

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021

6:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

VICE CHAIR
ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

CORRIE PLATO
RON MUNNERLYN
PATRICIA BUNDY
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, of the Herald-Advocate.

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Ms. Jacqueline Hough 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. Verd Odom, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 822 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED,

THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY") AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT FEATHER ("PROJECT FEATHER") WHICH INCLUDES A GRANT OF CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND PROJECT FEATHER TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE INVESTMENT PERIOD THEREIN; AN AMENDMENT TO ANOTHER EXISTING FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND PROJECT FEATHER TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated the public hearing on Ordinance # 822 has been postponed and will be scheduled for a later date, hopefully in December.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

OCTOBER 12, 2021 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any comments on the minutes or suggested changes or additions. There were no recommended changes.

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve the regular council meeting minutes of October 12, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 821 – FLOOD PREVENTION ORDINANCE – THIRD READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this is the third and final reading of the Flood Prevention Ordinance. He stated this would allow residents located in flood areas to obtain flood insurance and the ordinance would set standards for properties located in flood areas. He stated this ordinance is updated periodically and this is a standard update.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 821 – Flood Prevention Ordinance. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 823 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF ONE OR MORE PROPERTIES LOCATED IN MARLBORO COUNTY INTO A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PARK; A PLAN FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION OF THE REVENUES DERIVED FROM THE FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS MADE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH PROPERTIES PLACED INTO THE PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO - SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this, and the next Ordinance are economic development projects for our industrial park. He stated this was the second reading and more information would be provided at the third reading. He stated staff suggests that second reading of this Ordinance be approved.

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

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve second reading of Ordinance # 823 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Inclusion of One or more Properties Located in Marlboro County into a Multi-County Business and Industrial Park; a Plan for an Alternative Allocation of the Revenue Derived from the Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Payments made with Respect to such Properties Placed into the Park; and Other Related Matters. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 824 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR LEASE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance relates to an economic development project. He stated the county owns land in the industrial park and staff is making negotiations to acquire another piece of property in the park. He stated staff has a surveyor working with our attorney to get details worked out and more information will be provided at the third and final reading.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato, to approve second reading in title only of Ordinance # 824 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Lease of Property Owned by Marlboro County for the Purposes of Economic Development. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated there was no new business to be heard.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments to Boards and Commissions.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, recognized Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, for his report.

Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director, stated the general fund revenues for the three months ending October 31, 2021 total \$1,693,616. He stated general fund expenditures through October 31, 2021 total \$3,899,823 of a \$12,825,594 budget or 30.41% of budget year to date.

Chairman Steen asked if the county was on target based on prior years and Mr. Park responded favorably.

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

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

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

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. Munnerlyn recognized the following employees with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of October: Mary Collins (8 years); Lori Davis-Moses (17 years); Christina Thompson (15 years); Christina Crosland (5 years); Cynthia Polston (5 years); and Courtney Skipper (5 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1. Marlboro County Employee Christmas Dinner** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Marlboro County Employee Christmas Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, December 9th at 5:30 pm at the Wade H. Prince Recreation Center. He stated due to concerns of overcrowding due to COVID, we are asking that only county employees and county elected officials attend.
- 2. Town of Clio Christmas Parade** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the Town of Clio’s Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 11 am.
- 3. City of Bennettsville Christmas Parade** – Mr. Munnerlyn stated the City of Bennettsville’s Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 11 am. Mr. Munnerlyn stated there have been some issues with the company where floats were rented from, and rentals are not available this year. He stated if Council wished to have a float in the Christmas parade to please let Ms. Bundy know and we would try and work something out.

4. Town of McColl has advised that they will not have a Christmas Parade this year.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Property Tax Notices

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the property tax notices have been mailed out and are beginning to be received by citizens. He reminded everyone that this year was a state-mandated year for revaluation of real estate. He stated the law is very clear that during revaluation if the value of all the property in the county averaged together goes up, tax rates must be reduced so that the new values do not result in a tax increase. He stated Marlboro County Council discussed the process in their meetings and did the math to reduce taxes by 3 mils. He stated for most folks, if you look at the county ordinary amount for this year versus last year, that portion of the taxes went down. He reminded everyone that County Council has no control over the School District or other cities or towns.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated while it's always popular to criticize government, and in some cases for good reason, if citizens take a minute to look at the detail of their notices, they will see that County Council followed the law.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated after this adjustment and a new baseline amount, the County could have elected to go up on taxes based on inflationary allowance provided by the state. He stated County Council chose not to increase taxes and has not increased taxes in 3 years.

Electronic Digital Sign

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the deadline for the digital sign project was last Friday. He stated five proposals were received for the external digital sign and staff would begin evaluating the proposals this week pursuant to the county's procurement code. He stated Council will be asked to consider approving staff's recommendation at their called meeting on November 22nd.

Redistricting

Mr. Munnerlyn stated he had received preliminary numbers regarding the redistricting on County Council districts. He stated some districts need to gain population and others need to lose some population. He stated the first step is for the state agency assisting us with this effort to come speak to council about next steps. He proposed a lunch meeting on November 22nd for this purpose.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked where the called meeting would be held on November 22nd. Mr. Munnerlyn stated a location had not been discussed yet. He stated he would notify Council of the location and confirm the time of the meeting.

Mr. Verd Odom asked to be excused at 6:15 pm so that he could go to work.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated several citizens had signed up to address Council.

Ms. Tabatha Cain – stated she had lived in Marlboro County for some time, and it was a beautiful place. She stated her daughter was diagnosed with autism and stated she was concerned that many children that suffer from autism do not have access to resources that will help them.

Ms. Cain asked for County Council's assistance to financially assist her. She stated the school district has assisted her. She provided a sample of the book that she has written about autism and shared a prototype with members of Council. She stated the book is sponsored by a small company in Marlboro County that would like to give back to families for the holiday season. She stated the book typically comes with a turtle candy lollipop. She asked for support so the books could be provided to poverty folks in Marlboro County.

Mr. Donald Andrews – thanked County Council for allowing him the opportunity to introduce himself. He stated he has been selected and honored to serve as the Interim Superintendent for the Marlboro County School District. He stated he appreciated the Board of Education giving him the opportunity to help move things forward. He asked that members of Council or staff to feel free to call him to share information. He stated he was committed to meeting the needs to educate all children to get them career and military ready.

Ms. Pearlie Lawson – thanked Council for allowing her to speak. She stated she was appearing on behalf of the NAACP to discuss the redistricting process. She stated it was very important that representatives of the NAACP be a part of the planning process. She stated she had worked hard with the census and understands the data. She stated she has access to maps that have been reviewed.

Ms. Lawson mentioned the vaccination rates and stated it was very important that folks be vaccinated.

Ms. Betty Jo Quick – stated she was from Tatum and a Chairperson for the NAACP. I have met many folks from Tatum that could not vote in the Tatum municipal election due their having different zip codes. She stated some lived in Tatum but had a Bennettsville zip code and some had McColl zip codes. She stated she loved the town of Tatum and considered herself as the Tatum Ambassador. She stated we all need to make all of Marlboro County a good place to live, and the Town of Tatum does not need to be overlooked.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – thanked members of Council for all they have done for him and his department and for all that they continue to do.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – welcomed Dr. Andrews to the county as Interim Superintendent of the School District and stated he looked forward to working with him.

Mr. Woods stated Sheriff Lemon had his plate full. He assured him that he was praying for him and his department. He stated the holiday season would be rough. He stated folks in the county do not take life seriously and it was a sad thing.

Mr. Woods thanked Ms. Betty Jo Quick/Ambassador for Tatum for her input in redistricting and the problems folks in Tatum are having with voting. He stated Clio has those same issues.

Mr. Woods thanked Ms. Cain for the work that she does in regard to Autism. He stated he would like to talk with her after the meeting.

Mr. Woods stated he would talk with staff about the parade. He stated that everyone needed to be COVID aware and be careful. He reminded everyone that Marlboro County ranks the lowest in the nation as far as vaccination at 37%. He stated the vaccinations are free, but many folks are choosing not to take the vaccination.

Ms. Corrie Plato – thanked Mr. Andrews and welcomed him to Marlboro County. She stated she knew he had taken on a task and believed he would do a good job.

Ms. Plato thanked Ms. Quick, Ms. Lawson and Ms. Cain for attending the meeting and providing their opinions about things going on in the community. She stated Tatum needed help with the issues they are having. She also stated that folks have no respect for the speed limits in Tatum.

Ms. Plato encouraged Ms. Lawson to keep doing what she is doing. She stated Ms. Lawson does a wonderful job.

Ms. Plato thanked Ms. Cain for her comments and stated that she is doing a wonderful job in getting information out to folks about autism. She stated she would support her in any way she could. She stated she had discussed with members of Council and staff about an Enrichment Center which would be perfect for autism, folks with disability and other citizens.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – mentioned Sheriff Lemon and all that he has going on. He commended Sheriff Lemon on the job that he does.

Mr. Stroman thanked Mr. Andrews for attending the meeting. He stated he looked forward to working with him in every way possible. He stated he felt that County Council was disrespected in the past and he hoped we can get some positive things done.

Mr. Stroman thanked Ms. Lawson and Ms. Quick for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns. He stated he hoped that their advice and expertise would be welcomed when the

redistricting process begins. He stated a lot of the county is broken up and not of color as they should be.

Mr. Stroman asked the County Administrator if there were any events where food would be distributed with the holidays coming up. Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff was working on that and he would share with members of Council.

Dr. Damien Johnson – echoed what Councilman Stroman stated about the county being broken up and not of color as they should be. He thanked Ms. Lawson and Rev. Quick for their efforts in redistricting and stated their assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Dr. Johnson thanked Mr. Andrews for taking his time to attend the council meeting and stated he looked forward to working with him. He thanked Ms. Cribb for also attending the meeting tonight and for all the work she does for the School District.

Dr. Johnson thanked Ms. Cain for her book on autism. He stated he was a counselor with the school system and he understood and appreciated her efforts.

Dr. Johnson stated he was a little concerned that there was no new business on the agenda tonight. He stated he was ready to get to work and needed a plan of action. He stated it was important that they begin moving the county forward. He stated there are always a lot of meetings, but nothing seems to happen. He stated he looked forward to partnering with the school district and with the City. He stated that we need to stop playing and begin working. He stated that our kids in the county needed to experience more and we need to do more than what we've been doing. He stated he had the time and energy and wanted to stop just meeting on the second Tuesday of each month with nothing being accomplished. He stated that work needed to be done to move the county forward and that we need action items.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – welcomed Mr. Andrews as the Interim Superintendent of the School District.

Mr. Midgley thanked Ms. Cain for her book and stated he looked forward to his copy.

Mr. Midgley thanked Ms. Lawson and Rev. Quick for the work they continue to do.

Mr. Midgley thanked Mr. Munnerlyn and staff for all their hard work with the strategic planning meeting. Mr. Midgley addressed Dr. Johnson and stated he was understood that Dr. Johnson was new to Council, but the prior strategic plan was followed and the county is moving forward. He stated a lot had been accomplished and there was much more to do.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight. He stated Council will look into everything that has been discussed tonight. He assured everyone that members of County Council have the best interest of the county in mind when making decisions and every council member works for the good of the entire county and no single district.

Mr. Blackmon thanked folks for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns. He stated they were calm when sharing their concerns. He thanked them for their interest in the County.

Mr. Blackmon wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and stated we all had many things for which to be thankful. He encouraged everyone to look out for each other and if they leave home over the holidays, to be sure and have a neighbor check on things due to many break-ins taking place. He stated that Sheriff Lemon had his hands full.

Mr. Blackmon thanked Mr. Anderson for attending the meeting and stated that he had his hands full as well. He stated he felt he would certainly make a difference and the children were what folks needed to be focused on.

Mr. Jason Steen – echoed what everybody else said. He stated even with all the hurdles that we have here in Marlboro County, there is no place he would rather be. He stated Marlboro County has always been home to him and always would be. He stated he tried hard to make the best decisions for everyone involved. He mentioned the taxes and stated members of council pay taxes just as the other residents do. He stated he would continue to work to make Marlboro County the best possible, with the help of the good Lord.

Mr. Steen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and stated we should all remember that we are all blessed people.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS


There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

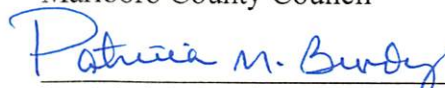
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: December 6, 2021