

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021

5:30 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 and Mr. Dan McNiel 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.marlborocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (DISCUSSION OF LEGAL, CONTRACTUAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS, PURSUANT TO SC CODE SECTION 30-4-70)

Motion made at 5:34 pm by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to enter executive session to discuss legal, contractual, and economic development matters. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made at 6:21 pm by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to leave executive session and return to open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chairman Steen advised that no votes had been taken and no decisions were made during the executive session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to amend the agenda to include a new item of business as 6.h. "Authorization to Execute Grant Award Letters in the amounts of \$70,020 and \$241,402 which are continuations of the COVID Grants originally awarded in 2020, as well as a new Grant Award Letter in the amount of \$244,364 for Domestic Violence Prosecution, on behalf of the Fourth Circuit Solicitor's Office". Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the agenda as amended. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE # 820 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE REGARDING THE RATE OF OVERTIME PAY FOR EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this was the public hearing required to change the overtime rate for law enforcement employees for the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center.

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

The Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 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 September 14, 2021 as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 820 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE REGARDING THE RATE OF OVERTIME PAY FOR EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT – THIRD READING

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated comments were made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, earlier during the public hearing. He stated this was the third and final reading and asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve third reading of Ordinance # 820 – an Ordinance to Amend the Personnel Policies and Procedures Ordinance Regarding the Rate of Overtime Pay for Employees Engaged in Law Enforcement. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 821 – FLOOD PREVENTION ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this is the second reading for a routine update of the county's Flood Prevention Ordinance which is done periodically. He stated the Ordinance allows folks who own property in flood zones to obtain flood insurance.

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

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve second reading of Ordinance # 821 – Flood Prevention Ordinance. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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 – SECOND READING

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance would continue the existing tax incentives for an existing industry in the county and provide for continued revenue for the County. He stated this Ordinance was like the Ordinance the County recently adopted for Domtar. He stated he felt it was important to help existing industries in the county be viable while also protecting the tax revenue for the county.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Verd Odom, to approve second reading of 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. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

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 - FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance will allow the property for an economic development project to be placed in the industrial park. He stated the Ordinance would require three readings and a public hearing and this will begin that process. He stated staff recommends that Council consider approving first reading of the Ordinance in title only with more information to be provided at the second reading.

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

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve first reading in title only 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 – FIRST READING (TITLE ONLY)

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Ordinance was needed for an economic development project. He stated staff has a project that requires this action be taken and he recommended that Council consider approving first reading in title only. He stated the Ordinance would require three readings and a public hearing and this would begin the process. He stated more information would be available for second reading.

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

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve first 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.

RESOLUTION # 10-21-01 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC) BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR FY2022 USED OIL GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,950 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this is a grant for Used Oil that staff applies for annually. He stated the grant does not require any match from the county. He stated the grant, if awarded, would provide free money to the county to assist in disposing of used oil that is taken to the convenience centers.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve Resolution # 10-21-01 – a Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Office of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) by Marlboro County for FY2022 Used Oil Grant Funds in the amount of \$30,950 and Authorization to Accept Grant if Awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 10-21-02 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC) BY MARLBORO COUNTY FOR FY2022 WASTE TIRE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,750 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT IF AWARDED

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this grant was like the previous grant but was for waste tires. He stated the grant funds would be used to assist County staff in disposing of tires that are taken to the convenience centers. He stated there was no match required for the grant.

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 Resolution # 10-21-02 – a Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Office of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) by Marlboro County for FY2022 Waste Tire Grant Funds in the amount of \$2,750 and Authorization to Accept Grant if Awarded. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 10-21-03 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2021-2022 BUDGET WITH REGARDS TO INCREASED COSTS FOR SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR DETENTION AND SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND OTHER EXPENSES

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the first amendment included in the Resolution is for the increased costs for salaries and benefits from the increased overtime rate for the Detention Center and Sheriff's Department. He stated the Ordinance approving the change in overtime rate for law enforcement employees was approved earlier in the meeting and this amendment would allow staff to amend the budget for the current year.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the second budget amendment in the Resolution would provide for funds in the amount of \$60,000 for the purchase of electronic sign(s). He stated he felt the amount of \$60,000 was more than enough and staff may be able to purchase two for that amount. He stated

this budget amendment would put funds in place to allow staff to begin the purchase process. He stated he had indicated earlier that staff could possibly purchase the signs with economic development funds, but staff was unable to do so due to the amount of funds needed. He stated staff will be able to move forward with the purchase of signs upon approval of this budget amendment.

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

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve Resolution # 10-21-03 – a Resolution to Approve Amendments to the 2021-2022 Budget with Regards to Increased Costs for Salaries and Benefits for Detention and Sheriff's Department and Other Expenses. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 10-21-04 – A RESOLUTION TO AMEND PREMIUM PAY FOR MARLBORO COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERIM FINAL RULE FROM THE UNITED STATES TREASURY FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated Council had approved the attempt to provide a net premium pay payment of about \$2,500 to all full-time county employees and a lesser amount for part-time employees who worked during the pandemic. He stated staff has found that the amount needed for each full-time employee would be \$3,250 and \$1,625 for part-time employees.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated qualified employees must have worked a minimum of 500 during the period of March 9, 2020 through October 12, 2021 and must be currently employed by the county.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if this premium pay was through the state guidelines. Mr. Munnerlyn responded that the payments were being made in accordance with the United States Treasury for the American Rescue Plan.

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

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve Resolution # 10-21-04 – a Resolution to Amend Premium Pay for Marlboro County Government Employees in Accordance with the Interim Final Rule from the United States Treasury for the American Rescue Plan. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 10-21-05 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION OF A PURCHASE AND/OR TRANSFER OF PROPERTY IN THE MARLBORO COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

October 12, 2021, County Council Meeting

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated this Resolution was related to an Economic Development project. He stated there was a need to acquire a small parcel of property in the Marlboro County Industrial Park. He stated this Resolution would allow staff to make a trade to acquire the property needed for the project. He stated in county government, one vote was needed to purchase or acquire property, but three votes and a public hearing was needed to sell property.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve Resolution # 10-21-05 – a Resolution Authorizing Negotiation of a Purchase and/or Transfer of Property in the Marlboro County Industrial Park for the Purpose of Economic Development. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE GRANT AWARD LETTERS IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$70,020 AND \$241,402 WHICH ARE CONTINUATIONS OF THE COVID GRANTS ORIGINALLY AWARDED IN 2020, AS WELL AS A NEW GRANT AWARD LETTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$244,364 FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTION, ON BEHALF OF THE FOURTH CIRCUIT SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

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

Mr. Munnerlyn stated the county serves as the fiscal agent for payroll for the Solicitor's office and the Public Defender's office. He stated the Solicitor's office staff has asked that the county continue a longtime policy to approve grant requests for their office. He stated the funds will simply pass through the county and there would be no cost to the county. He thanked Council for adding this item to the agenda.

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

Motion made by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve Authorization to Execute Grant Award Letters in the amounts of \$70,020 and \$241,402, which are Continuations of the COVID Grants originally awarded in 2020, as well as a new Grant Award Letter in the amount of \$244,364 for Domestic Violence Prosecution, on behalf of the Fourth Circuit Solicitor's Office. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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 September 30, 2021 total \$1,347,231. He stated general fund expenditures through September 30, 2021 total \$2,792,535 of a \$12,658,582 budget or 22.06% 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 Munneryn, County Administrator, for the report.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. Munneryn recognized the following employees with five or more years of service to Marlboro County through the month of September: Linda Coffy (6 years); D.T. Turner (9 years); and Hosea Lemon (14 years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Wallace Community Meeting** – Mr. Munneryn stated Chairman Steen has scheduled a community meeting at the Wallace Middle School located at 3643 Highway 9 W in Wallace, SC, and has requested representatives from the Legislative Delegation, SC Department of Transportation, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control be present to provide updates on Old Wire and Academy Roads. He stated Chairman Steen would provide more information on this shortly.
2. **Community Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat** – The City of Bennettsville, public library and the county have joined together to sponsor a Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat which is scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 2 pm – 4 pm as follows:
 - Bennettsville - Marlboro County Courthouse square, 105 Main Street, Bennettsville, SC
 - Clio – Bennett Park, 124 Bennett Park Road, Clio, SC
 - Blenheim – Wade H. Prince Recreation Center, 2501 Hwy. 38 South, Blenheim, SC
 - Wallace – Wallace Middle School, 3643 Highway 9 West, Wallace, SC
 - McColl – McColl Middle School, 700 N Main Street, McColl, SC

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Recreation Project RFP

Mr. Munneryn stated the Partnership’s Image Committee has met and reviewed the three

proposals for completing a recreation assessment and interviewed the three consultants. He stated the committee has chosen GreenPlay, LLC for this project. He stated the assessment will seek input from local government leaders such as yourself, citizens, and community groups. He also stated existing facilities and programs, as well as options for new programs and facilities, will be evaluated.

Strategic Planning Meeting

Mr. Munnerlyn stated a strategic planning meeting for Council has been scheduled for Thursday, November 4, 2021, from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. He stated the meeting will include a review of current initiatives and status updates, and then discuss new ideas and initiatives for the future.

Dangerous Intersections

Mr. Munnerlyn stated staff sent a letter to SCDOT regarding (2) intersections at Salem Road and the Intersection of SC 79 at the N.C. border. He stated DOT responded by telephone that the intersections had been studied and that no further measures would be undertaken.

Employees of Elected Officials

Mr. Munnerlyn stated it is no secret that Marlboro County has been in the news lately with regards to alleged misconduct by elected officials and/or employees of elected officials. He stated just to be clear, County Council nor the County Administrator have any legal control of the hiring, firing or disciplinary action with regards to elected officials or their employees.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S REQUEST BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, stated four citizen(s) had signed up to address Council.

Mr. Keith Brewington – Mr. Brewington stated he wanted to briefly ask one question. He stated he appreciated County Council and all that they do to serve the citizens in our area. He stated he provided a letter and requested that it be shared with each Council member and he hoped they had received it.

Mr. Brewington stated the Veterans Affairs officer has not had any assistance for some months now. He stated he felt it may be an oversight by staff. He stated he understood that it was the responsibility of County Council to hire an Administrative Assistant for the Veteran's Affairs office. He stated we all go to doctor and dentist offices and there is always a person out front to greet you and provide paperwork to be completed prior to your seeing the doctor/dentist. He stated the Veterans Affairs officer is also a professional and she needs an assistant to assist her in this same manner. He stated there was currently no privacy because the Veterans Affairs officer is required to meet folks in the front office. He asked that County Council please see that a job advertisement for an assistant is posted soon for that office. He stated the Delegation has done their part and now it was time for the County to do theirs. He stated the veterans in Marlboro County and surrounding counties depend on that office to be open and efficient. He asked that the Veterans Affairs office be fully staffed as soon as possible.

October 12, 2021, County Council Meeting

Mr. Brewington stated there were two events coming up, Veteran's Day Dinner and Veteran's Day Parade, and he did not want to cause the current Veterans Affairs officer to be "burn out".

Mr. Brewington stated he looked forward to seeing the job posting soon.

Mr. Franklin Smith – stated he wanted to speak about the American Rescue Plan money. He stated he is a former employee with the Recreation Department. He stated he was one of five folks that were employed from March 9, 2020 into the current year. He stated he and the other four worked during the pandemic and he felt that they were entitled to some of the money. He stated he and his entire family suffered from COVID.

Chairman Steen stated qualified employees were required to meet certain criteria which staff will share with him.

Ms. Wendy Woods – appeared on behalf of Pee Dee Coalition. She stated October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and she wanted to share some information with Council on this issue. She stated that South Carolina ranks number 6 in Domestic Violence which is known as the silent killer. She asked that everyone please be aware of domestic violence in Marlboro County. She stated there were many victims of domestic violence in our county.

Ms. Woods mentioned a few events scheduled in Marlboro County that would bring awareness of domestic violence to folks in our community. She mentioned (1) the Marlboro County High School Football team would be wearing purple socks at their game which is scheduled for Friday night; and (2) Niah's Lemonade Stand would be open on Thursday, October 28th at 2:00 pm at 108 Parsonage Street, Bennettsville, SC in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She stated free lemonade would be shared.

Ms. Woods requested that Sheriff Charles Lemon and other men present at the meeting see her after the meeting to record a brief video stating their support against domestic violence.

Ms. Pearlle Lawson – mentioned redistricting and the importance of the lines being drawn. She stated it was very important that the lines be drawn fairly for not only county council, but city council and the school district as well. She stated there was a lot of confusion with insuring that the lines are drawn fairly. She stated the State is having the same problems. She stated right now the County is represented by two House members and two Senate members. She stated she and members of the NAACP have attended some of the redistricting meetings which have been held in Columbia and she and members of the NAACP have access to maps on the redistricting. She stated she and members of the NAACP wanted to be an asset to the county as they discuss redistricting and would like to be included in any meetings that County Council schedules.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Woods – stated his biggest concern in Clio was the young people. He mentioned the football season and stated it had been two years now that we have not had a football program

for our youth. He stated it was important to get our young boys and girls out of the house and away from computer games. He stated we have lost a lot of athletes to the streets over the last couple of years. He stated we have kids in the county not doing anything. He stated as a former Coach, folks call and ask him what's going on and all he can tell them is that staff is working on it.

Mr. Woods wished everyone a happy Halloween.

Mr. Woods stated Mr. Ron Munnerlyn would be celebrating a birthday at the end of the month and wished him a happy one. He stated his birthday is Saturday.

Ms. Corrie Plato – No comments.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman – wished Mr. Woods and Mr. Munnerlyn a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Stroman asked that everyone please pray for our county. He stated we all call on the Sheriff to help us when we need him. He encouraged the Sheriff to stay safe out there.

Mr. Stroman mentioned recreation. He stated the county is spending money on recreation, but he did not see anything being done.

Dr. Damien Johnson – echoed what Mr. Stroman mentioned about praying for Sheriff Lemon and his department. He stated he could not imagine the pressure Sheriff Lemon is under but stated all would continue to pray for him.

Dr. Johnson stated recreation is important. He stated recreation was more than a basketball court and football field. He stated children depend on that time. He stated we needed to provide a safe environment for kids to have recreation. He stated kids are completely lost since there has been no recreation programs for the past two years. He stated a lot happens to our youth between the ages of 12 and 14. He stated he did not recognize some of the kids from a couple of years ago. He stated Council needed to advocate for a better Marlboro County. He encouraged everyone to let's do what we can to make things better.

Dr. Johnson mentioned the COVID vaccination and stated there were several upcoming events. He encouraged everyone to help make folks aware of the importance of becoming vaccinated so that we can get back to a sense of normalcy. He stated we need to get out and be safe. He stated that we should share information with folks about vaccination events and encourage folks to become vaccinated. He stated information is power.

Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr. – encouraged everyone to continue supporting the community with the upcoming Trunk or Treat. He stated the Midgley Agency will be sponsoring a movie night along with the Chamber on Saturday, October 30th.

Mr. Steve Blackmon – echoed what others have mentioned and encouraged everyone to look out for their neighbors. He stated the holiday season is coming up and folks begin to have things missing. He encouraged folks to keep a look out and if something does not look right to please call 911 or the Sheriff's Department and have them investigate it.

Mr. Blackmon thanked Sheriff Lemon and his department for all they do and stated his prayers were with them.

Mr. Verd Odom – stated he is praying for the Sheriff and his department. He stated many deputies go out on calls and the outcome is not good. He stated these law enforcement officers put their lives on the line each time they dress in their uniforms.

Mr. Odom mentioned Academy Road. He stated the engineer from SCDHEC met with the Pastor of the Methodist Church recently. He stated he understood that the road will be repaired but there were a couple of technicalities which will need to be worked out. He stated everyone is ready for the road to be opened back up.

Mr. Odom stated the holiday season was fast approaching and encouraged everyone to look out for one another.

Sheriff Charles Lemon – thanked everyone for their support. He stated he had the Amnesia club, where trouble occurred over the weekend, closed for a couple of years. He stated he fought the re-opening of the club, but it opened back up about one and a half years ago and we see now what has happened.

Sheriff Lemon stated he had officers from Scotland and Richmond County come to help. He stated they were currently looking for five individuals and he felt they were close in finding one. He stated he felt that they may arrest all five when investigation is completed.

Sheriff Lemon asked that everyone please continue to pray for him and his department. He stated his department had received some messages and he told his staff not to take the messages lightly.

Sheriff Lemon thanked everyone for all they do and asked that they please call his name out when they pray.

Mr. Jason Steen - stated that he would continue to pray for Sheriff Lemon and his department. He stated Sheriff Lemon was in the hot area and prayed that he would come out victorious.

Mr. Steen thanked staff members for all their hard work. He stated the economic development projects are good for the county.

Mr. Steen thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and sharing their concerns with members of Council. He thanked Ms. Pearlie Lawson and stated that she attends most council meetings. He stated she works very hard and is very passionate about things.

Mr. Steen reminded everyone of what Dr. Damien Johnson often says which is some do not care but we want folks to care and share their concerns with us.

Mr. Steen stated he felt the county was headed in the right direction, but the news had placed a mark on the county. He stated Council would continue to look forward and not look back. He stated it was important to remember where we came from, but we needed to look forward.

Chairman Steen mentioned the Community Meeting scheduled for Monday night at 5:30 pm at the Wallace Middle School. He stated the meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday night but had been rescheduled for Monday night. He stated representatives from SCDHEC, and SC DOT would be present to provide updates on Old Wire and Academy Roads. He stated he would like to have Council members attend. He stated the two roads have been closed for more than three years and folks are having to go out of their way to get to their destinations. He stated it was unacceptable. He stated he wanted some answers straight from SCDHEC and SCDOT.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

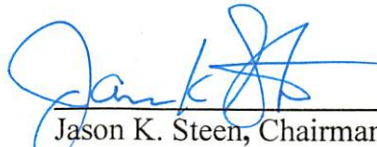
There were no non-agenda items.

ADJOURN

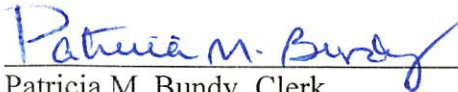
Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, asked if there were any other comments or business. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: November 9, 2021