

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

6 PM

CHAIRMAN

CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR

VICE CHAIRMAN
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

JASON STEEN
SUSAN RIVERS
ANDREW MCLEOD *

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN
CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.
KENNETH STROMAN
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

DR. DAMIEN JOHNSON
CORRIE H. PLATO
VERD ODOM
ANTHONY WOODS

- Absent

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

A copy of the Regular Meeting Notice and agenda were posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building and on the Marlboro County Website. A copy of the agenda was provided to Ms. Jacqueline Hough, Herald Advocate prior to the meeting.

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Charles Midgley, Jr., Chairman advised item 12 for an executive session needed to be moved so Council could immediately go into executive session to discuss an economic development issue.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods to move item 12 for an executive session so Council could immediately go into executive session to discuss an economic development issue and accept the revised agenda. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to go into executive session to discuss an economic development issue and accept the revised agenda. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to close executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Executive Session was closed at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Midgley, Chairman advised no action had been taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

OCTOBER 4, 2022 – COUNCIL “WORKSHOP” MEETING

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve the October 4, 2022 Council “Workshop” Meeting as written. Vote in favor: Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Jason Steen, Dr. Damien Johnson, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Verd Odom. Abstain: Mr. Anthony Woods (not present at meeting). Motion carried.

OCTOBER 18, 2022 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve the October 18, 2022 Council Meeting as written. Vote in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 830 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MUNICIPAL ELECTION TRANSFER AND COSTS FEE AGREEMENT MARLBORO COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF CLIO – THIRD READING

Mr. Munnerlyn advised the agreement was just like the one with McColl. Staff has no issues with Council approving.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 830 - An Ordinance authorizing the execution of a Municipal Election Transfer and Costs Fee Agreement Between Marlboro County and The Town of Clio. Vote in Favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 832 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,250,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OF MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH

CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SAID BOND SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF SAID BOND, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. SECOND READING

Mr. Munnerlyn advised the GOB Bond can be renewed every 5 to 6 years. It was his recommendation for Council to approve.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the Second Reading of - Ordinance # 832 – An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of a not to exceed one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) General Obligation Bond of Marlboro County, South Carolina, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of said Bond shall be expended, to provide for the payment of said Bond, and other matters relating thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RECREATION INITIATIVE – PRESENTATION OF COST ESTIMATES AND SOURCES OF FUNDING

Council discussed various recreation and community improvement options in the workshop held at 4:30 pm prior to the meeting. Mr. Munnerlyn advised that a motion is required to move forward with the projects identified by Council.

Mr. Munnerlyn recommend the following motion:

1. The following items are to be designated as Phase One for immediate action, pursuant to the details presented in the workshop:
 - a. The purchase and improvement of Marlboro Country Club.
 - b. The design and construction of splash pad facility
 - c. The design and construction of a boardwalk and parking area on the Beauty Spot Road shoreline of Lake Paul Wallace and to pursue a partnership with the Lake Paul Wallace Authority to fund the project.
 - d. The acquisition of property, design and construction a rest stop/food truck court on Broad Street
 - e. Allocation of funds for image concerns in the county including those in the municipalities
3. Authorize staff to develop any legal documents or arrangements required to further these options which would include entering into contracts or agreements to purchase the properties necessary for the projects.
4. Direct staff to set up meetings with any potential financial partners including but not limited to: The Lake Paul Wallace Authority and the City of Bennettsville and the Marlboro County School District.

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5. Direct staff to engage the services of a specialized legal counsel to advise the county on the establishment of a Special Purpose Tax District. that would generate dedicated revenue for recreation/ tourism issues ongoing.

Chairman Midgley asked all council members if they understood the motion. The Chairman then asked if there was a motion pursuant to Mr. Munnerlyn's recommendation.

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve the motion as presented by Mr. Munnerlyn. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Zoning Appeals Board

Mr. Munnerlyn advised there was a potential appeal which may require an active Zoning Appeals Board. He provided a list of potential board members he asked council to approve if only for a short term in order to be ready if necessary. He advised the board members normally serve the same four year term as their council district they are serving, however, council may replace them at any time. Some council members wished to wait and see if they could find a person they were familiar with for their district. The following motion was made to appoint a quorum of board members.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to appoint the following Zoning Appeals Board Members: Mr. Jay English (District 1); Mr. John Troy Henegan (District 2); Ms. Edith Bridges (District 3); Mr. Rodney Rummage (District 7) and Ms. Margaret Nolan (District 8). Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

None.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK, FINANCE DIRECTOR

General fund revenue for the four months ending October 31, 2022 total \$1,858,640 in comparison to \$1,693,616 for the four months ending October 31, 2021. General fund expenditures through October 31, 2022 total \$4,588,940 of a \$13,854,125 budget or 33.12% of the budget year to date. General fund expenditures totaled \$3,899,823 for the same four months ending October 31, 2022. In conclusion, revenues are up in comparison to the prior year but not as significant as the increase in expenditures.

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

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees were recognized with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of October: John Alexson (5 years); Luke Sides (5 years); William Griggs (5 years); Courtney Skipper (6 years); Christina Crosland (6 years); Cynthia Polston (6 years); and Mary Collins (9 years).

ADMINISTRATION

Employee Christmas Party

Mr. Munneryn stated the Annual Employee Christmas Dinner would be held on December 8th at 5:30 pm at the Prince Recreation Center.

Opioid Settlement

Mr. Munneryn stated the County has received additional information from the State regarding Marlboro County's portion of the Opioid Lawsuit settlement. He stated it appears we are to receive \$86,000 however it is unclear to what it can be used for now and moving forward. He stated the county has been in contact with Marion County and together will get some clarity as to uses.

Mr. Munneryn stated Council will need to set up an ad hoc committee to work with this issue once more information is available. The funds are to be used toward prevention

Recreation Funds from State

Mr. Munneryn Stated staff has completed the necessary paperwork to receive the \$2,000,000 state budget proviso amount for recreation projects. He stated the county appreciated the Legislative Delegation's work to secure this amount. The funds will be received and put in a special account until options are determined by the Council for recreation.

Next-gen E911

Mr. Munneryn stated that 911 Director Steve Akers reports that they have successfully converted to the next generation 911 software and equipment as have most other counties. The new system would automatically transfer calls to another county in the case of a catastrophe. The system is controlled and supported from a centralized data center.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Marlboro County Economic Development Board meeting November 15, 2022.

Mr. Munneryn stated the MCEDP Board met earlier in the day. The group set the annual Christmas drop-in for December 14th.

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He stated also of interest was that in light of ongoing workforce concerns and frustration with regards to clear paths of vocational education, the group also voted to request a presentation from Richmond Community College with regards to available vocational education and training opportunities. He said County Council would be invited to the presentation with details to follow.

Marley Business After Hours

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff was working with Justin Dawkins, the new Director of Operations for Marley and the Chamber of Commerce to organize an event in early December. He said Marley was doing well and has made a number of improvements to their plant as well as what used to be called "Emerson Park". He said Mr. Dawkins would like to show off the improvements to the park and talk about Marley's facility. Mr. Munnerlyn said he would provide more details in the next week.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

No citizens were heard.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods said he wanted to tip his hat off to the Election Commission. They did an excellent job without Ms. Lori Moses who had recently passed. He recognized Dr. Damien Johnson as Head of the Democratic Party. Mr. Woods said Dr. Johnson and his team did an excellent job for the democratic party. He said Council needed to move forward in 2023. He said it would be a good gesture to invite the Local Delegation to the County Christmas Dinner to thank them for what they have done for Marlboro County. There have been a lot of hard feelings and feelings that need to be mended. He said Council members need to be cautious of what they say about individuals, because people look up to them. Mr. Woods wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Corrie Plato congratulated all the winners of the Elections. She stated that everyone has personal issues, however, when they come to the meetings it is supposed to be for county issues, approving budgets, capital improvements, and other things for the people. She said it is inappropriate to throw names at others, she was getting ready to leave and advised her fellow council members to be careful of what they say. She said she has always been respectful of all the council members and they have always been respectful of her. She advised them to limit themselves to what they say. Ms. Plato said she has really enjoyed it and will miss everyone.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman thanked Dr. Damien Johnson for how he ran the democratic machine behind the scenes, he was very professional. He said politics is a passionate subject for a lot of people, but, as Council Members, they must be careful of how they act. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said Mr. Keith Odom (Waste Management) did an excellent job getting the turkeys out.

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Mr. Jason Steen said the election is over and he was looking forward to a new vision and moving forward. He was excited about the recreation project. He thanked everyone for their hard work and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Dr. Damien Johnson thanked the Election Commission for the work they did. He also thanked all the citizens that came out to vote, Marlboro County had a 41% voter turn out which is good. He said he just wanted everyone to come out and vote no matter who they voted for. He said he wants a better life for the citizens of Marlboro County and said Council needs to utilize our County Delegation and citizens. He said everyone is having a hard time and asked everyone to pray for their neighbors. He wanted to thank Representative Henegan and Senator Malloy for the 2 Million dollars they secured for the county. Dr. Johnson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Steve Blackmon wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He said he agreed with the Recreation project. He wanted everyone to be careful and look out for their neighbors because things get bad at the Holidays with break ins, etc. as well as dangerous during the Holiday season. Mr. Blackmon wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Verd Odom congratulated Dr. Johnson on their win. He said he had already congratulated Representative Henegan and Hayes on Tuesday night. He also congratulated Republicans Tim Scott and Mark Hammonds. He said it was a good election. Mr. Odom elections are hard, it's over and time to move forward and work with whoever won.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Chairman commended his fellow Council Members for coming and working together on the Recreation project. He thanked staff members for all the work they had done on the project.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

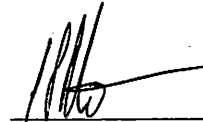
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ADJOURN

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

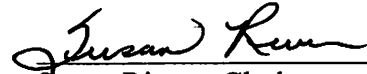
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

(SEAL)



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

ATTEST:



Susan Rivers, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: December 13, 2022