County. He stated these type solar projects are common but was the first solar project being considered for Marlboro County. He stated the annual payment to the county would be \$3,500 per megawatt. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the project was expected to invest approximately \$5,000,000 and would not produce any jobs but would add to the county's tax base.

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

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2021 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were no recommended changes.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the regular council meeting minutes of February 9, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor: Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Steve Blackmon, Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Verd Odom, Dr. Damien Johnson, and Mr. Anthony Woods. Abstain: Ms. Corrie Plato (not present at the meeting). Vote: 7/0/1. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 806 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY") AND SHORTHORN HOLDINGS, LLC, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE "COMPANY"), WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AT A LOCATION IN THE COUNTY (THE "PROJECT") AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated the Public Hearing was held earlier on this item and is being considered for third reading. He asked if there were any questions or additional comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 806 - an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by and between Marlboro County, South Carolina (the "County") and Shorthorn Holdings, LLC, Acting for Itself, One or More Affiliates and/or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, the "Company") with Respect to the Construction of Certain Facilities at a Location in the County (the "Project") and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 807 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT COUNTY ROADWAYS FROM UNNECESSARY OR ADVANCED DETERIORATION AND PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS – SECOND READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Carabo stated this proposed Ordinance will promote, protect, and preserve the integrity of all County-maintained roads from unnecessary damage that occurs during the operation of vehicles weighing more than 10,000 lbs. and ATVs operated in a reckless manner.

Mr. Carabo stated the proposed Ordinance will address three issues: (1) tractor trailers parking on County roads that are not designed for excessive weight causing damage; (2) logging companies using County roads to access timber in rural areas which damage roads; and (3) ATVs being improperly operated causing excessive damage to County-maintained roads.

Mr. Carabo stated that the proposed Ordinance will allow Codes Enforcement staff to enforce and regulate the following:

1. Parking of vehicles over 10,000 lbs. on County-maintained roads;
2. Traffic on roads by adding road signs;
3. Prohibit turning of vehicles or specified types of vehicles at intersections with signage;
4. Load and weight limits to prevent damage of roadways; and
5. Restrict the improper use of ATVs causing excessive damage.

Mr. Carabo stated the Codes Enforcement staff would be tasked with implementation of this Ordinance. He stated Sheriff's deputies could also write citations if they see something while on patrol. Mr. Carabo stated after signs are posted, operations or parking of these vehicles would constitute a violation of the Ordinance.

Mr. Carabo stated fines from parking, operating or damaging County roads will be from \$100-\$500 and individuals may be held responsible for repair cost if additional offenses occur after initial citation. He stated improper use of ATVs will be fined \$50-\$200.

Mr. Carabo asked if there were any questions.

Chairman Steen stated he wanted to make sure he understood, he asked if folks damaged the county-maintained roads, would a ticket be issued and fine imposed? Mr. Carabo stated the

proposed Ordinance would provide for a ticket to be issued for malicious damage to property and if found guilty, a fine could be imposed or they could be forced to repair any damages made. He stated Codes Enforcement would be patrolling the areas and would need to see someone causing the damage.

Chairman Steen asked what was the current estimated cost per year being spent for repairs to roads. Mr. Carabo stated he really had no firm numbers but the budget to maintain roads is currently \$800,000 per year and only \$600,000 is taken in by the County from the road tax.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked how many roads were impacted. Mr. Carabo stated many folks driving large trucks park them on the county-maintained roads. He stated the county-maintained roads are not designed for that kind of weight and causes broken asphalt. He stated staff receives many calls complaining about the damages being made by these trucks. Mr. Woods asked if complaints were received regarding paved and dirt roads. Mr. Carabo confirmed they were.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman asked where the drivers of large trucks would be able to park their large trucks if the Ordinance was approved. Mr. Carabo stated there was a large lot at the old "Kress" site that folks use to park tractor trailer trucks. Mr. Stroman stated he felt the County should provide a parking lot for large trucks as an alternative if a fine would be imposed for parking on county-maintained roads. Mr. Carabo stated the County did not have a parking lot to provide for this purpose.

Mr. Carabo stated Codes Enforcement staff has discussed these issues of damage to county-maintained roads with members of the Highway Patrol and they advised that they are unable to issue citations since there is no County Ordinance in effect. Mr. Carabo stated if the Ordinance is adopted, it would give staff the ability to take action if folks are found damaging the county-maintained roads.

Chairman Steen stated he heard complaints all the time from EMS and fire department staff about the condition of roads that are damaged from large trucks and logging trucks.

Mr. Steve Blackmon stated he received calls as well. He stated there was no way to fine or enforce folks without an Ordinance in place. He stated he felt the County was wasting tax monies to make repairs knowing that those same folks that caused original damage would simply cause damage to the roads again.

Chairman Steen stated County staff was in the process of placing rock on County-maintained roads and he did not feel that we should allow them to be damaged.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions or further comments.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 807 -an Ordinance to Protect County Roadways from Unnecessary or Advanced Deterioration and Provide Penalties for Violations. Vote in favor: Mr. Jason Steen, Dr. Damien Johnson, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Verd

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Odom, Mr. Steve Blackmon and Mr. Anthony Woods. Opposed: Mr. Kenneth Stroman. Vote: 7/1/0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE # 808 - AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MARLBORO COUNTY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was a renewal of the Emergency Ordinance for COVID-19. He stated he hoped that this would be the last time that it would need to be renewed but it was the same as the prior Emergency Ordinances with no additional changes.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Emergency Ordinance # 808 – an Emergency Ordinance to Declare a State of Emergency in Marlboro County and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 809 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF 1.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY MARLBORO COUNTY LOCATED AT INDUSTRIAL LANE TO “PROJECT OX” AND TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY OFFICIALS TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – FIRST READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was a good news item. He stated the company’s name on projects like this are not typically announced so the project is being referred to as “Project Ox”. He stated the project is an existing industry in the industrial park which needs an additional strip of property for an expansion. He stated the County owns the land adjacent to the project’s property and the County is being asked to consider conveying a strip of land to the project so that they may expand its existing building. Mr. Munnerlyn stated if the Ordinance is approved, a survey will be ordered to determine the exact acreage but he estimated the amount of land to be conveyed to be no more than 1.5 acres. He stated the expansion would create 25 additional jobs.

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

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve first reading of Ordinance # 809 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of 1.50 Acres,

more or less, of Real Property Owned by Marlboro County Located at Industrial Lane to “Project Ox” and to Authorize County Officials to Take Such Action as Necessary to Effectuate the Purposes of this Ordinance, and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 03-21-01 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR AIRPORT GRANT FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA (ACTING THROUGH THE SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,342.00 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the County is required to update its stormwater pollution plan periodically just as shopping centers are required. He stated the consultant has sought out grant funds that will allow the County to get a portion of that money that is spent for this plan back. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the costs to update the stormwater pollution plan for the airport is estimated to be around \$10,000 and the grant will provide 60% of that amount back to the County. He stated he felt it was always good to seek and apply for grants like this and it would help the County recover some of the taxpayer’s money.

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

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Resolution # 03-21-01 – a Resolution Authorizing Submission of an Application by Marlboro County for Airport Grant from the State of South Carolina (Acting Through the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission) in the Amount of \$6,342.00 and Authorization to Accept Grant if Awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 03-21-02 – A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS THE SOUTH CAROLINA FAIR HOUSING MONTH FOR 2021

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated this was a routine Resolution which is considered each year for South Carolina Fair Housing and confirms that Marlboro County rejects any type of discrimination for housing services.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve Resolution # 03-21-02 – a Resolution Designating the Month of April as the South Carolina Fair Housing Month for 2021. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 03-21-03 – A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX AND SPECIAL SOURCE CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN DILLON COUNTY AND

DILLON INLAND PORT I, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (THE "COMPANY"), IN CONNECTION WITH DILLON COUNTY'S PROVISION OF CERTAIN INCENTIVIES TO THE COMPANY RELATING TO THE COMPANY'S DEVELOPMENT IN DILLON COUNTY (THE "PROJECT"); AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, to make comments on this Resolution.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Marlboro County partners with Dillon and Marion Counties in the Tri-County Industrial Park. He stated a huge new building has been built in front of the Harbor Freight facility in Dillon at I-95 and a project will be moving into it very soon which will provide jobs as well as tax revenue. He stated although the project will be in Dillon County, since it will be a portion of the Tri-County Industrial Park, Marlboro County will receive a portion of the tax revenues. He stated the Resolution being considered would simply provide Marlboro County's endorsement of the request that the project be located in the Tri-County Industrial Park.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Resolution # 03-21-03 – a Resolution Consenting to the Execution and Delivery by Dillon County, South Carolina of a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax and Special Source Credit Agreement between Dillon County and Dillon Inland Port I, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company and One or More of its Tenants (the "Company"), in Connection with Dillon County's Provision of Certain Incentives to the Company Relating to the Company's Development in Dillon County (the "Project"); and Other Mattes Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 03-21-04 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CAROLINA BANK & TRUST COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF LOT AND BUILDING AT 300 E. MAIN STREET, BENNETTSVILLE, SC

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

Mr. Munnerlyn shared a printout of the Carolina Bank property with members of Council. He stated when COVID-19 became an issue, staff saw a need to have a contactless way of dealing with the public in order for folks to be able to conduct their everyday business in the County. He stated unlike most places, such as banks and the City of Bennettsville, the County has no drive-through to allow offices to continue to operate and to receive payment of fees, taxes, etc. Mr. Munnerlyn stated a lot of money was spent in Plexiglass to separate folks in various offices to keep the County in business, but staff felt that we needed to look for a way to provide a convenient way for citizens to have contactless access in the future.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated during that same time staff learned that the existing Carolina Bank building would become available due to their relocating to a new building next door to their

existing bank. He stated he contacted the Carolina Bank folks and found that the building could be purchased for a price of \$150,000. He stated monies would need to be spent to have an elevator added to the back of the building, and renovations would need to be made, as well as some paving for adequate parking to the right of the building. He stated having a building with a drive-through would allow citizens to conduct much of their business with having little contact with staff. He stated if Council approved the Resolution, the contract would provide for a 30-day due diligence period to ensure there are no environmental or structural issues to the property and the folks that would occupy the building (Treasurer, Auditor and Delinquent Tax Collector) would need to come to an agreement about the layout of the offices. He stated he felt this building would work out great because the Treasurer's office is a bank and the layout of the building would work well. He stated if the Resolution is approved, staff would proceed with having the contract drawn up and begin the due diligence period, and then be allowed to begin the needed repairs.. He stated he understood the building would be vacated pretty soon.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the property where Carolina Bank would be relocating their new facility was given to the bank by the City of Bennettsville with the agreement that the existing building be torn down to create a green space. He stated the bank has discussed this with their attorney and the agreement is not legally binding and staff has been working with the City of Bennettsville and has worked out an agreement to provide another green space area in the County should the County decide to purchase the building.

Dr. Damien Johnson stated he had severe readiness about spending money for this project. He stated he had performed an impromptu pole with members of the community and they have confirmed that they have no issues or concerns with the way things are currently being handled in the County. He stated he felt monies could be utilized in a better way.

Chairman Steen stated he understood what Dr. Johnson was saying but he had actually had folks call him about ways to handle payments of taxes and permit fees, etc., without having to walk into the courthouse. He stated folks have told him they were not comfortable in having to go into the courthouse with all the COVID-19 concerns.

Dr. Johnson stated he knew of no one who had had issues with paying taxes the way they are currently paying. He stated \$150,000 was a considerable amount of money and he felt those funds could be utilized in a better way. He stated it had been 25 years since the recreation project which was began by the City was demolished. He stated he was a 17 year-old recreation basketball player and it was disheartening to him when the plans for the recreational facility was stopped. He stated it was now 25 years later and no recreation facility for the County's citizens has been addressed. He stated he felt the County should collaborate with the City and other organizations in the County to make sure that our children and older adults are provided with an indoor facility for recreation. He stated the County and City worked well recently with the vaccination events. He stated he felt that a better use of the funds could be found rather than purchasing a building that had planned to be demolished.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated he was torn. He stated he liked both ideas. He stated his concern was that the bank had planned to initially demolish the building for approximately \$75,000-

\$100,000 but has since decided to consider accepting \$150,000 for the building. He asked if a better price could be negotiated.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated there were no plans to demolish the building. He stated Carolina Bank approached the City about building a new bank downtown and the City offered the old police department/fitness center property to Carolina Bank for their new facility. He stated it was his understanding that Carolina Bank wrote a letter to the City indicating that their existing bank building could be torn down to make a park in the area. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Carolina Bank folks have discussed this with their attorneys and there is no contract binding or requiring that the building be torn down for a park or green space. He stated if the County does not purchase the building, it will be offered to someone else. He stated it would be very expensive to tear the building down. He stated some time ago staff had obtained quotes to tear down the old library and the cost came back at around \$65,000. He also stated purchasing the Carolina Bank building and a recreation project were not mutually exclusive of each other. He stated there was a big proposal on the agenda and potentially other revenue resources could be considered for a recreation project. He stated this was a one-time opportunity but Council could weigh their options and decide whether this is something they feel the County should take action on.

Mr. Steve Blackmon stated he felt if the building could be purchased and renovated for about \$500,000, it would be a good investment for the County. He stated no one could build that type of building for \$500,000. He stated a parking spot could not be built for \$150,000. He stated he felt it was a great investment.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman stated if capital improvement funds were being considered for the purchase of the Carolina Bank building, were there any other areas that could be recommended for improvement other than making this purchase.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated over the past three to four years staff has made a strong effort to fix or repair buildings that needed improvements. He stated a lot of money had been spent repairing roofs on County buildings to include \$40,000 to repair the courtroom ceiling because the roof was not repaired in years past. He stated staff would provide the newly elected Council members with a summary of projects and monies spent so that new Council members may review. He stated in looking at current pressing needs, he felt staff had pretty much caught up on repairs that needed to be made to buildings and there were some funds left from the dedicated bond monies. He stated the courthouse was at full capacity and there was no parking available. He stated in situations like this, someone could start throwing good money after bad trying to make something work. He stated he felt Council and staff had done a good job in finding money for needed projects and this was done by spending one-time money on one-time things and not spending money on ongoing things unless we know those funds would be recurring. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff would make it work on whatever Council decides. He stated there were things that staff feels very strongly about but this was not one of them but he felt the benefits of purchasing the Carolina Bank building far outweighed the negative.

Mr. Verd Odom stated he agreed with Mr. Blackmon that the price was good on the Carolina Bank building and it was a good idea. He stated the County has many senior citizens and most every County in the state has a drive-through window for citizens to pay their taxes. He stated

having a drive-through would help the County's older citizens and keep them from having to walk in the courthouse. He stated COVID-19 was not going away and staff needed to remain careful to limit contact with the public. He stated we have been told that even vaccinated folks need to limit their public exposure and this is a way that we could provide our senior citizens a way to handle business without public contact. He stated he understood about 86% of folks in the age range of 65-75 who have had COVID-19 have died and we are all being told the less contact senior citizens have with people, the better their chance is of surviving. He stated the tax office at tax time is packed wall to wall with people and one person with the virus could affect many. He stated he felt purchasing the Carolina Bank building was a good investment not only from a money standpoint but for future years to come because he felt we would be dealing with COVID-19 for years to come.

Dr. Johnson stated he felt it was a good project and a needed project but also felt the money could be spent in a better way. He stated he heard that most Counties in the state have drive-through windows for tax payments but most Counties in the state also have recreation facilities for the citizens. He stated Marlboro was one of the few Counties that does not have an indoor recreation facility. He stated Marlboro was probably the only one in the Pee Dee that does not have a recreation facility and he did not feel that was acceptable. He stated he felt Council should start looking at a long-term investment for a recreation facility in this County.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated there seemed to be a lot of mixed emotions and suggested that the vote on the Resolution be tabled so that Council could discuss the matter further in executive session or during a called meeting. He stated members of Council have always been able to talk and hash things out and come back as one.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Council had discussed the purchase of the Carolina Bank building in executive session and there may not be much time left as the building could be sold to someone else.

Chairman Steen stated he understood Dr. Johnson's idea about recreation and recreation has been one of Council's top topics in strategic planning for years. He stated PARD monies could be recurring funds for recreation but no PARD funds had been received by the County in years now. He stated discussions of a recreation project would be discussed later in the meeting. He stated he did not want to hinder one thing by bringing another project along, but felt a vote should be taken on the Resolution as the building may not be available long.

Mr. Stroman stated one of the best things that any government or entity could invest in is their children. He stated there was not much available in Marlboro County for the youth and making an investment for them should be very high on our list. He stated he felt funds should be invested in our children. He stated he was not saying purchasing the Carolina Bank building was a bad project but he felt investing in the children of the County was best rather than purchasing the Carolina Bank building.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he understood and stated the Resolution maybe should have been considered after the 2016 Recreation Project report was presented. He stated he felt the budget of \$500,000 is a pretty decent number and the purchase of a \$150,000 building out of a

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\$19,000,000 budget was not a very big expenditure at all. Mr. Munnerlyn stated Council needed to keep the business of government running and the purchase of the Carolina Bank building would help accomplish the business to run more smoothly. He stated if the building is not purchased, things would keep running at the courthouse.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. stated he felt purchasing the Carolina Bank building was a good idea. He stated the County could make good use of it.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a decision was not required to be made tonight but someone else may purchase the property. He stated \$500,000 will do one ballfield. He stated the seed money idea is good but it would not accomplish the goal of building a facility. He stated an estimate for an indoor facility back in 2016 was estimated at \$7.2 million. He stated he felt the purchase of the Carolina Bank building was something that would keep county business flowing in a better way. He suggested that Council table the vote on the Resolution to purchase the building until after the 2016 Recreation Project discussion.

Chairman Steen agreed that was a good idea and asked if there was a motion.

Motion to table Resolution # 03-21-04 – a Resolution Authorizing the County Administrator to Enter into a Contract with Carolina Bank & Trust Company for the Purchase of Lot and Building at 300 E. Main Street, Bennettsville, SC, until after the 2016 Recreation Project discussion made by Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND SCHEDULING OF SPRING CLEAN-UP EVENT

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a clean-up event was held last fall and the City of Bennettsville and other municipalities participated but was impacted by COVID-19 and not a lot of folks participated. He stated there is some thought to have a Spring clean-up event and he had discussed briefly with the City of Bennettsville and believe that they will join in and work with us if enough advance notice is provided. He stated a few dates have been suggested of April 24th, which is a little early, as well as May 15th and May 22nd. He stated May 8th was Mother's Day weekend.

Chairman Steen stated he felt the focus should be made to clean up the main corridors and then if folks wanted to focus on other areas that they could do so. He stated Highways 9 and 38 were the most heavily traveled highways in the County with beach traffic.

Mr. Anthony Woods recommended that staff schedule the clean-up event on May 15th. He stated Harley week at the beach is scheduled for May 22nd.

Chairman Steen stated staff should work towards that date and share with the City of Bennettsville to see if that date is suitable.

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Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff would discuss the proposed date of May 15th with Mr. Max Alderman, Administrator for the City of Bennettsville.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONSIDERATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. CLAUDETE HOOKER TO SERVE ON THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AUTHORITY OF MARLBORO COUNTY BOARD

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to reappoint Ms. Claudette Hooker to the Housing and Community Authority of Marlboro County Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any recommendations for Board and Commission appointments.

Library Board

Ashley Taylor	Reappointment by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., District 3
Valerie Moody	New Appointment by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, District 5
Sue Rogers	Reappointment by Mr. Verd Odom, District 6
Robyn Johnson	New Appointment by Dr. Damien Johnson, District 2
Ella Reese Hinson	Reappointment as At Large Member and Chair

Airport Commission

Dr. Rippin McLeod	Reappointment by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, District 5
John Nobles	Reappointment by Dr. Damien Johnson, District 2

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Willie Bright	Reappointment by Dr. Damien Johnson, District 2
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Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership

Doris Sumpter	New Appointment - Education and Workforce Committee
George Webster	New Appointment - Executive Board
Carlos Diaz	New Appointment - Executive Board

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the appointments for the Library Board, Airport Commission, Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, and Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, for his report.

Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, stated the general fund revenues for the eight months ending February 28th, 2021 total \$8,831,915 which exceeded last year by approximately \$50,000. He stated general fund expenditures through February 28th, 2021 total \$7,431,747 of a \$12,038,883 budget or 61.73% of budget year to date. He stated as of the same date, the County has \$6,057,387 in the four general operating accounts.

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

REASSESSMENT UPDATE – MR. RON MUNNERLYN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munneryn, County Administrator, for the Reassessment Update.

Mr. Munneryn stated that Mr. Kep Kepley, Tax Assessor, was present at the meeting but he would provide the report to members of Council. He stated every four years the county is required to re-evaluate the properties in the County and set the property values of homes and businesses. He stated the Tax Assessor has worked hard to keep the values fair and equal. He stated it was much easier to set values for vehicles because there is a Kelley's Blue Book that provides values for those. He stated real property is not that easy as there are no books or resources to be used for this purpose. Mr. Munneryn stated a lot of the values are low in the County and those values are used for the County to qualify for grants and other funding. He stated it was not good to have them be too low and although values go up, it does not mean that taxes will go up. He stated the County must adjust tax millage in order for the property taxes to increase.

Mr. Munneryn stated he wanted members of Council to know that the reassessment process was currently underway and notices would be going out to property owners showing an increase in the values of their properties. He stated folks may get upset if they see the values of their properties have increased and may be afraid that their taxes will increase.

DISCUSSION OF 2016 RECREATION PROJECT – MR. RON MUNNELRYN, COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. stated the 2016 recreation plan being reviewed tonight includes an indoor facility that was proposed to be located on Parsonage Street next to the county library. He stated this proposed site included property that he owns.

Mr. Midgley stated he was not a member of County Council at the time the plan was proposed, but since he is now, he must recuse himself from serious discussion of that site and from any votes on the overall project as long as property that he owns is being considered. He asked that this statement be added to the minutes.

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that COVID-19 has caused recreation to be closed down in the County. He mentioned the Marlboro County High School Basketball team's recent win of the State Championship and congratulated the team.

March 9, 2021 County Council Meeting

Chairman Steen stated staff wanted to bring folks up to date on the recreation project which was discussed back in 2016 and discuss any new ideas that folks may have.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated an orientation meeting was held with the newly elected Council members and both were very interested in recreation. He stated in 2016, he served as Chairman to Marlboro County Council and put together a proposed plan which was shared with City Council. He stated Chairman Steen has asked that he share the plan with Council. He stated members of Council were welcome to interrupt at any time with any questions they may have.

Mr. Munnerlyn shared the power point in two parts. He stated one part included building enhanced recreation fields and the other part was an indoor facility with a swimming pool.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the proposed indoor facility would include a swimming pool and exercise facility on properties next to the library on Fayetteville Avenue and Parsonage Street. He shared printouts of the location of the indoor facility as well as a printout of the proposed basic layout of the facility. He stated there were many meetings held on this and these printouts reflect what most folks felt the facility should have. He stated the plan also included a splash pad or outdoor slip and slide.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the other part of the plan included a major development in the area down the hill near the creek and Administration office building. He stated the idea was to include the areas along McLeod Street and Marlboro Street for a nice complex of basketball courts, soccer/football fields, t-ball fields and large playground, as well as a portable stage. He stated the areas of Crooked Creek could be a part of the plan so when flooding occurs, only ball fields would be affected, not residential properties.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated some folks have asked why downtown. He stated the idea of having it downtown was due to the fact that downtown is located in the center of the County. He also stated the County and municipalities all have limited resources and if all could agree to pool our resources together, we would have a better focused use of resources. He also stated by having it downtown, existing infrastructure and improvement efforts could be leveraged instead of in one location while other areas are left to decay.

Dr. Damien Johnson asked if this plan would take in the Richardson Park and Shady Rest area. Mr. Munnerlyn stated it would not but there were other considerations to connect with Lake Wallace. He stated one consideration included taking the old Camp Horizon site for campsites and canoeing. He stated the City had discussed recreation areas for the Eastside School but stated this plan would at least keep everything together in one area. Mr. Munnerlyn stated there were pools of money for different things. He stated you could get a large grant for these type programs. He also stated the County Transportation Committee was on board and were not on board for the project back in 2016.

Mr. Munnerlyn also stated the plan would include improvements to the Lindsay Park to realign fields, update the fencing, lighting and bathrooms and have that area used for baseball and softball only.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated costs estimates were obtained for this project back in 2016 which included \$3.9 million for the Crooked Creek field construction and improvements and \$3.4 million for the indoor pool, exercise area and outdoor splash pad.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated ideas to pay for the recreation project were even discussed back when the plan was discussed. He stated a one cent sales tax was mentioned which would capture money from folks traveling through the county rather than just residents. He stated this would generate enough to cover budget and debt but would require a vote by the citizens. He stated the one cent sale tax idea halted after staff discovered that state law would not allow the County to do another penny sales tax because the school district was in front of us. He stated state laws could be changed to amend this. Mr. Munnerlyn stated he felt that was the best way to fund the project but it would require a vote of the citizens.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the other way to fund the project would be to put the project on the ballot to create a tax millage like the County has for fire and EMS. He stated the citizens would be required to vote to have a separate tax millage created for the recreation project.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated there are taxes on food and lodging that bring in money to the County. He stated the City has most of this because most of the businesses are located within the city limits. He stated the County could require taxes on foods at restaurants in the County.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated it might be a good idea to use sales tax and other funds to pay salaries for the recreation facilities. He also mentioned there were grants available for these type projects although the County had not received any PARD grants from state in four-five years. He stated if everyone joined together as a group, he thought that would change.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Chairman Steen had suggested a workshop with members of Council and stated he felt that cross-agency meetings should be held to include members of Bennettsville City Council and members of the Partnership's Image Committee.

Dr. Damien Johnson asked if the project would create a recovery effort and solution to Crooked Creek issues. Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff viewed this as two different issues but stated he had some comments on Crooked Creek which he would provide as a part of his Administrator's Report.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated he felt the City and the Partnership's Image Committee should get together and get some input. He stated things had changed from 2016 to 2021. He stated everyone needed to be a team player.

Chairman Steen asked the Clerk to Council to get some dates for the workshop and let everyone know when one could be scheduled.

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

RESOLUTION # 03-21-04 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CAROLINA BANK & TRUST

COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF LOT AND BUILDING AT 300 E. MAIN STREET, BENNETTSVILLE, SC

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated the Resolution authorizing the purchase of the Carolina Bank building had been tabled until after the 2016 Recreation Project update. He stated a vote needed to be taken on the Resolution.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Resolution # 03-21-04 – a Resolution Authorizing the County Administrator to Enter into a Contract with Carolina Bank & Trust Company for the Purchase of Lot and Building at 300 E. Main Street, Bennettsville, SC. Vote in favor: Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Verd Odom, Mr. Steve Blackmon. Opposed: Dr. Damien Johnson. Abstained: Mr. Kenneth Stroman and Mr. Anthony Woods. Vote: 5/1/2. Motion carried.

INDUSTRIAL SPECULATIVE BUILDING UPDATE – MR. RON MUNNERLYN, ECONOMIC DEVELOPER

Mr. Munnerlyn stated it was difficult to get new industry in the County without a new building for prospects to consider. He stated most industrial buildings have suggested height requirements. He stated Council had previously voted to seek funding for the development of a speculative industrial building which is an estimated \$2.4 million project. He stated he was pleased to announce that grant funds have been awarded by the State in the amount of \$1.7 million and the Marlboro Electric Cooperative has provided \$150,000 towards this project. He stated Marlboro County Council had previously approved \$500,000 for the project which would come from restricted economic development funds.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the building would be located in the existing Industrial Park located on Highway 38 North and the entrance to the park would be cleaned up as well to make it attractive to industry prospects. He stated staff will need to advertise for proposals and staff will need to come up with specs for the building. He stated the Partnership has an Infrastructure and Site Committee which included folks from Duke, the local Railroad, Lee Chambers of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, and others that will assist. He stated a meeting with that committee was scheduled for tomorrow to discuss this project. He stated we have worked on this for some time and felt this was good for the County. He stated it was a slow process. He stated the County's greatest need was the need for skilled workers.

Chairman Steen stated we needed to get the building in place and get an industry in the County to provide jobs.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – MR. RON MUNNERLYN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Steen recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, for the report.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees are recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of February: Vanessa Dowdy (10 years); Brandi Ritter (5 years); Ronald Covington (26 years); Lawrence Brand (18 years); Bobbie Sue Latham (16 years); Dwan Bostic (17 years); Kevin Thomas (11 years); and Bobbie Jo Grooms (5 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Lunch provided at the Community Kitchen** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated Marlboro County will provide lunch at the Community Kitchen tomorrow and Mr. Keith Hughes will be leading the group. He stated the menu will include BBQ, slaw, chips and fruit cups and the plates will be provided for take-out only.
2. **Filing of Statement of Economic Interests (Ethics Report)** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Statement of Economic Interests form “ethics report” must be filed by all elected officials and some employees not later than 12:00 noon on March 30, 2021. He stated this form must be filed electronically with a \$100 late filing penalty if not filed by the deadline date.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

CDC Statement on Meeting with Vaccinated Individuals - Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) this week announced their findings that vaccinated people can safely participate in small indoor meetings with other vaccinated individuals without the need for masks. He stated folks are encouraged to continue to wear masks in public spaces or situations with unvaccinated individuals. He stated this is great news and will allow us to begin to have more in-person meetings.

COVID-19 Testing- Mr. Munnerlyn stated folks needing to be tested are encouraged to visit the local Health Department located at 711 S. Parsonage Street, Bennettsville, SC, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm; Palmetto Family Medicine Clinic located at 316 2nd Street, Cheraw, SC, Monday through Friday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm; or contact their primary care provider.

Newsletter – Mr. Munnerlyn stated every household in the County should have received their Marlboro County Newsletter which will be a quarterly mailing to inform folks of things happening in the County. He thanked Ms. Lynn McQueen for the excellent work on getting this done. He asked that members of Council please advise of ideas for future issues and any citizen feedback they may receive.

City/County Shared Services Agreement – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the agreement the County has with the City of Bennettsville for shared services expires this fall. He stated there is an automatic renewal clause that starts the contract over unless either party notifies the other of their desire not to renew. He stated he has communicated with City Administrator Max Alderman that while we do not necessarily wish to cancel the agreement, it is a great opportunity to discuss cost

savings measures, other services we could share and other issues that he and I have discussed informally over the past year.

Vaccination Update – Mr. Munnerlyn advised that Mr. Steve Akers, Marlboro County E-911 Director, has provided information confirming the following:

- As of this date, we have given 1624 vaccination at our clinics. This number does not include citizens who have been vaccinated outside of the county or by private health providers' offices.
- There are 3 scheduled future events:
 - a. Tomorrow at Marlboro County High School – 2nd dose event with MUSC.
 - b. Mar 17th at Marlboro County High School – 1st dose event with McLeod Health
 - c. Mar 18th at Marlboro County High School – 2nd dose event with Scotland Health Care
- Staff continues to work seamlessly with our partners; Marlboro County General Hospital Charity Trust, Marlboro County School District, SCDOT, Northeastern Tech, Florence Darlington Tech and Francis Marion School of Nursing.
- With Phase 1B opening up, we hope to see even larger numbers at future events.

Crooked Creek Flooding-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated there continues to be a lot of activity and conversation about flooding in the Shady Rest and Richardson Park neighborhoods.

Who owns creek- Mr. Munnerlyn stated there was some talk that the State says the City and County own the creek – which he did not believe to be true. He stated he did some research and found that in 1924, a commission was established by the state legislature to straighten Crooked Creek and drain the swamps in town. He stated the state now says since legal changes in the 1970's, the state cannot have boards applying to just one town or county so that meant existing boards became county or city boards. He stated he agreed that in some cases, with boards like the historical commission, local government did take action and vote to make them county or city boards. He stated there is no evidence that the City or County reestablished a Crooked Creek Drainage District and it is hard to buy the state's argument that they cannot have a local board when just a few years ago they formed the Lake Wallace Authority. He stated he felt the state is talking out of both sides of its mouth.

Issues and solutions-

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he was invited by City staff to participate in a Zoom call yesterday with several state and federal agencies. He stated the meeting was a repeat of an earlier meeting several months ago. He stated from the conversations he heard and the meetings he has attended; his professional opinion was that the situation is:

1. There is not much if any money available to stop the creek from flooding. That cost would have to come from local taxes.
2. There is money to purchase and demolish or even raise up housing.

3. With these grants, what they say a house is worth is pretty flexible and can be handled locally to some degree. This was something I worried about since if they used tax values it would not be much money per house.
4. Relocating entire neighborhoods or areas that were not impacted by flooding just because they are in the same neighborhood is not a good approach – we need to map out where flooding occurs, and which houses are consistently flooding.
5. The bottom line is that:
 - 1) None of these agencies will come in with a magic wand and tell us what to do and give us a sack of money. We must do the work – hold public meetings, define what we are asking for and then go for grant money.
 - 2) The hard decision for us here is
Do we want to:
 - i. spend millions and millions of dollars not likely available from grants to stop the flooding or
 - ii. spend a much less amount of money, that we may can get from grants, to buy and demolish houses so that when it does flood, it doesn't cause any damage.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman stated he felt the County needed to do due diligence to help the folks in the Crooked Creek area. He stated there was an area from the Dairy Dream bridge to Cottingham Blvd. that has about 50 blockages or more and he felt the City and County could collaborate together to dispose of those blockages to get that water to flow properly. He stated both the City and County has equipment and public work crews that could help with those blockages. He stated Richardson Park always floods and he felt it was due to those blockages. He stated the County needed to maintain that area and do better than nothing. He stated nothing had been done to the creek for years and now folks are having to be rescued or evacuated when it rains. He mentioned that even if staff needed to come up with a department to maintain it, that he felt it must be done.

Chairman Steen stated the law prohibits the County from going on private property. Mr. Stroman stated these folks are being told to move out but should we tell them to buy boats too. He stated Council needed to do something since we are being told that the County actually owns it.

Chairman Steen stated the Administrator provided some options on this and felt that committees needed to be selected to meet and work on the issues. He stated he understood what was being said and the County would like to fix the issues but needed to handle things in the right way. He stated it was a bad situation.

Dr. Damien Johnson stated if the County has equipment and man power, and we are aware of the problems, what can be done? He stated nothing has been done to the Crooked Creek area in 55 years. He stated the recent flooding reminded him of Hurricane Katrina. He stated the County may not be able to fix the problems but he felt the County could certainly do something to alleviate some of the problems. He stated it was a Marlboro County issue and something needed to be done before it rains again. He stated if the state says we own it, could we not use our equipment and man power to alleviate and remove some of the issues for the residents of Shady

Rest and Richardson Park? He stated he could not image how those residents feel when they hear it will rain for three days. He stated the County must do something to help alleviate the problems for these citizens.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman asked if the Delegation could assist. Mr. Munnerlyn stated there needs to be a plan in place. He stated if the County needed to do something to that area, then the taxes should be raised. He stated the County does not have staff needed for this type of work. He stated it was important that we find out who owns the creek. He stated the County does not have resources but there were funds that could be applied for and received to do this work at Crooked Creek. He stated and may need to be hired.

Dr. Damien Johnson stated Mr. Dennis Miller worked on it. Mr. Munnerlyn stated Mr. Dennis Miller cut the grass but that was all.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated the Clio area has flooding issues as well. He mentioned Hemphill which was a State Road. He stated there was a lady in his area that had sewage issues due to flooding. He stated there were ditches that are causing issues as well. He stated the City did not have the same issues as the County.

Chairman Steen stated the County has some committees and they need to get together to discuss these issues. He stated projects like this are very costly. He stated he owned property on Hatcher Hill and it floods as well. He stated we need to help our citizens as much as possible, and if there was something that the County could do, he was certain staff would do their best to help.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQEUST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman stated one citizen had signed up to address members of Council.

Ms. Pearlie Lawson – thanked Council for allowing her to speak. She stated she was representing the NAACP. She first thanked Council for all of their help with providing funds to have Census signs made and for assistance in taking the signs down. She stated everyone worked together really well getting information to folks about how participating in the census would benefit both the City and the County.

Ms. Lawson commended members of Council for the newsletter. She stated it was a great way to get information out to the citizens and was very informative.

Ms. Lawson stated she had heard tonight concerns about the flooding issues which affected two districts in Bennettsville and Clio. She mentioned the resident in Clio that has issues with sewer backup due to the heavy rains. She stated this did not occur overnight and there have been issues in these areas for many years. She stated she has heard suggestions but folks have lived in these areas for 40-50 years. She stated something must be done to help these citizens with the flooding issue. She stated if the City and State say they are not responsible and the County says it is not responsible, then who is responsible? She stated everyone keeps passing the buck and enough was enough. She stated the State has two Senators and two Representatives. She stated they all

needed to know about the issues the Marlboro County residents are having with flooding. She stated Horry County has been on the news about their flooding issues. She said it was time for elected officials to work together to improve the living conditions in the City and in Marlboro County.

Ms. Lawson requested that the NAACP be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. She stated she wanted the elected officials to stop playing politics.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – thanked members of Council for all they do for him and his department. He stated members of his department came to the meeting tonight to show their appreciation for all that Council does for them. Sheriff Lemon presented plaques of appreciation to Chairman Steen and Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, on behalf of Marlboro County Council for all their contributions and support.

Sheriff Lemon also provided plaques of appreciation to the following:

Mr. Andrew McLeod, County Attorney;
Ms. Patricia Bundy, Clerk to Council;
Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director;
Ms. Doris Sumpter, Administrative Services Director;
Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director; and
Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator.

Sheriff Lemon thanked Council and staff on behalf of the Detention Center and Sheriff's Department employees for all their support and help that they continue to provide. He stated they look forward to continuing to work with each of them. He stated he prayed that God would bless Marlboro County and all of the Marlboro County staff.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – congratulated the coach and Marlboro County High School Basketball team for their State Championship win. He stated the players did a great job and the win was well deserved. He stated the last time a State Championship was won was back in 2001. He stated many of the kids that played in the State Championship game played through the recreation program. He stated a good recreation program was the platform for children to go to the next level and continue to move forward.

Ms. Corrie Plato – no comments.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – stated he thought everyone wants to make Marlboro County a better place. He stated just because he does not agree with some of the steps we are all trying to better the lifestyle of the citizens and senior citizens. He stated he felt healthy debate was always good.

Dr. Damien Johnson – thanked everyone for helping to engage in healthy discussions. He stated he understood that members of Council work to contribute to improving the lives of our citizens.

March 9, 2021 County Council Meeting

Dr. Johnson congratulated the Marlboro County High School Basketball Team on their State Championship win. He stated some of those young men were in his backyard recently and he was proud to be a Marlboro County resident. He stated with hard work this is nothing that we cannot accomplish.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – congratulated the Marlboro County High School on their State Championship win. He stated even though members of Council disagree, they continue to work through it. He stated he looked forward to working with all of members of Council to move things forward.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – thanked members of Council for having the best interest of its citizens in mind. He stated every district has had issues with flooding. He stated there were issues in Blenheim and Brownsville. He stated he understood that there needs to be some action taken to get help for folks. He stated there may be a need for grants or disaster relief funds but there seemed to be problems with flooding in areas that have never had any issues with water. He suggested the committee look at it but folks needed to know what they were doing when they work in areas like this because you don't want water to cause problems in other areas and sometimes that's what happens. He stated he understood it was a big issue all over the entire County. He stated folks were having issues with new septic tanks that have just been installed that are not working because of all the rain that we have had. He stated folks in Clio, Blenheim and Brownsville have all had flooding issues. He stated part of the problems were ditches located on private properties that are not being maintained by property owners. He stated folks needed to be careful not to create a bigger problem.

Mr. Verd Odom – thanked Sheriff Lemon, his staff and the Detention Center staff for all the work they do. He stated when they go on call, they put their lives on the line, just as fire and rescue folks. He stated he was a member of McColl Rescue for 10 years and stated some folks have no idea what you deal with. He stated all were to be commended for the work they do.

Mr. Odom mentioned the SC Department of Transportation announced recently that they would begin a program to provide a crew that would be dedicated to work on the litter across the state. He stated that should help all the counties with litter issues.

Mr. Odom mentioned he had talked with Mr. Tim McGee of the SC Department of Transportation in the last couple of weeks, about some old streets in the McColl area that were damaged and in bad shape. He stated that Mr. McGee assured him that they would begin repaving some of the old streets as soon as the weather improves,

Mr. Jason Steen – thanked Sheriff Lemon, his staff and the Detention Center staff for attending the meeting tonight.

Mr. Steen congratulated the Marlboro County High School Bulldogs on their Championship win.

Mr. Steen thanked everyone for their comments regarding the flooding issues. He stated he understood there was a problem and he stated Council wants to help in any way they can.

March 9, 2021 County Council Meeting

Mr. Steen stated members of Council have healthy debates and work hard to remain unified. He stated Council has the best interests of the citizens in mind when votes are taken. He stated he looked forward to working on the recreation project and discussing new ideas.

Mr. Steen stated there were new members on Council with young kids and recreation is very important. He stated this was his home and did not plan to go anywhere and wanted to make this community the best place it could be.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

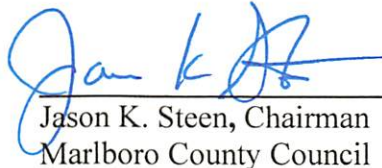
There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

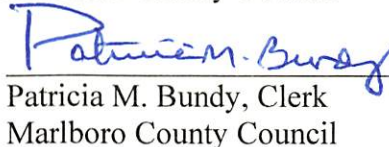
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: April 13, 2021