

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
BENNETTSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

‘CALLED’ COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

5:30 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE CHAIR

CORRIE PLATO

ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
ANDREW McLEOD

COUNCIL:

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

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

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* Absent

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

Others Present: Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director; Ms. Doris Sumpter, Administrative Services Director; Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director; Mr. Calvin Cassidy, EMS Director; Mr. Steve Akers, E-911 Director; Mr. Fred Lowery, Recreation and Parks Director; Ms. Kaye Liner, Accounts Payable; Ms. Lynn McQueen, Museum and Cultural Affairs 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.marlbocounty.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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, to provide the Strategic Planning Update. He stated County Council began their strategic planning four or five years ago and have kept things moving and continue updating the plan in order to keep things moving forward. He stated the strategic planning had been a good tool. He stated Mayor Carolyn Prince was on Council when the strategic planning process began.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated one member of council was out of town and one member of council could not attend due to health issues. He stated two folks from the Marlboro General Hospital Charity Trust were present at the meeting, City of Bennettsville Mayor Carolyn Prince, as well as all County department heads.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he would go through what County Council has accomplished and where we are and where staff believes we should be going. He reminded everyone that there was one new council member present and the presentation would allow everyone to focus on the big picture. He invited members of Council to interrupt him at any time for questions or comments.

Why Strategic Planning?

Mr. Munnerlyn stated strategic planning provides the following:

- Forces all to discuss the “big picture”;
- Identifies and prioritizes areas of focus; and
- Creates a “game plan” for staff and for allocation of scarce resources.

What Should Our Approach Be?

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that staff and Council should:

- Be REAL about our situation – Facts, not emotion;
- Identify problems AND resources;
- Choose realistic goals & “role models”;
- Lobby, persuade, and fight for assistance.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the workshop would help members of Council and staff:

- Understand where we are now – changes since 2019;
- Discuss successes and “in-progress” or “unfinished” initiatives;
- Determine path forward;
- “Tweak” existing initiatives and develop new initiatives.

Mr. Munnerlyn reminded members of Council the population from 1990 to 2018 had decreased by 21% or 5,982 people from 29,704 to 23,722 (this number does not include prison population). He mentioned the City of Bennettsville’s Comprehensive Plan predicts

that the population in the County could decrease an additional 24% by 2025. He stated he felt that we must turn things around or cut county government which would be very difficult.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the active cases of COVID-19. He stated folks were so beaten down and things were as bad now as they were in August. He stated Richland County was seeing many new cases. He stated we must consider this as we continue to operate.

REVIEW OF KEY INITIATIVES – PROGRESS AND PLANS FOR 2021

HOSPITAL ALTERNATIVE

2020 Initiatives

- Change state law that prohibits hospital systems outside of a 30 mile radius of the County and North Carolina Hospitals from establishing a Free Standing Emergency Department or Mini-Hospital in Marlboro County.

Update on Hospital Need and Feasibility Study

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that two representatives from the Marlboro County General Charity Trust Board were present, Ms. Jane Rogers, Chair of the Board, and Ms. Leslie Herndon, Member of the Board. He stated that the Board assisted in having an expert conduct a study on what the County needs and what the County could support as far as a hospital alternative. He stated the study is now being updated and recognized Ms. Leslie Herndon to introduce Mr. Brian Ackerman who was in the process of compiling information for the updated study.

Ms. Leslie Herndon introduced Mr. Brian Ackerman and stated he is a Partner with the healthcare strategy and planning firm, Ascendient Healthcare Advisors. He received his Master's in Healthcare Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and currently leads Ascendient engagements related to hospital and health system strategy, public health planning, physician development and planning, and financial feasibility studies.

Mr. Ackerman joined the meeting via zoom and stated he has been conducting many studies like this over the last few months. He stated he would share his screen and update everyone on the progress being made with the assessment.

Mr. Ackerman stated his firm focused on the area of healthcare in helping organizations and markets understand what resources they need for today and going forward. He stated his firm works primarily in the East Coast area which primarily include Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.

Mr. Ackerman stated on the National level, he has seen over the last 10-15 years various types of services that population can support from primary care type facilities, which would be your traditional doctor's offices, to major Free Standing Emergency Departments which was relatively new in the past ten years, and Urgent Care facilities. He stated it takes more population to support those. He stated many things that were once done in hospitals are now

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being done in outpatient settings such as knee replacements, etc. He stated this has caused it to become harder for some areas to be able to support hospitals and he thinks that will continue to advance in the future.

Mr. Ackerman stated many rural hospitals have closed in the last ten years and he expects more hospital closures in the future.

Mr. Ackerman stated that ER visits were often folks that need blood pressure checks, prescription refills, and minor treatment rather than actual emergencies.

Mr. Ackerman stated the study his firm is working on for Marlboro County will look at its need for inpatient services to try and determine what Marlboro County could actually support.

Mr. Ackerman mentioned specialty alternatives and stated that he understood that regulatory barriers existed for some alternative types of hospitals such as micro-hospital which would be on the smaller footprint of a large hospital. He also mentioned Free Standing Emergency Departments which may be more suitable for long term and the possibility of evaluating EMS criteria to allow EMS to transport folks to these type facilities or other places such as Urgent Care Centers.

Mr. Ackerman stated his study was still underway and he looked forward to completing the study in the near future. He turned the meeting back over to Mr. Ron Munnerlyn and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Munnerlyn thanked Mr. Ackerman for his presentation and stated he looked forward to seeing the next steps of his report.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 initiative for Hospital Alternative was to Change state law that prohibits hospital systems outside of a 30 mile radius of the County and North Carolina Hospitals from establishing a Free Standing Emergency Department or Mini-Hospital in Marlboro County.

2021 HOSPITAL ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Hospital Alternative Initiatives were as follows:

- Complete MGHCT Study;
- Task Force to determine local action on study;
- Change state or federal laws limiting potential partners;
- Implement EMS programs to reduce “non-transport” calls.

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Mr. Calvin Cassidy, Director of EMS, to make comments on the EMS Update.

EMS UPDATE

Mr. Cassidy provided the following update:

- Response time – the Average Response time for EMS to respond to the call once received for the past 12 months has been 9:23. Previous response time before the creation of Marlboro EMS reported by EMS Task Force was 11:14
- “Scholarships” funded by Charities Trust have been a success. He stated three paramedic candidates will graduate in December, 2020 and one paramedic candidate expects to graduate in August, 2021
- Partnering with MUSC for COVID-19 testing site. He stated EMS provides the swabs and MUSC does the lab work and testing. He stated results are received within a 48 hour period but are typically received within twenty-four hours.

EMS CHALLENGES

Mr. Cassidy stated the EMS challenges were as follows:

- High percentage of call volume is patient’s using 911 service instead of a primary care doctor, for blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, generalized sickness type calls; equally high percentage of our calls are “non-transport”
- Working with Charities Trust to fund a program to reduce these calls by making home visits

4-LANE HIGHWAY CONNECTION

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 Initiatives for the 4-lane highway connection was as follows:

- Seek funding and commitment to construct a 4-lane interstate-like highway connecting Bennettsville with I-73/74 near Hamlet, NC.

2021 4-LANE HIGHWAY CONNECTION INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Initiatives for the 4-lane highway connection were as follows:

- Initiate an independent transportation study of the need for the project as well as current safety aspects of SC 38;
- Seek funding for the project;
- Explore partnership with Richmond County.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 Initiatives for Community Clean-up was to “clean-up” our communities – litter, debris, derelict houses and structures through community events, enhanced enforcement of litter laws, grant-funded abatement of abandoned or derelict structures, and maintenance of key “gateways” to the county and communities.

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Mr. Doug Carabo, Public Services Director, to make comments on the Community Clean-up initiative.

ROLL-CART SERVICE

Mr. Carabo stated the following:

- Waste Connections was selected as the contractor for residential pick-up in the county;

- Waste Connections currently serves 6,700 residences;
- Waste Connections is now fully implemented;
- Great communication with new company and they have hired an excellent local representative, Mr. Keith Odom, who is quick to resolve problems as they arise;
- Starting to see less household litter on the roadsides.

NEW RECYCLING CENTER

Mr. Carabo stated the following:

- A new Recycling Center will be located at the BORO site on Maple Street;
- Attractive layout with nice landscaping, paved entrance and drop off areas; and no household garbage will be taken so there will be no odor in the neighborhood from the center
- "Dump down" setup will be in place so as to make it easier for those delivering items to the center;
- Separate area for trailer loads;
- Focus on recycling programs such as cardboard, glass, etc.

2021 COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Initiatives for the Community Clean-up were as follows:

- Continue community clean-up events;
- Enhance litter enforcement;
- Coordinated effort to clean-up derelict property through the Image Committee through the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership;
- New Convenience Center; and
- Educate public on what can be disposed of in roll-carts.

RECREATION

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 Initiatives for Recreation were as follows:

- Renovate and better maintain existing recreational facilities;
- Expand recreational programs for adults and seniors; and
- Coordinate with other agencies to reduce redundancy in programs.

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Ms. Lynn McQueen, Director of Museum and Cultural Affairs, to make comments on activities with the museum.

Ms. McQueen stated COVID-19 definitely stopped activities at the museum and shut their doors to the public in March and the museum had not yet re-opened. She stated the museum has been providing some virtual programs. She stated the museum had partnered with the library for some activities that have worked out very well. She stated the museum has had a few lectures that have been provided on social media and more are scheduled for the future. She also stated that a photography contest was underway with photos to be submitted online. She encouraged everyone to participate. She stated the museum was staying active but safe as she felt it was not safe to have folks come in at this time.

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Mr. Fred Lowery, Director of Recreation, to make comments.

RECREATION DURING COVID-19

Mr. Lowery stated the following:

- E-Sports Program. Mr. Lowery stated that E-Sports was growing really fast in the County. He stated he was proud that Marlboro was one of the few that provide e-sports to their citizens;
- Online Registration for all activities, even after COVID-19;
- In person sports cancelled due to COVID-19 and case counts. He stated case counts have not declined and were actually increasing. He stated no decision had been made yet about whether to have Basketball for the youth but the safest decision was to not offer basketball. He stated others like church league, Florence County and Marlboro County School District Middle School had chosen not to offer the sport;
- If staff has Basketball, there would be serious restrictions such as limited attendance, health screening, cleaning, etc.

2021 RECREATION INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Initiatives for Recreation were as follows:

- Create more virtual programs where possible; and
- Continue 2020 initiatives after COVID-19.

#DESTINATION MARLBORO

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 Initiatives for #Destination Marlboro were to launch a marketing campaign to attract new residents; highlight local features such as historical and architecturally attractive homes and buildings, rural acreage for mini-estates, low costs of living, good weather and other attributes appealing to potential new residents.

2021 #DESTINATION MARLBORO INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Initiatives for #Destination Marlboro were as follows:

- Continue initiatives;
- Combine the initiative under the umbrella of Economic Development.

BROADBAND

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 Initiatives for Broadband included:

- Lobby state regulatory agencies, internet providers and others to address issues regarding access to high-speed internet in our community; and
- Seek grants or other funds to address specific infrastructure needs.

2021 BROADBAND INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Initiatives for Broadband were as follows:

- Revise internal study to determine remaining infrastructure needs;
- Partner with others to seek additional grant funding;
- Develop Wi-Fi networks in the towns/city centers.

RECRUIT AND RETAIN EMPLOYEES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 Initiatives for Recruiting and Retaining Employees was to focus on efficiency and succession planning and improving recruiting and retention of employees.

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Ms. Doris Sumpter, Director of Administrative Services, to make comments on Recruiting and Retaining employees.

EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Ms. Sumpter stated the following issues with employee recruitment and retention:

- It was difficult to find and keep employees;
- Turnover rate was much higher than national averages (national average for all employees is 15% but Marlboro County Government’s average is 26%. She stated the national average for public safety employees which included Sheriff’s Deputies and Detention Center Correctional Officers is 11% but Marlboro County Government’s average is 35%;
- 24% of new employees leave in the same year they are hired; and
- Aging workforce means more vacancies to fill. She stated that the average age of elected officials in Marlboro County is over 60 years old; the average age of those employees in management/supervisory positions, such as herself, is 50 years old; the average age of key/certified employees (those that require special training) is 50 years old; and the average age of regular employees is 40 years old.

WHY?

Ms. Sumpter stated she felt the issues with employee recruitment and retention is:

- Compensation was not competitive. She stated that the past focus has been on bringing employees pay to the minimum, but not to competitive salaries for public and private;
- Younger generation often does not see value in retirement plans or insurance that deducts from take home pay; and
- Some folks do not want to live here as there is not much to offer.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Ms. Sumpter stated things that might be done to help these issues are:

- Complete Compensation Study focusing on competitive wages. She stated the County could determine not just what the minimum pay is but what other jobs around us pay – both private and public sector;
- Develop an employee incentive program for performance. She stated staff could focus on reward performance to provide employees a path to advance;
- Develop regular training programs for all employees. She stated staff should provide the tools to employees to allow them to do their jobs and to better themselves;
- Implement an Exit Interview Program. She stated an exit interview would allow management to find how why people are deciding to leave.

2021 RECRUIT & RETAIN EMPLOYEES INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Initiatives for Recruitment and Retaining employees were as follows:

- Complete Compensation Study;
- Develop employee incentive program;
- Develop regular training programs for all employees;
- Implement an Exit Interview program.

IMPROVE UNPAVED ROADS INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2020 Initiatives for Improving Unpaved Roads was to close uninhabited/no public purpose roads such as farm roads, etc. and to apply aggregate to populated roads.

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Mr. Doug Carabo, Director of Public Services, to make comments on the Road Maintenance Program.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Carabo stated the following:

- There are 316 roads equaling 183 miles in county system;
- Many miles have no residences or businesses but the County is legally required to maintain;
- Many roads are in poor condition; and
- The County has limited resources to maintain roads. He stated the County receives \$35 per car fee which does not generate enough to properly maintain roads. He stated \$600,000 is generated with road fee but \$800,000 is budgeted for the purpose of maintaining the roads.
- Public Works staff inspected all county maintained roads;
- Road were ranked using a Points System which means that residences, businesses, churches, etc. are given higher priority;
- Results of Analysis reveal that there are 48 high priority dirt roads which equal approximately 21 miles.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Carabo stated the plan of action for maintaining the roads:

- Use slag which is much cheaper than granite based aggregate (crusher run) with great results. Mr. Carabo stated that Councilman Steve Blackmon provided much advice on the use of slag versus crusher run and that was most helpful in saving the County funds for the road maintenance program;
- Apply 2" layer over entire road rather than just repairing areas of a road;
- Goal to reduce required maintenance on these roads.

PROGRESS OF THE ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Carabo stated the progress to date is as follows:

- To date, slag has been applied to 25 roads equaling 10.5 miles;
- Staff is on track to complete 23 more roads equaling 10 more miles by the end of June.

COSTS OF THE ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Carabo stated the costs of the Road Maintenance Program is as follows:

- Cost per mile to add rock is \$20,400 which represents the material, machines and labor;
- Material (slag) alone is \$8,000 a mile (not hauled). The County staff picks up and hauls the slag when it rains, etc.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Carabo stated the funding sources for the Road Maintenance Program were as follows:

- Marlboro County Transportation Committee contributed \$75,000 both in FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021;
- County road maintenance fund; and
- Exploring possible CDBG Grant funds.

2021 IMPROVE UNPAVED ROADS INITIATIVES

Mr. Munneryn stated the 2021 Initiatives for Improving Unpaved Roads were as follows:

- Continue at current pace of applying aggregate on 10 miles of road per year;
- Seek to continue funding partnership with Marlboro County Transportation Committee;
- Explore grant funding to expedite progress; and
- Retire uninhabited/no public purpose roads – with landowner consent.

2020 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Mr. Munneryn stated the 2020 Initiatives for Economic Development were:

- Develop additional industrial site(s), improve existing sites;
- Continue support of NETC Marlboro Campus – Vocational Educational program;
- Target recruitment of new residents – Destination Marlboro; and
- Leverage Tourism opportunities – Destination Marlboro

ISSUES

Mr. Munneryn stated the issues with the 2020 initiatives were as follows:

- Nothing to sell. No buildings of any value are available to show interested prospects;
- Lack of qualified works;
- Negative community image – “looks bad”.

FOUR-PRONGED APPROACH

Mr. Munneryn suggested a four-pronged approach to tackle the issues as follows:

- Industrial Recruitment;
- Workforce Development;
- Business Retention and Expansion;
- New Residents and Specialty Retail Business

INDUSTRIAL RECRUITMENT

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the following for industrial recruitment:

- Develop new “product” (site) and stated that staff should evaluate and improve existing sites and parks. He also suggested a new spec building and stated Council had taken action by adopting a Resolution at the last council meeting authorizing staff to seek any grant funds available for this purpose;
- Target specific manufacturing segments. He stated staff should find Marlboro’s niche – size, raw materials, workforce.

BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the following for business retention and expansion:

- Regular communication with existing industry;
- Regular networking and other events (after COVID-19);
- Increase formal role of industry representatives in MCEDP; and
- Develop “toolkit” of resources.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the following for workforce development:

- Coordinated effort through the MCHS and NETC;
- Give business and industry a stronger voice in what’s needed; and
- Specialized training for specific sectors we target.

NEW RESIDENTS & SPECIALTY RETAIL

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the following for new residents and specialty retail:

- Coordinated, multi-agency effort - #Destination Marlboro;
- Improve Community Image – Image Committee;
- Resources and Toolkit for Prospective Citizens or Business.

MARKETING

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the following for marketing:

- Develop comprehensive marketing campaign to promote objectives such as (1) web site; (2) printed materials; (3) targeted advertising; (4) social media; (5) “trade missions”.

REVAMP MCEDP BOARD

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the MCEDP Board be revamped as follows:

- Increase industry/business from 2 to 7 board seats;
- Require relevant skills, experience and decision-making authority for all seats; and
- Develop strong committee structure.

COMMITTEES

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested the following committees be designated and set in Ordinance:

- IMAGE and MARKETING;
- BUILDING, SITES and INFRASTRUCTURE; and
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

2021 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the 2021 Economic Development Initiatives were as follows:

- Develop a Spec Building & new industrial sites close to interstates;
- Enhance Business Retention & Expansion Programs;
- Coordinate a business-driven workforce development program;
- Destination Marlboro;
- Marketing campaigns and materials to support all; and
- Increase biz/industry reps on MCEDP Board.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested 2021 initiatives for Citizen Communications:

- Quarterly newsletter. He stated Ms. Lynn McQueen has experience in this area and has agreed to assist with compiling a quarterly newsletter as to things going on in the community;
- Digital sign. He stated that rather than have multiple banners on the courthouse grounds that a digital sign be erected at one central location so that folks can know what's going on in the community;
- Emergency Preparedness Systems. He stated that Mr. Steve Akers has the capability of providing messages by telephone and text through Emergency Preparedness system to residents and suggested this be utilized in a more effective manner;
- 311 System. He stated this was a work order type system where citizens could enter issues with roads, signs and other issues in the county.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that was the end of the Strategic Planning Update and stated he would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Steen asked members of Council if there was anything that was mentioned during the update that they would like to discuss or any additional initiatives they might like to discuss.

Mr. Anthony Woods mentioned the duplication of services. He stated he felt everybody want to achieve too many things and sometimes folks on the same things. He stated there were too many involved. He stated he would like to see everybody come together and use their strengths in areas that would work best. He stated there were folks knowledgeable in certain areas and others in other areas and stated he felt that should be focused on. He stated there may be a committee of several folks but maybe two or three can come together and make suggestions.

Mr. Woods stated until we can work together with others, the County will not accomplish anything. He stated the broadband would be a huge help to the entire county. He stated that was a huge check mark for the county and we needed to build on that. He suggested that in the next six months that staff and Council should come together and get a true game plan.

Chairman Steen stated often times there are many meetings but follow-up meetings are needed in order to get things done. He stated he understood everyone was busy but folks needed to be passionate about what they are working on. He suggested working everybody together and discuss a follow-up plan.

Mr. Charles Midgley stated he felt Council had come a long way and we are working on moving forward. He stated he looked forward to the Community Clean-up event on Saturday. He stated he felt 2021 would be a better year and much better than 2020.

Ms. Corrie Plato stated she felt the County had come a long way but still had a long way to go. She stated the Strategic Plan was wonderful and stated Council must have the mindset to see the County progress. She stated the County needed folks to have a positive attitude.

Mr. Ken Stroman stated he was on the Economic Development board at one time and stated he did not want to lose the small business folks on the board. He stated he felt small business folks were much needed on the board. He suggested the Board members sit on the meetings and have follow-up done from there. He stated he felt the strategic plan was a good one.

Mr. Steve Blackmon stated he knew that Marlboro County had come a long way. He stated Council had some big things come up and had to deal with them, including the landfill/mega dump. He stated a lot of money was spent on that but Council took care of that and could now focus on other things. He stated the current members of Council do the things for Marlboro County as a whole. He stated if decisions are made for the betterment of Marlboro County, all tend to agree.

Mr. Blackmon mentioned the strategic plan and stated if we could get some things in place, he felt things would happen for Marlboro County. He stated this Council works well together and suggested that the plan be taken and acted upon. He suggested Council and staff stay on it.

Chairman Steen stated the transportation initiative was resolved with the help of PDRTA and the MARTi program. He stated that was a big initiative and we could mark that one off our list. He stated the Marlboro County General Charities Trust assisted Council with resolving issues with EMS and now Marlboro County has their own EMS which is working well.

Chairman Steen stated that Marlboro County Transportation Committee is working well with the County to get roads repaired. He stated Councilman Gladden was not present tonight but always worked hard to get folks to work together.

Chairman Steen stated that the things mentioned in the strategic plan were big topics and mentioned the Community Clean-up event. He stated the County had about 2,000 participate so he understood that every citizen is concerned.

Chairman Steen mentioned the 4-lane initiative and stated that Highway 38 North is very dangerous and currently has three times more the traffic that the amount that is considered safe for that road.

Chairman Steen mentioned Broadband initiative. He stated staff worked hard and this was a critical for everyone in the community. He stated it proved that if we stay the path, things would go well for us.

Chairman Steen stated that Council has always been unified and encouraged everyone to stay that way. He stated Council does not worry about single districts but works for the betterment of the entire county as it should.

Chairman Steen mentioned recreation and stated he understood Councilman Woods' mindset that we need to be able to do this but stated these decisions were hard to make sometimes.

Chairman Steen stated the strategic plan was a good plan and Council needed to move forward.

Chairman Steen stated he wanted to see Marlboro County grow for his family and his children and grandchildren. He stated he was committed to the community and did not plan on leaving.

Mr. Ron Munneryn, County Administrator, stated over the past three years, the projects that Council has taken the lead on have succeeded. He stated we needed to find good things and take actions to accomplish those things. He stated that's what Marlboro County Council has done and it has worked. Mr. Munneryn advised members of Council that they started Marlboro County's own EMS. He said they did what had to be done. He mentioned the trash cart system and stated they did what they needed to do.

Mr. Munneryn stated Marlboro County had good staff members and he wanted to do what was best for citizens of the County. He stated with members of Council's leadership, he felt there was nothing that they could not accomplish.

Chairman Steen agreed and stated that there was now a plan in place and encouraged members of Council and staff to keep moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 802 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING, REVISING, AMENDING, RESTATING, CODIFYING, AND COMPILING THE MARLBORO COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN – SECOND READING

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

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Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the second reading needed for the Ordinance updating the Marlboro County Solid Waste Management Plan. He stated Attorney Steve Weber presented the plan last week.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 802 – an Ordinance Adopting, Revising, Amending, Restating, Codifying, and Compiling the Marlboro County Solid Waste Management Plan. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 803 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR MARLBORO COUNTY – 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 Ordinance was in the packet for members of Council's review and stated there would be a designee representing small businesses, and one representing financial or insurance, and one at-large designee from the City and County. He asked that members of Council please review the drafted Ordinance and call him with any questions they may have.


Motion made by Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 803 – an Ordinance Establishing the Organization of the Marlboro County Economic Development Agency for Marlboro County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

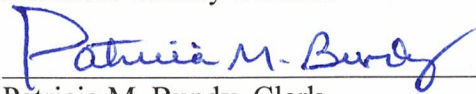
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: December 8, 2020