

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN	JASON STEEN
VICE CHAIR	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

**Note: Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. attended the meeting via Zoom.**

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

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough and Mr. Dan McNeil 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](http://www.marlborocounty.sc.gov)).

INVOCATION- Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 809 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF 1.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY MARLBORO COUNTY

May 11, 2021 County Council Meeting

LOCATED AT INDUSTRIAL LANE TO INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERS, INC., A COMPANY PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS 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

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a photograph of the property of an existing industry in the Industrial Park known as Industrial Partners which is the Kaughman Trailer folks, was provided to members of Council. He stated this Ordinance would allow staff to proceed with having a survey prepared to be used by the County to convey a small portion of property to the company. Mr. Munnerlyn stated the additional property needed would square off the property boundaries so that the company may make additional improvements to their existing facility for an expansion. He stated the company has stated this expansion would create an additional 25 jobs for the County.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if the area of property being conveyed would need to be cleared by the County or would the company take care of any clearing. Mr. Munnerlyn stated there would not be much clearing needed but the company would take care of it.

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

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRIL 13, 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 Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the regular council meeting minutes of April 13, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

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 INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERS, INC., A COMPANY PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS 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 – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated this was the third reading on this Ordinance and comments were made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, during the public hearing earlier. He asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

**Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 809 - an Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of 1.50 Acres of Real Property Owned by Marlboro County Located at Industrial Lane to Industrial Performance Partners, Inc., a Company Previously Identified as 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. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

ORDINANCE # 810 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND COLLECT A LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX IN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance was a step to allow additional revenue for future recreation or other projects for the County. He stated the City has this same type of tax currently in place. He stated this would provide for a tax to be placed on all prepared food outside of the city limits throughout the County.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated if the Ordinance is adopted that it is estimated the hospitality tax would produce approximately \$100,000 per year. He stated he felt it was a good Ordinance to have in place and suggested approving second reading.

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 second reading of Ordinance # 810 – an Ordinance to Establish and Collect a Local Hospitality Tax in Marlboro County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

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

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff has a power point presentation as they have done over the past four to five years. He stated he had received good feedback from Council members in the past.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that COVID-19 had caused an inflation and unavoidable expenses are increasing at a rate greater than revenue growth. He stated revenue continues to be difficult to

forecast and some of that is due to issues with the SC Department of Revenue. He mentioned manufacturing depreciation and stated the SC Department of Revenue could not explain how our revenue is affected by this even to Mr. Wes Park who is an accountant. He stated the County came in at \$500,000 to the good last year but we just have no way of knowing for sure how this will work. He stated the County has the law firm of Parker Poe assisting the County with the filots and they will help figure a lot of this out. He stated staff wants to do its best to not make bad, long-term decisions based on short-term problems.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the current year's budget was amended during the year because of the compensation plan for the Sheriff, Detention Center and E911. He stated staff has focused on what services cost last year and what those same services are expected to cost this year.

Starting Point

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the starting point of the current year's approved budget (FY 2020-21) reflect expenses of \$12,129,683, and revenues of \$11,573,037 with approximately \$556,646 coming from reserve funds.

Mandatory Expense Changes

Mr. Munnerlyn stated there were some mandatory expense changes that staff has no control over as follows:

Increase in property/vehicle insurance	\$130,000
Prior year compensation adjustment	\$175,000
Worker's Compensation insurance increase	\$ 50,000
Vehicle replacement (lease)	\$ 50,000
Miscellaneous inflation increases	\$120,000

Mr. Munnerlyn stated with these mandatory expense changes, the total expenses estimated for the FY2021-22 budget total \$12,653,279.

Revenue changes for FY2021-22

Mr. Munnerlyn stated revenues were estimated to decrease by \$400,000 which would estimate the amount needed from fund reserves to be \$680,000.

New Starting Point for FY2021-22

Mr. Munnerlyn stated after these mandatory expense changes and the decrease in revenue, the new starting point for next fiscal's year budget reflects expenses to be \$12,653,279 and revenues of \$11,973,000 and \$680,000 coming from fund reserves.

Fund Reserved Used for Prior Years

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Council had been careful with their fund reserves and stated in prior years the breakdown of fund reserved used were as follows:

FY2018-19	\$210,150 from reserves
FY2019-20	\$432,620 from reserves
FY2020-21	\$402,624 from reserves

Budget Requests

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the numbers provided to this point did not include budget requests from various departments. He stated the requests for the upcoming budget year were as follows:

2% cost of living increase for employees (needed for competitive wages)	\$135,000
Additional lease vehicles (real savings in maintenance over period of lease)	\$ 50,000
Sheriff & Detention Center employees overtime rate change	\$150,000

Restricted (Special) Funds

Rural Fire – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the revenue for Rural Fire was sufficient to cover expenses. He stated there needed to be a clear plan for surplus revenue above required reserves.

EMS – Mr. Munnerlyn stated there was some stabilization of billing revenue which was impacted by COVID-19. He stated there is significant wear on vehicles which would call for future capital needs. He stated EMS does not currently have five months of required reserves which is recommended.

Solid Waste – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the only revenues for Solid Waste were the collection of roll-cart fees. He stated currently \$180,000 is transferred from the General Fund to Solid waste for the operation of the convenience centers. He stated Solid Waste does not currently have five months of required reserves which is recommended.

Restricted Economic Development funds – Mr. Munnerlyn stated there were restricted economic funds which come from FILOTs in the County which will be carried forward for completion of the Delta site. He stated some of the funds would also be used for the match for Speculative Industrial building, as well as a proposed Grant Writer which would be shared possibly with the City of Bennettsville.

Next Steps

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the next steps are for staff to aggressively work to adjust to actual numbers for each department which would reflect no extra “fluff”. He stated years ago, departments like to cushion their budget, but he has encouraged them not to do that and stated if things unexpectedly come up, he would try to assist in finding funds for those unexpected expenditures.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff will also seek Council’s input on the budget requests, but he wanted to make sure that staff does all they can to adjust the numbers before those conversations are held.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the bottom line right now was staff needed \$230,000 to balance the budget for the upcoming year and he felt that could be done with a combination of expense reductions or new revenue. He stated that amount did not include the budget requests that were noted earlier. He stated staff would be working with a sharpened pencil prior to third reading of the budget. He stated staff needs to get the budget to a point where only \$400,000 - \$450,000 is needed from reserve funds.

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Munnerlyn and staff for their hard work on the budget and he stated he understood it was not an easy task. He encouraged them to sharpen their pencils to see what could be done.

Mr. Anthony Woods mentioned he understood that revenues were uncertain but asked about sales tax revenue. He asked if those would be received this year or would it be in the 2021-22 year when those funds were received. Mr. Munnerlyn stated he hoped some of those funds would be received before the third reading of the budget, but he was uncertain.

Dr. Damien Johnson asked about the monies coming to the County from the Federal government. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff learned today that Marlboro County was expected to receive a total of \$5.08 million from the American Recovery Plan. He stated he and Mr. Wes Park, the Finance Director, attended a virtual meeting with NACO but the rules were not very clear. He stated he and Mr. Park did understand that the funds could not be used to purchase rocks to be placed on all county-maintained roads which was one thing staff had discussed. He stated he was certain more guidelines would be provided but right now staff was uncertain as to how these funds could be used. He stated he was certain clear instructions would be provided later.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 811 – an Ordinance to Adopt the Annual Budget and to Make Appropriations for Marlboro County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 and Ending June 30, 2022. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

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

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a copy of the drafted plan was included in the agenda packet. He stated these were general guidelines that would be used as a planning document. He stated the final plan would be modified for third reading.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 812 – An Ordinance to Approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Marlboro County for the Period of FY 2022-2026. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

**ORDINANCE # 814 – AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN REVENUES DERIVED FROM ONE OR MORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS LOCATED IN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

("COUNTY") IN THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BETWEEN DARLINGTON AND MARLBORO COUNTIES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance confirms action taken by Council to renew the FILOT agreement with Domtar which included the plant in Tatum. He stated the Ordinance will establish and set forth the amount to be paid to the Town of Tatum from funds derived from the FILOT which is \$10,000 per year. Mr. Munnerlyn recommended approval of second reading of this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had heard earlier today from Mr. Dennis Askew, Plant Manager of Domtar, that Domtar had been purchased by a private company. He advised that he understood that no significant changes would be made since there were no issues with the workforce at the plant and all equipment and machinery in the building are up to date.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 814 – an Ordinance Ratifying and Authorizing the Allocation of Certain Revenues Derived from one or more Economic Development Projects Located in Marlboro County, South Carolina ("County") in the Joint County Industrial and Business Park Between Darlington and Marlboro Counties; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

ORDINANCE # 815 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MARLBORO COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance as well as Ordinances #816 and #817 were basically the same. He stated most Marlboro County Boards and Commissions allow for members of Council to appoint qualified folks in the County to serve for their district without requiring them to reside in their district. He stated this Ordinance and the other next two proposed Ordinances currently specifically state that members of Council shall appoint individuals residing in their district as their representatives on these boards. He stated this Ordinance, Ordinance # 816 for the Historic Preservation Commission, and Ordinance # 817 for the Planning Commission, proposes to remove the residency requirements and recommended approving second reading of the three Ordinances.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve second reading of (1) Ordinance # 815 – an Ordinance Establishing the Marlboro County Library Board; (2) Ordinance # 816 – an Ordinance Establishing the Marlboro County Historic Preservation Commission; and (3) Ordinance # 817 – an Ordinance Establishing the Marlboro County Planning Commission. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION # 05-21-01 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY MARLBORO COUNTY TO THE S.C. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE FOR THE FY 2021 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (LEMPG) 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 this Resolution has been approved annually for the last 10-15 years and provides funds to assist in the operation costs of the Emergency Management Department which Mr. Steve Akers manages. He stated it has been staff's policy to have all Resolutions adopted which requires an application process. He requested Council approve the Resolution.

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 # 05-21-01 – a Resolution Authorizing Submission of an Application by Marlboro County to the S.C. Emergency Management Office for the FY 2021 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) and Authorization to Accept Grant if Awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

**Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson and seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the appointment of Ms. Kimberly McGovern to the Fire Board as the Community Representative for District 2. 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.



May 11, 2021 County Council Meeting

Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, stated the general fund revenues for the ten months ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 total \$10,007,090. He stated general fund expenditures through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 total \$9,412,718 of a \$12,038,883 budget or 78.18% of the budget year to date.

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

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

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

#### **EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES**

The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of April: Teresa Burgess (19 years); Brian Oxendine (8 years); Arthur Hamer (23 years); Charles Lemon (14 years); Amber Goings (6 years); and Sharon Thomas (16 years).

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. **Lunch provided at the Community Kitchen** – Mr. Munnerylyn stated Marlboro County will provide lunch at the Community Kitchen tomorrow. He stated Ms. Bobbie Grooms will be leading the group and the menu will include Chicken Salad sandwiches, chips, applesauce, and cookies. The plates will be provided for take-out only.
2. **Blood Drive** – Mr. Munnerylyn stated the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 from 12:30 pm until 5:30 pm. He stated anyone interested in donating the gift of life are invited to call the Public Library at 843-479-5630 to make an appointment or register online by visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) using the sponsor code: “bennettsvillesc”.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Public Service Recognition Week – Mr. Munnerylyn stated the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> was designated as Public Service Recognition week. He stated Ms. Doris Sumpter arranged for lunch to be provided to all county employees during last week and provided them with a nice shirt to show appreciation for their hard work and dedication. He stated the efforts by Ms. Sumpter were much appreciated.

Community Clean-Up Event – Mr. Munnerylyn stated The Community Clean-Up Event has been scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 8:00 am until 12 noon or until folks finish clean-up of their designated areas. He stated if folks are unable to participate in the clean-up on Saturday, they may clean-up on Friday or anytime that weekend. He asked that a contact for each group organized notify Ms. Patricia Bundy at 843-479-5600 to provide their names and the area which the group will focus on. He stated staff is encouraging folks to focus on the main corridors of the

County such as Highway 38 (North and South), Highway 9 (East and West), and Highway 15-401 (East and West).

Recreation Project RFP- Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff is moving forward with the advertisement for proposals for a consultant to study our existing recreation programs and facilities. He stated the consultant will determine need and suggested changes based on other communities like ours and most importantly, they will identify funding options and sources. He stated staff was finalizing the deadlines for submission and the process for evaluation of bidders. He stated the MCEDP Image Committee will review proposals and interview consultants before deciding. He stated funding for this was included in the current year's budget and this \$50,000 will be transferred to the MCEDP for this project.

Update on Speculative Industrial Building RFP – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the mandatory pre-proposal conference for the industrial spec building was held on May 5, 2021 with several interested firms attending. He stated many prospective contractors requested additional time to submit their proposal due to material and labor shortages. He stated as a result, the deadline has been extended until June 10, 2021.

Fuel Shortages – Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff is monitoring the potential for a fuel shortage due to the recent computer hacking of the Colonial Pipeline. He stated county vehicles including law enforcement and EMS use state contract credit cards to fuel at convenience stores; however, we do maintain up to 6,000 gallons at our county public works facility for emergencies. He stated this reserve is projected to be a month's supply. He stated should a shortage occur; we will work with departments to develop a rationing plan.

Carolina Bank Building Project – Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff is working to secure cost estimates of needed renovations or modifications to the building. He stated the elected officials and departments heads proposed to move into this facility have met and agreed upon the layout of the facility. He stated the due diligence period included in our legal contract entered with Carolina Bank gives us until June 6 to be sure renovations or other needs can be met within our approved budget.

Federal Money – American Recovery Plan - Mr. Munnerlyn stated he and Wes Park attended a teleconference today with the National Association of Counties regarding the permissible uses of the \$5.03 MM Marlboro County is to receive. He stated the current guidance from the federal Treasury Department is very vague and difficult to interpret. He stated another call has been scheduled for Thursday, and we are continuing to study the issue. He stated more information will be available as it develops.

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

**Mr. Dwayne Grace** – stated he resides at 413 15-401 By-Pass and was concerned about the new owner who purchased property located across the street from him. He stated his concern was due to the condition of other property owned by this individual. He asked if there were any type of application process that the new owner would need to complete.

**Ms. Martha Goodwin-Bridges** – stated she was concerned about the availability of broadband internet in the Tatum area. She stated she has a granddaughter who lives with her and she is concerned that if school is to be held virtually in the fall that she will be unable to do her schoolwork due to the lack of internet service in her area. She stated she understood at tonight's meeting that there may be funding for a second phase of work to extend broadband to rural areas. She stated her neighbors a few doors down from her have access to internet, but no access is available to her where she resides. She asked for members of Council to assist if any way possible to have broadband extended to her area and other areas that currently have no access.

Chairman Steen stated Sandhill Connections had received a grant to run broadband fiber along the main corridors of the County. He stated Sandhills was in the process of applying for second phase funding which would allow them to run fiber lines into the rural areas from the main corridors. He stated the lack of internet access in rural areas was discussed as a part of County Council's Strategic Plan and Council is working very hard to make sure that every area of the County has internet access.

**Ms. Shawn Munson** – stated she was speaking on behalf of Ms. McKoy and Mr. Muhammad regarding an issue with dirt bikes in their area. She stated they all reside in the Brightsville area by the Fast Trax. She stated the Fast Trax has gotten very big and is now in their back yards. She stated Ms. McKoy has a problem with the folks that own the track coming onto her property. She stated Ms. McKoy had a border installed and the folks have removed the border. Ms. Munson stated she was very concerned for Ms. McKoy and others in the area. She stated Ms. McKoy's husband recently passed away and Ms. McKoy lives alone. She stated these folks drink and get rowdy and she is worried that something is going to happen.

Ms. Munson requested that County staff consider her concerns and check to see if a barrier could be required. She stated the folks come right up to Ms. McKoy's back door. Ms. Munson stated she has a grandchild that lives with her and she is concerned about the safety of the children playing in the area. She stated the noise is also a nuisance.

Chairman Steen stated that the addresses of the folks that appeared from the Brightsville district are noted, and he would ask Sheriff Charles Lemon to investigate the matter to see what could be done.

Dr. Damien Johnson stated that he had talked with Ms. McKoy as well and understands that the folks are very intimidating to Ms. McKoy. He stated he felt something needed to be done because this was a very dangerous situation. He stated these folks' concerns are very valid.

#### RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Mr. Verd Odom** – stated he had received a call from Governor McMaster right before the Council meeting. He stated Governor McMaster is always available to assist the citizens of Marlboro County.

Mr. Odom stated he was concerned about price gouging with the gasoline shortage. He stated the Governor's Office has provided to him a website address, email address, and phone number for folks to call if they feel they are a victim of price gouging with the gasoline situation. He stated he would share this information on his Facebook page for anyone who might be interested. The Attorney General Alan Wilson has launched a group of folks to monitor the situation. He stated anyone found guilty of price gouging can be charged with a misdemeanor and fined up to \$1,000 or spend 30 days in jail.

Mr. Odom mentioned Open/Carry legislation and stated they were very close to passing this. He stated anyone who owns a concealed weapons permit and had a background check will be able to carry their weapons open or concealed once this legislation has passed. He stated this could be a great concern to the Sheriff's Department and our law enforcement staff. He stated SC will be the 46<sup>th</sup> state out of 50 to have this open/carry law.

**Mr. Steve Blackmon** – No comments.

**Dr. Damien Johnson** – mentioned the COVID vaccination process. He stated being vaccinated is very important. He asked everyone to please encourage the young generation to become vaccinated so that things can get back to some type of normalcy. He mentioned the COVID outbreak at one of the Marlboro County schools. He stated if folks have issues or questions about the vaccination to please talk with their doctor and get information that they need. He stated the schools and businesses needed to fully open back up. He stated the County is far behind and the County needs to do its due diligence to change that fact. He stated the County could get all the money we could get but if folks in the County are not healthy and doing what we can to get folks vaccinated, the money will not help.

Dr. Johnson thanked Ms. McKoy and the other residents of the Brightsville community for attending the meeting. He stated Council needed the residents' eyes and ears so that it could respond to issues in the community.

Dr. Johnson mentioned that summer was fast approaching, and he had received many calls about recreation basketball. He stated he had discussed recreation basketball with Mr. Woods, and he felt that the program needed to be tweaked to get the area coaches involved so that more participation could be obtained. He mentioned that he felt the fees should be waived this year to entice more folks to get involved.

**Mr. Kenneth Stroman** – thanked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, for all he does.

Mr. Stroman mentioned County recreation and stated a lot of folks had called about the need for recreation for young girls in the community. He asked that staff investigate this to see what could be offered.

Mr. Stroman mentioned overtime for the Sheriff's Department and stated he hoped that a line item could be included in the budget for this purpose. He stated he did not like the Chinese overtime. He stated the County needed to work to keep and attract good employees.

**Ms. Corrie Plato** – stated everyone must work together to get things done.

**Mr. Anthony Woods** – thanked everyone for reaching out to him and his family about his brother, Andre Woods, who suffered a stroke about ten days ago. He stated it was a terrifying experience, but Marlboro EMS arrived quickly and were very professional. He stated that Andre was celebrating his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday today. He stated he was blessed to still have his brother and thanked members of EMS for saving his life.

Mr. Woods stated he spoke with Ms. McKoy and the other folks that appeared at the meeting regarding the Fast Trax folks and the issues they were having. He stated Fast Trax should not be allowed to continue to harass folks in the Brightsville community.

Mr. Woods mentioned the open/carry legislation and stated soon everyone may be able to carry a gun. He stated Marlboro County is behind the eight ball and we better all pray for our children.

Mr. Woods mentioned broadband and stated he hoped that broadband would be available to everyone in the County by August.

Mr. Woods thanked Mr. Dwayne Grace for appearing at the meeting tonight. He stated citizens like Mr. Grace are Council's eyes and ears and staff needed to hear about issues like this to provide needed aid and guidance to the citizens.

Mr. Wood also mentioned recreation. He stated now was a good time for change and a time for new things to be considered. He stated Clio folks want a coach that they know personally. He stated there was a need for consistency and folks needed to get out of the house and recreation was much needed for this to happen. He stated if the County did not do something, the children would be in the streets.

**Mr. Jason Steen** – stated the County had been behind for many years with regards to internet being provided in rural areas. He mentioned the strategic plan and stated that the County had been working and would continue to work on trying to ensure that broadband is made available to all residents in the County. He stated there are always issues that need to be discussed and acted upon. He stated that staff would talk with Mr. Dwayne Grace after the meeting.

Mr. Steen thanked the residents of the Brightsville community for attending the meeting to discuss issues with the dirt bikes in their area. He stated staff would work on those issues as well.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

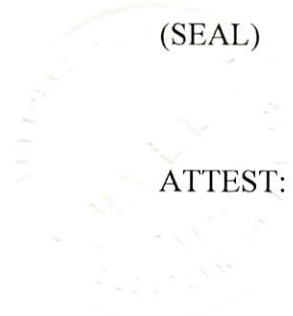
There were no non-agenda items.

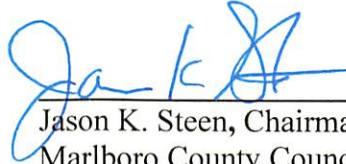
May 11, 2021 County Council Meeting

ADJOURN

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.

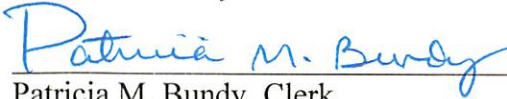
(SEAL)





\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason K. Steen, Chairman  
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk  
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: June 8, 2021