

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

WILLIE GLADDEN

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

WILLIE GLADDEN,
CORRIE H. PLATO,
VERD ODOM,
ANTHONY WOODS

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* Absent

Others Present: Ms. Lynn McQueen, Herald-Advocate, and Ms. Ainsley Moore, Marlboro County Finance Director

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Lynn McQueen of the Herald Advocate, and posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building and on the county's website (www.marlbocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that Ms. Corrie Plato was absent to be with her close friend, Ms. Brenda Gibbs, who suffered from a stroke and was in the hospital. He also advised that Mr. Verd Odom was absent due to health problems and being hospitalized as well. He stated that he hoped that all those that were feeling bad would be feeling better soon.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 10, 2017

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions.

Attorney Harry Easterling, Jr. noted a typo on page 14 in the comments that were made by Councilman Verd Odom. He noted that Councilman thanked the folks from District 6 rather than District 3 and suggested that these minutes be corrected accordingly.

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 as presented with the one change on page 14 as noted above. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 732 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE # 438A WHICH AMENDED ORDINANCE # 438 REGARDING THE METHOD OF DISPOSING OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY – FIRST READING

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

Mr. Munneryn stated that staff had been asked by Council to amend the surplus Ordinance so as to allow the Sheriff to declare firearms as surplus property and be allowed to provide these firearms on occasion to retired personnel. He stated that in reviewing the surplus Ordinances, staff found that the Ordinance had been amended several times. He suggested that staff be allowed to take the appropriate time needed to draft a good policy to cover all instances regarding surplus property.

Mr. Munneryn suggested that we approve the first reading of this Ordinance as it is written and that staff be allowed to make changes for review by Council at the next reading.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the first reading of Ordinance # 752 – an Ordinance amending Ordinance # 438A which amended Ordinance # 438 regarding the method of disposing of surplus personal property. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE FOR USE OF THE MARLBORO COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had presented to Mr. Max Alderman of the City of Bennettsville a breakdown of costs for immunizations, feeding and overhead, as well as staff, and the costs were based on the actual numbers that it costs to run the shelter currently. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he understood that the Bennettsville City Council had a work session meeting the night before and this breakdown was discussed and would be most likely discussed again at the Bennettsville City Council meeting which is scheduled for next week.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked that members of council approve passing these actual costs for the dogs picked up in the city limits to the City of Bennettsville and that staff be allowed to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement to handle the collection of these costs. He stated that if Council wanted to roll these costs into the new upcoming budget, that certainly could be done.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve passing the actual costs as reflected on the breakdown to the City of Bennettsville for dogs picked up in the city limits and that staff prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Bennettsville. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF NETC – MARLBORO COUNTY VOCATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that members of council had a work session earlier regarding this matter. He stated that NETC (Northeastern Technical College) was interested in establishing a new location in Marlboro County for industrial training and vocational education training like was done in years past. He stated that NETC decided last week not to pursue the training program at the Eastside school. He stated that the Eastside location was not appropriate after evaluating the space available at the location. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that NETC has asked about the old Winn-Dixie building and that staff has drawn up some terms that have been discussed in executive session during the work session earlier.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the county purchased the old Winn-Dixie building for \$1.4 million with grant funds back in 2010 and that NETC has a budget for that same amount. He stated that NETC would eventually vacate the classrooms down town and move these classes over to the new location. He stated that NETC holds title to the public library through EDA and they would give the County a deed on that building, as well as the NETC

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classroom building, which could be used for recreation programs or other things, in exchange for the old Winn-Dixie property. He stated that the county is currently operating the library on a 20 year operating grant now.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he is requesting that Council provide approval for staff to take the necessary actions in having attorneys draw up the appropriate documents to make this happen.

Dr. Carolyn Prince commended the Administrator for putting together a very comprehensive document that provides all of the resources that are necessary and the measures to protect the county's interest in this facility and that it would have great benefits for the county and its citizens.

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to authorize the Administrator to proceed with preparation of documents, ordinances or other actions pursuant to the details of the project as presented and reviewed by Council in tonight's work session. The written outline of the details are included and attached as exhibit "A" to this motion and recorded with the minutes. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Exhibit "A"

- Marlboro County Council will deed to Northeastern Technical College (NETC) the property known as the "old Winn-Dixie Building" on SC Highway 9 in Bennettsville subject to the following provisions:
 - The building must be used for a vocational education or related program that benefits the citizens of Marlboro County
 - If classes related to the program have not commenced in 12 months or if the property at any time becomes dormant for more than 18 months, the ownership of the property and improvements revert to County.
 - Should NETC decide to sell the property in the future, the County shall have a first right of refusal to purchase the site. The County would receive a credit against the sale price of \$900,000 which is equal to the County's original purchase price for the building.
 - The project will be announced as a joint effort of NETC and Marlboro County. The County shall have input and veto power over press releases, groundbreaking events event agenda and other activities related to the initial announcements and groundbreaking.
 - The facility may not be named after any individual, living or dead, without explicit approval of Marlboro County Council
- NETC will deed to Marlboro County the current Library and NETC classroom building and property on Fayetteville Avenue and Marlboro Street.
 - Timeline for transfer of ownership is contingent on release from EDA grant restrictions on property. Without a release, the EDA grant restrictions expire in 3 years.
 - If a release is not immediate, NETC will lease the property to Marlboro County for \$1 a year for the 3 year period at which time unencumbered title will be issued

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- Beginning in FY2017-18, the dedicated tax millage rate for Northeastern Technical College (NETC) shall include an additional 1.3 mils dedicated to the capital improvement, repairs, utilities and/or maintenance of facilities currently owned by NETC and any building owned by Marlboro County government that is now or formerly was provided general support to NETC. This includes but is not limited to, the Marian Wright Edelman Library, the former NETC Bennettsville Campus and the Murchison School Building.
 - One half (50%) of these tax proceeds must be reserved for the properties owned by Marlboro County. This additional millage shall continue for five years at which time it may be extended by action of the Marlboro County Council.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSION

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any appointments to any Marlboro County Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley made the following nominations:

Historical Preservation Commission

District 3 John I. Rogers, III New Appointment

Economic Development Partnership Board

District 3 Bill Jennings New Appointment

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

District 6 Rhonda Odom New Appointment at the request of Councilman Verd Odom

Motion made by Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the appointments for the Commissions/Boards as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director.

Ms. Moore reported that expenditures were at 57% of the budgeted amount which was slightly under budget for this point in the fiscal year. She stated that revenues had increased 13% from last month as tax collections have begun to come in and stated that revenue collections were currently 3% higher than for this same time last fiscal year.

Ms. Moore stated that the Finance Department and the Administrator were working on creating new reports to aid in better forecasting revenue for budgeting purposes, as well as providing graphical data to show trends that will also aid in the budgeting process.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

1. **Animal Shelter** – During January, there were 99 dogs taken in the shelter with 85 being rescued, and 2 being reclaimed by owner, leaving a population of 58 at the shelter as of January 31. There were 22 cats taken in with 35 being rescued, 9 being adopted, and 3 being euthanized, leaving 29 at the shelter as of January 31.
2. **Risk Management** – Mr. Grover McQueen and Mr. Keith Williams attended the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust meeting which was held at the beach back on January 25th and 26th and brought back a Second Place award in recognition of prompt reporting of workers' compensation claims during the year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. We appreciate all of the efforts of staff to report these claims in a timely manner and this timely reporting is noticed by the compensation trust folks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Number of Marlboro County citizens working at Harbor Freight

Marlboro County has been a partner in the Tri-County Industrial Park in Dillon since it's beginnings in the 1990's. Harbor Freight is now located there and we recently received some interesting information about the benefits to our citizens.

The employee breakdown for HF is as follows: Marlboro 109; Marion 68; Dillon 367; Florence 61. HF has expressed the desire for some sort of transportation system to help employees get to work.

Prospect Activity - Over the past month, work has continued with Project Custom. The Project is active but it is a startup and therefore there are additional steps required to finalize the deal. Additionally, there have been 3 inquiries since the last meeting and one site visit from prospects.

Buildings and Sites – there have been visits to several available industrial sites so that efforts may be made to reevaluate our offerings. One new listing in the Baldor site in Clio. This is an EXCELLENT industrial site and we will be working with the company's realtor as well as SC Commerce to market the building.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Delinquent Tax Collector - Our current DTC Shirley Dunsford has made the decision to retire effective March 3 and staff is working to recruit a qualified individual to fill that important spot. We are working with Ms. Dunsford to make a smooth transition and will also be utilizing DTC's from other counties to be sure our local procedures meet with the practices in use by other counties.

Fire Service - Per E911 Director Steve Akers, over the last 30 days we have had 64 brush/woods/grass fires in the County! Many of these occur during business hours and have kept our volunteer firefighters busy. We appreciate the job they do.

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Also, we continue to see benefits of ISO plan instituted several years back with regards to reductions in fire insurance premiums. Staff is preparing an update for distribution.

County Buildings – our entire staff is involved in one way or another with identifying much needed repairs to county facilities. We have devised a list and have begun to prioritize the needs as well as get estimates for cost. Ainsley Moore and I are working to identify possible funding sources for the repairs.

Building security - The staff in the Administrative Building has met to discuss security of the building and develop a plan to enhance access control to the offices located there. In the next 2 weeks we will install another door and additional camera systems in the entrance way to the building. Employees or others with security clearance will have keyless access to the offices.

Employee empowerment - As presented last month, employee empowerment is a key element to my management philosophy. I continue to have staff meetings and 1:1 meetings with staff persons. I've also begun to assemble small groups for discussion of projects or the resolution of issues that come up.

Elected officials meetings - I've met with the "courthouse" elected officials 1:1 and then as a group. The meetings have gone well and we've agreed to have periodic group meetings to be sure we make the opportunity to discuss issues that affect them all.

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

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen stated that one person had signed up to address Council and recognized Ms. Vikki Harris to present her semi-annual report for the Veterans Affairs office.

Vikki Harris – thanked the Chair and members of Council for allowing her to present to them her semi-annual report for the Marlboro County Veterans Affairs office for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

Ms. Harris stated that a copy of her report was provided to each member of Council. She stated that the Marlboro County Veterans office had processed 533 claims, had 1,058 interviews, consultations & other constituent contacts, had two free tuition claims, 25 special inquiries, three education and training opportunities, and 475 other contacts which included review or processing of state veterans nursing home applications, waiver of indebtedness, delayed/missing checks, assisted with social security/SSI/food stamps/etc. and file reviews.

Ms. Harris stated that they have been extremely busy in assisting the Veterans in the county and also honored them with a Memorial Day cookout, an elegant evening of dinner and dancing, a Labor Day Celebration, and a Veterans Day parade.

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Mr. Gladden stated that Mr. Munnerlyn, the County Administrator, had only been in his new position for a couple of months but that he had been very busy and is getting many things done.

Mr. Gladden thanked Chairman Jason Steen for his efforts in attending tonight's meeting even though his mom was sick in the hospital. He stated that many folks would not have even considered being at the meeting tonight but Jason wanted to make sure that everything was taken care of and in order. He stated that he appreciated all that Jason does for the council.

Mr. Charles P. Midlgey, Jr. – No comments.

Mr. Anthony Woods – thanked Sheriff Lemon and his staff for coming to the meeting and stated that Council would assist him in any way they could.

Mr. Woods thanked Ms. Ainsley Moore, Ms. Vikki Harris, and Mr. Josh Cohoon for all that they do for the county.

Mr. Woods mentioned recreation for Clio and stated that basketball was winding down. He mentioned the Blenheim gym and stated that many games are being played in Bennettsville but that he wanted to see the Blenheim gym used more. He stated that it is our building now and a lot of work has been done to get it where we can use it and he wanted to see it in use.

Mr. Jason Steen – thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting tonight. He stated that there was a great divide in the United States but that he did not want there to be a divide in Marlboro County. He stated that he wanted everyone to continue to work together and get things done.

Mr. Steen stated that Mr. Ron Munnerlyn was doing a great job and has great ideas. He stated that he is excited about the good work with NETC.

Mr. Steen stated that the ISO ratings were down from 9 to 5 and that we want everyone to know that so they can make sure that their rates are showing the reduction in the costs of homeowners insurance.

AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

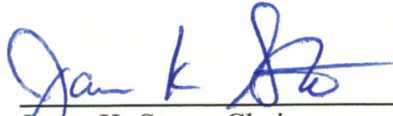
Motion made by Mr. Willie Gladden, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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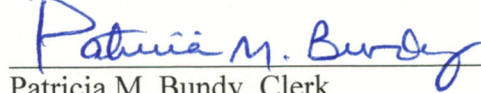
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:33 p.m.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: March 14, 2017