

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN DR. CAROLYN A. PRINCE

VICE-CHAIRMAN JASON STEEN

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY
RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

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

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

*

* Absent

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

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Lynn McQueen and Mr. Dan McNeil of the Marlboro 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).

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Councilman Anthony Woods to provide the Invocation and asked that he remember Ms. Corrie Plato as she could not be present at the Council meeting due to sickness in her family.

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated that some revisions had been made to Ordinance # 764 and asked that the agenda be amended to include the changes to this Ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the revised agenda to include revisions to Ordinance # 764. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations & Election of Chair

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked for nominations for Chairman of Council.

Motion made by Mr. Willie gladden, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to nominate Dr. Carolyn A. Prince as Chair to Council. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any more nominations and there were none.

Nominations and Election of Vice-Chair

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman of Council.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to nominate Mr. Jason Steen as Vice-Chairman to Council. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any more nominations and there were none.

Since no other nominations were made, Dr. Carolyn A. Prince was recognized as Chair and Mr. Jason Steen was recognized as Vice-Chairman to County Council for FY 2018.

Chair Prince took over the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 764 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY AND HUMANE SOCIETY OF MARLBORO COUNTY, INC.

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, opened the public hearing and recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Ordinance would approve a Lease of the Animal Shelter located at 242 Ag Street in Bennettsville, SC, to the Humane Society of Marlboro County, Inc. He stated that there were some last minute revisions and a copy of the lease with the revisions highlighted in yellow were provided to each member of Council. He stated that the County would provide the building to the Humane Society at no rent and would also pay them \$114,000 on an annual basis to operate the shelter which is the amount that the county has spent over the last year. Mr. Munnerlyn also stated that the county would provide an Animal Control Officer who would be responsible for the picking up of stray dogs and cats and the initial intake vaccinations, health assessments and other duties. He stated that the cleaning of the shelter and feeding of the animals would be the responsibility of the Humane Society. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt this was a good decision because the Humane

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Society would be in a position to apply for grants for the running of the shelter and would also be in a better position to have a no-kill shelter. He stated that the county is very limited as to what funds that could be provided to the shelter with the funds that are provided for EMS, fire and other services.

Dr. Prince asked if anyone was present on behalf of the Humane Society that would like to speak.

Ms. Jennifer Hyduke spoke and thanked Council and Mr. Munnerlyn for their work in assisting with the lease and operating agreement of the shelter and stated that they had come a long way. She also complimented the volunteers of the Humane Society and stated that nothing could be done without these folks and appreciated very much their time and energy that they spend at the shelter.

Chair Prince asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the public. There were none.

ORDINANCE # 765 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS PROJECT TOM WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this Ordinance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Ordinance related to an existing industry in the county being referred to as Project Tom and stated that this Ordinance would renew an existing fee in lieu of taxes agreement with the industry. He stated that the FILOT was a typical agreement which would provide for a 6% assessment for a 20 year term. He stated that the industry expansion was estimated to be \$12 million. Mr. Munnerlyn recommended the renewal of the FILOT and stated that the county needed to keep existing industries which we have and if the FILOT was not renewed, that the industry could very well look elsewhere to make their investments.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 12, 2017 – Regular Council meeting

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were no recommended changes.

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Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes from December 12, 2017 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 763 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK (2016 PARK) OF DILLON AND MARLBORO COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK – THIRD READING

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this item.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that this Ordinance dealt with the business and industrial park which Marlboro County has with Dillon County and would allow additional property to be added to the park. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Marlboro County will receive 1% of the tax revenue from the industries in the park.

Chair Prince asked if there were any additional questions or comments. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 763 – an Ordinance to amend an Agreement for the Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park (2016 Park) of Dillon and Marlboro Counties so as to Enlarge the Park. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 764 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY AND HUMANE SOCIETY OF MARLBORO COUNTY, INC. – THIRD READING

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that this was the third reading on this Ordinance and that Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, had made comments during the Public Hearing which was held earlier. She asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 764 – an Ordinance to Approve the Lease Agreement and Operating Agreement by and Between Marlboro County and Humane Society of Marlboro County, Inc. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 765 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS PROJECT TOM WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD

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VALOREM TAXES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – SECOND READING

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that this was the second reading on this Ordinance and that Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, had made comments during the Public Hearing which was held earlier. She asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 765 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by and Between Marlboro County, South Carolina and a Company Known to the County at this time as Project Tom with Respect to Certain Economic Development Property in the County, Whereby such Property will be Subject to Certain Payments in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL’S REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FY 2018

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to make comments on this schedule.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that a meeting schedule is prepared each year listing the meeting dates of the monthly Council meetings to be published in the local paper. He stated that the only date that may need to be changed would be the June meeting which will be the date of the Primary election. He stated that if the meeting date needed to be changed that it could be done closer to that date.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve Council’s Regular Meeting Schedule for FY 2018 with the understanding that if any dates needed to be changed, this would be done at a later date. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any appointments to any Boards or Commissions. There were none.

REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – MS. AINSLEY MOORE

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director.

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Ms. Moore stated that for the month of December, expenditures were at 50% of the budgeted amount and revenues for the month had increased significantly from last month, as tax collections were being received.

Ms. Moore stated that the Finance Department had begun the processing of the W-2 forms for the calendar year 2017 and forms would be sent out to employees later this month. She stated that the Finance Department would also be processing the ACA forms within the next month but that the deadline for mailing these forms were not the same as the deadline for the W-2 forms.

Ms. Moore reported that the auditors were now compiling their final report and staff had received a draft copy for review. She stated that the auditors will finish within the next couple of weeks and be in a position to present the audit at the next Council meeting.

She stated that the IRS was working to develop withholding guidelines to implement the recent tax reform bill, which was signed into law on December 22nd. She stated that it was anticipated that the initial withholding guidelines would be issued in January, 2018 and employers would be encouraged to implement the changes in February. She stated that the IRS has stated that the changes will not require any new withholding information from the employees.

Ms. Moore asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Chair Prince thanked Ms. Moore for the financial report.

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

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerylyn, County Administrator.

Mr. Munnerylyn stated that his report was as follows:

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES - The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of December: Judge Mark Heath (16 years); and Walter Pratt (18 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **MLK, Jr. Parade-** The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade being conducted by the Marlboro County NAACP will be held this Saturday at 10 am. Please let Mrs. Bundy know if you are interested in participating.
2. **SC Association of Counties Mid-Year Conference-** The SC Association of Counties' 31st Annual Mid-Year Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, SC. with the Institute of Government classes scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2018. A copy of the brochure and agenda is attached for Council's review. Please let Ms. Bundy know if you would like to attend so that she may make the appropriate arrangements for you.

- 3. 2018 Statement of Economic Interests Report Deadline-** The “ethics report” must be filed by all elected officials and some employees not later than 12:00 noon on March 30, 2018. This form must be filed electronically with a \$100 late filing penalty if not filed by the deadline date. A copy of the requirements is attached to this report for Council’s information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that activity had been slow over the past month as was typical for this time of year. He stated that there were several active prospects related to the Baldor Building. He stated that with the beginning of new fiscal years for corporations he hoped to see decisions being made one way or the other by interested companies.

Mr. Munnerlyn reported that the Partnership Image Committee met again to discuss a strategy for improving the appearance of the “gateways” to the County. He stated that the committee was working towards a comprehensive list of houses and other structures in the County and cites/towns that needed demolishing and stated that once the committee has the information, they would hope to begin pursuing grant funding.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Snow!

Mr. Munnerlyn thanked the County Public Works and Public Buildings crews for their work in clearing snow from sidewalks and parking lots. He stated that these folks were out the first morning after the snow working hard to protect the safety of our citizens. He stated that the fire, rescue and emergency services personnel were also out in the weather working fires, wrecks and general problems resulting from the storm.

Partnering with SC DOT

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he was pleased to report that Marlboro County teamed up with SC Department of Transportation to help clear the streets and roads of the County. He stated that SCDOT has limited road clearing equipment and the County was able to assist with the use of our two motor graders. He stated that much positive public response was received on social media for the collaborative effort. He stated that times like the snow event over the past week were no times to say it’s not my job – and that Marlboro always wanted to step up and do what was best for the citizens in times of need.

Great Pee Dee Church

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that some of may be familiar with the historic Great Pee Dee Church on Highway 38 south of Bennettsville. He stated that this church was the oldest church structure in Marlboro County having been built in 1834.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that history was often segregated in the South but this church shares important African-American and white church history. He stated that it was the only Presbyterian Church in the county from 1834 to 1891, then it became an important African-

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American Baptist Church in 1891 until the last decade when a newer building was built in front of it.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the church has all but collapsed. He stated that there was interest in trying to save the church and he had met with the pastor, William Webb, and Deacons of the Church as well as with the Marlboro County Historic Preservation Commission. He stated that the MCHPC approved \$5,000 to be used to assess whether the building could be saved and perhaps stabilized until efforts could be made.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Historical Tourism was one of the elements of the Destination Marlboro initiative included in Council's strategic planning and that while the condition of the church may be "too far gone" it was certainly worth the effort to assess the situation.

Strategic Planning

Department Goals

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had spent some time reviewing department and individual staff member's goals to be sure they were in line with the initiatives developed in the Council's strategic planning process.

Progress Reports

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he would start in February reporting on staff progress with regards to strategic initiatives of council. He stated that some efforts were "behind the scenes" due to legal and contractual situations; however, he felt it was important to measure the progress and report publically on what was being achieved or what road blocks were being faced.

Public Information

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that another important part of these initiatives was to involve related groups and citizens in our efforts. He stated that Council agreed to take the "show on the road" and he stated that he was open to suggestions, comments, input on how and where this should be done.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that he liked the idea of taking the strategic plan on the road and felt that it should be presented to any groups or individuals available and interested in hearing it. He stated that the local towns would be a great place to start.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he was not shy and would be happy to present it to any group that was interested in hearing it.

Chair Prince asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that Sheriff Charles Lemon had signed up to address Council and she recognized him.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – addressed Council and thanked God for all the wonderful things that He had done. He also thanked members of Council for what they have done for him

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and his department. He stated that he took office in January, 2017 and he hit the floor running with two deaths and one missing child which was later found dead. He stated that it was not a good ending but it did give the family closure.

Sheriff Lemon thanked Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, the County Administrator, for calling and offering help for anything that was needed. He also thanked the Federal agencies and SLED for their hard work.

Sheriff Lemon mentioned the workshop regarding active shooters response for worship environments which was presented on Saturday, January 6th from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at the Bennettsville Community Center. He stated that although it was around 10° Saturday morning that over 210 folks came out to the workshop. He stated that Ken Poston and Wayne Freeman from SLED/Home Land Security came out and presented the workshop and did a great job. Sheriff Lemon stated that Mr. Poston and Mr. Freeman were certified in providing this type of workshop and he was pleased that so many folks took advantage of it. Sheriff Lemon stated that he had received a lot of positive feedback from the workshop.

Sheriff Lemon thanked his department members and his Chief Deputy Steve Weaver. He stated that his Chief has helped him a great deal since he came on board.

Sheriff Lemon stated that his Chief had received an email earlier today from SLED and Homeland Security stating that grant funds were available for more programs such as the workshop which was presented on Saturday.

Chair Prince asked if the grant funds that were available from Home Land Security could be used for providing concealed weapon permits. Sheriff Lemon and Chief Deputy Steve Weaver stated that those funds could not be used for providing concealed weapon permits but only for workshops related to the active shooters response for worship environments. Sheriff Lemon stated that he knew a couple of folks that he could recommend to assist with providing concealed weapon permit training.

Chair Prince thanked sheriff Lemon for his hard work.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated that he wanted to thank a gentleman in Clio that did not want to be recognized by name. He stated that there were many large trees down in Clio since the storm which occurred last October and the County was not able to go on private property to help folks with this type of work. He stated that the gentleman provided his heavy equipment and manpower to work in Clio to cleanup many areas that were in bad shape. He stated that this was the gentleman's Christmas gift to the Town of Clio. Mr. Woods stated that he really appreciated this gentleman and what he did for Clio to make their town beautiful.

Mr. Woods thanked Sheriff Lemon and Chief Deputy Steve Weaver for attending the meeting tonight and told Sheriff Lemon that he had a great Chief in Steve Weaver.

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Mr. Woods stated that Council did a great job in 2017 and he hoped that 2018 would be even better.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – commended staff for their quick response during the snow and working with the DOT crew and stated that he felt that everything ran very smooth. He also thanked Sheriff Lemon for his comments and also thanked folks from the Humane Society for attending the meeting tonight.

Mr. Jason Steen – thanked everyone for their hard work and stated that he felt that 2017 was a great year. He stated that everyone comes together and stated that it took working together to get things done. He stated that the county has a great staff.

Mr. Steen stated that the Humane Society was well aware of the task that they are taking on and he felt that they would do a great job.

Mr. Willie Gladden – mentioned water bills and utility bills and stated that back in January 26, 2017, the City made a deal with the coop to purchase the existing Marlboro Electric Coop building for \$48,611/month for 36 months for a total of \$1,750,000 which comes back to the City of Bennettsville in utility and water services. He stated that with the single digit weather, he felt that some of this money should be given back to the citizens by reducing their rates to show their appreciation and give the citizens a break.

Mr. Gladden also mentioned that the county really needed to work on having a place for the homeless. He stated that it was really cold last week and to think that some folks in our county had no heat to get warm was a very sad thought. He stated that it was time that folks began caring about other instead of just thinking of themselves.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – thanked staff for all of their hard work and also thanked Sheriff Lemon for his remarks and hard work. He thanked the folks from the Humane Society for attending the meeting and stated that he felt that the lease and operating agreement was the right thing to do. He stated that the Humane Society was in a much better position to work towards getting more resources and grants that it would out better in the end for the Humane Society to be in control of the animal shelter.

Mr. Blackmon stated that he was looking forward to 2018 and stated that a lot had been done over the last few years. He stated that the new Sheriff/Magistrate complex had been built as well as a new library and things have gone great.

Mr. Blackmon stated that with all the good things that are being accomplished, it makes him proud to be a member of Council and makes him want to continue working for the citizens of Marlboro County.

Mr. Verd Odom – commended staff and the county employees for working hard. He stated that folks had positive things to say on Facebook about DOT and the county working together. He stated that he appreciated the hard work that Mr. Munnerlyn continues to do. He stated that he felt that the county had a good group of people and we all want Marlboro County to go forward and progress. He stated that he agreed that folks needed to be informed as to what is going on.

Mr. Odom mentioned the Reciprocity Amendment which is being discussed in the General Assembly and suggested that folks contact Senator Lindsay Graham and Senator Tim Scott to let them know that folks are in favor of the amendment. He stated that the amendment would allow folks that have permits to carry firearms for protection in their state to carry the firearm in any other state that issues such permits.

Mr. Odom thanked the folks of the Humane Society for all of their work and for appearing at the Council meeting.

Dr. Carolyn Prince – thanked members of Council for electing her to serve as Chair for 2018 and stated that she would like to echo some things that the other members of Council have already said. She stated that as members of Council they vote as a whole and work well together.

Dr. Prince stated that she had heard that the Bennettsville Hotel on the By-Pass was serving as a shelter for the homeless and asked that Mr. Munnerlyn check on this to confirm whether or not this is true.

Dr. Prince also asked that the Recreation Department consider doing some field days at various locations in the county to host recreational activities for the citizens. She mentioned the Blenheim Gym in Blenheim and the Old Marlboro Community Center to be a couple of suggested locations for hosting this activities.

Dr. Prince thanked Mr. Jason Steen and Mr. Willie Gladden for their leadership in 2017. She thanked Mr. Munnerlyn for his leadership and guidance and stated that Council made a good decision to bring him on board and she was proud of the work that had been done so far in the strategic planning and stated that Council now has a plan to work towards.

Dr. Prince stated that money would be tight for 2018 and that all should be mindful of how the county funds are spent.

Dr. Prince also asked that the County Administrator get with members of the Legislative Delegation and set up a meeting so that Council's concerns may be shared with them. She stated that she would like for the SC General Assembly work towards leveling the playing field to have the best teachers in the State available to all counties. She stated that the salaries for teachers should be based on their qualifications and education throughout all counties in the state and that Marlboro County teachers with the same qualifications as those in Horry County should be paid the same. She stated that this would allow our county to have the best teachers available.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

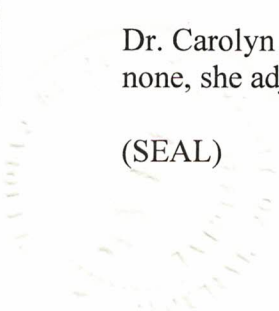
There were no non-agenda items.

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ADJOURN

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, she adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

(SEAL)



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince

Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Bundy

Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: February 13, 2018