

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

6 P.M.

CHAIRMAN

ANTHONY WOODS

VICE CHAIRMAN
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK TO COUNCIL
COUNTY ATTORNEY

CHARLES P. MIDGLEY, JR.
WILSON A. CLYBURN
SUSAN RIVERS
ANDREW MCLEOD

COUNCIL:

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

DR. DAMIEN JOHNSON
PEARLY LAWSON
VERD ODOM
ANTHONY WOODS

- Absent

Others Present: Ms. Doris Sumpter, Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Wes Park, Finance Director; and Ms. Mikeya Murphy, Marketing Director. A copy of the Regular Meeting Notice and Public Hearing Notice was posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building and on the Marlboro County Website as require. The agenda and Public Hearing Notice was posted on the Marlboro County Website.

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Anthony Woods, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6 P.M.

INVOCATION – Dr. Damien Johnson.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE – All in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Anthony Woods advised there were a number of citizens wishing to address Council at the meeting. Since there was a long agenda for the meeting he requested Council approve moving item 12 – Recognition of Citizens to address Council to number 6 after Recognitions and before Public Hearings.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman to approve the request for moving item 12 to item 6 on the agenda. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the agenda as amended. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice Chairman

Motion made by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen to nominate Charles Midgley, Jr. as Vice Chairman of Marlboro County Council.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to bring the nominations to a close.

Chairman Woods called for a vote. All in favor: Mr. Verd Odom, Mr. Steve Blackmon, Dr. Damien Johnson, Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Anthony Woods, Mr. Kenneth Stroman, and Mr. Charles P. Midgley Jr. Opposed: None. Abstain: Ms. Pearly Lawson. Vote: 7/0/1. Motion carried.

Ms. Lawson said she wanted it clear on the record that she has her reasons for not voting. It was not personal against anyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 26, 2024 Called Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve the minutes of January 26, 2024 as written. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

February 13, 2024 Regular Meeting

Ms. Pearlie Lawson advised she had several corrections to the minutes to include:

Page 10 – Regular meeting, not Called meeting

Page 15 – wanted it duly noted in the minutes that she (Council Woman Lawson) had raised concerns about using Labor inmates on private land and the need for another county wide clean up day & with the issues of over flowing ditches in the county.

Page 16 - wanted it noted in the minutes that she (Council Woman Lawson) shared information about an upcoming event that took place at the Library on March 8th at 1 o'clock p.m. She had advised Mr. Clyburn of the event on February 13th.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Dr. Damien Johnson, to approve the minutes of February 13, 2024 with corrections as noted. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Sully Blair, Lake Paul Wallace Authority – provided Council with a quick briefing on the proposed project at Lake Paul Wallace. They had contracted with a firm for the boardwalk. The contract was negotiated in November, and executed in January. They should receive the field data within the next week and should be getting ready to let bids within the next two (2) weeks. Mr. Blair said everything was moving faster since the contracts had been executed. Construction should be shovel ready by fall. It will take at least three (3) months to construct.

Mr. Wes Park said the project cost approximately \$700,000. Mr. Blair said they were hoping to get it more to the \$500,000 range. He said they are comfortable with their match being \$200,000 - \$250,000.

Mr. Marc Wood, Financial Audit – went through the summary of the county audit. He congratulated the county advising they had an unmodified opinion. This is the highest opinion they can give. He went over the General Funds on page 15 advising the county had a good healthy reserve in revenues. Discussed Proprietary Funds Page 17-19. Total 7.6 Ms. Pearly asked where the county vehicles were. He advised the vehicles just discussed were EMS only. He responded the fleet of vehicles she was asking about were on page 13. Discussed pages 20 & 66. The county did not use any of it's reserve funds. There were no findings. Chairman Woods asked if he would come back if Council had any questions. He advised he would be glad to answer any questions.

RECOGNITIONS

RECOGNITION OF THE YOUTH PARKS AND RECREATION TEAM FOR PLACING 3RD IN THE STATE.

Chairman Woods introduced Mr. Anthony Ridges and his team. They had participated in County Wide and State Wide events.

Mr. Anthony Ridges, Head Coach recognized his Assistant Coach, Anthony McCollum and his wife who did the Administrative part. All of the players were recognized and were in attendance with their parents. Mr. Ridges said they beat Conway, Myrtle Beach and Florence. The State Championship with Clemson was tough. They did alright in the second tournament. By the 3rd tournament they were worn out but did their thing. He thanked Council for supporting them. He did not have any kids participating, he just loved it. He thanked the County for supporting them. He said the County may be small, but they have big players. They had to play games back to back. He and his team quoted their motto: if "You want some, Get Some"!

Mr. Clyburn thanked Mr. Ridges on how he conducted himself on behalf of Marlboro County and showing the state what Marlboro County is all about.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN'S BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor George Gardner, (Town of McColl)

Council Member Verd Odom spoke first. He said he was approached several weeks earlier about returning the C.W. Love Park to McColl. He said the park was originally built for the citizens of McColl and 90% of the funds used in building it was donations. He said he was going to check on the PARD funds Marlboro County received for the park.

Mayor Gardner said the park was built by donations. He said McColl use to cut the grass and wants to bring the sports back to McColl. They do have the man power and equipment to take the park back. With their teams practicing there, the parents put a lot of work into it. They have put a lot of hearts in it. A lot of the kids were playing AAU. Mayor Gardner requested the County give the C.W. Love Park back to McColl. He said he thought Marlboro County and McColl could work together.

Mr. James Bradley (Ditches) said the ditches in his area are clogged up. He said the County is not doing anything to clean it and it is causing problems with his sewer system. He asked consideration into the County looking into it.

Ms. Jordan Chavis (C.W. Love Park) discussed the AAU Extreme 843 – she said they had children playing ages 5 to 12. A total of 83 players from the county played in the AAU Championship. They were charged \$300 for using the field and were advised there would be no football. She said that Jamal Campbell contacted them and said they could not use the field and no reason why was given. They are under AAU sanction. They sponsor 11 Kids that are unable to pay. She said no child is denied.

Chairman Woods advised Ms. Crosland that maybe they misunderstood the rules and that she could speak regarding AAU Extreme.

Ms. Katherine Crosland (AAU Extreme) - discussed the AAU Extreme 843 briefly advising they had done a lot for the children. Being able to play ball was important to them and their children.

Mayor Adam Pate (Town of Clio) said he would just like to invite everyone to Clio's Ribs and Rods scheduled for April 6th beginning at 11 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. They had 3 bands scheduled to play.

Ms. Brenda Ford (Animals) – said she lived on Peterkin Road and had lived 46 years near the gravel pits. The dogs barking was chaos. She said she got in touch with the proper authorities, warrants were served, the people moved and left the dogs there. She said she needed to get a decent nights rest. She asked for the county's help.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE # 839 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS, BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND FERROGLOBE USA QUARTZ, INC. A COMPANY FORMERLY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT PURITY, TO PROVIDE FOR BOTH FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT INCENTIVES; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Dr. Damien Johnson questioned if everything was on time. Mr. Tonny McNeil, Economic Development Director advised it was. Mr. Tony Clyburn, County Administrator advised they were working the issues out with DHEC. Open to the public for questions. No questions were heard. The Public Hearing was closed for # 839.

ORDINANCE # 842 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT CRYSTAL EAGLE, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS; TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI COUNTY PARK TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

The business would be located within the county. Dr. Johnson requested Mr. Clyburn explain what a Fee-in-Lieu is so everyone could understand. Mr. Clyburn explained

He said the county relies on them and they bring Industries into the County. No further comments were made.

Open to the public for questions. No questions were heard. The Public Hearing was closed for # 842

ORDINANCE # 843 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT PINEAPPLE PALACE, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS; TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI COUNTY PARK TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Dr. Johnson asked if everything is on target. He was advised yes. No further discussion was heard.

Open to the public for questions. No questions were heard. The Public Hearing was closed for # 843.

ORDINANCE # 844 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT DANCING DIAMONDS, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS; TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI COUNTY PARK TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERTO.

Open to the public for questions. No questions were heard. The Public Hearing was closed for # 844.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 803A – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.- SECOND READING.

Mr. Clyburn said the Board met the previous Wednesday and discussed the ordinance. There was still a lot of language to be cleared up and he requested the second reading be tabled until the next council meeting.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman to table Ordinance # 803 A until the next Council Meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 839 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS, BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND FERROGLOBE USA QUARTZ, INC. A COMPANY FORMERLY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT PURITY, TO PROVIDE FOR BOTH FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT INCENTIVES; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS. THIRD READING

Discussed in Public Hearing.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 839 - An Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of one or more Economic Development Incentive Agreements, by and between Marlboro County, South Carolina, and Ferroglobe USA Quartz, Inc., A company formerly known to the County as Project Purity, to Provide for Both Fee-in-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and Special Source Revenue Credit Incentives; and other related matters. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 842 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT CRYSTAL EAGLE, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES

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AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS; TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI COUNTY PARK TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. – THIRD READING

Discussed in Public Hearing.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 842 - an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu tax agreement by and between Marlboro County, South Carolina and a company known to the county as Project Crystal Eagle, acting for itself, one or more affiliates and/or other project sponsors, to provide for a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes incentive and certain infrastructure credits; to expand the boundaries of a multi county park to include the project; and other matters relating thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE # 843 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT PINEAPPLE PALACE, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS; TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI COUNTY PARK TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERTO. – THIRD READING

Discussed in Public Hearing.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 843 - an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu tax agreement by and between Marlboro County, South Carolina and a company known to the county as Project Pineapple Palace, acting for itself, one or more affiliates and/or other project sponsors, to provide for a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes incentive and certain infrastructure credits; to expand the boundaries of a multi county park to include the project; and other matters relating thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE # 844 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT DANCING DIAMONDS, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS; TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI COUNTY PARK TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERTO. – SECOND READING

Mr. Clyburn advised this was the third Solar Farm.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 844 - an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu tax agreement by and between Marlboro County, South Carolina and a company known to the county as Project Dancing Diamonds, acting for itself, one or more affiliates and/or other project sponsors, to provide for a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes incentive and certain infrastructure credits; to expand the boundaries of a multi county park to include the project; and other matters relating thereto. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE # 845 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK (2016 PARK) OF DILLON AND MARLBORO COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK. – SECOND READING.

Mr. Clyburn advised this was requested by Dillon County. He said Marlboro County gets 30% of the revenues from the park.

Ms. Pearly Lawson asked what will be the activities for Marlboro County. Mr. Clyburn advised the county will not have any activities there. Three Counties (Marion, Marlboro County, and Dillon County) had to go together to get the funding to build the Industrial Park, so they split the revenues.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance # 845 – An Ordinance to amend an agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park (2016 Park) of Dillon and Marlboro Counties so as to enlarge the Park. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE MOVING \$100,000 FROM THE ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO A SEPARATE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING RENOVATIONS TO THE PLAZA BUILDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF MOVING THE VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE INTO THE PLAZA BUILDING.

Mr. Clyburn said the Executive Committee had discussed this. This is in reference to the State coming in several months ago and strongly advising that the county needed to provide better facilities for the Voter Registration Office. They needed a better storage location in one location with better security. The Plaza building can be renovated to provide what is needed.

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Charles Midgley to move \$100,000 from the Assigned Fund Balance for Capital Improvement to a separate fund for the purpose of completing the renovations to the Plaza Building for the purpose of moving the Voter Registration Office into the Plaza Building. Vote in Favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

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AUTHORIZE MOVING THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM THE LIBRARY INTO THE OLD VOTER REGISTRATION BUILDING ONCE THE VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE HAS BEEN MOVED INTO THE PLAZA BUILDING

Mr. Clyburn advised the Executive Committee had discussed this in their meeting and agreed it would be a good move.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to approve the request for moving the Recreation Department from the Library into the old Voter Registration Building once the Voter Registration Office has been moved into the Plaza Building. Vote in Favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Chairman Woods said he would get a list of his Committee Members to Ms. Rivers by Wednesday so she could send them out to the respective Council Members.

Separate topic, discussion was raised on reviewing the Personnel Policies & Procedures manual, and what other counties do in reference to employees taking home vehicles. The Administrator advised staff was in the process of obtaining information for the Policy manual, not just the vehicles.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

None.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – MR. WES PARK, FINANCE DIRECTOR

General Fund revenues for the eight months ending February 29, 2024 total \$8,904,274 in comparison to \$10,381,639 for the eight months ending February 28, 2023. General Fund expenditures through February 29, 2024 total \$9,286,822 of a \$14,233,618 budget or 65.25% of budget year to date. General Fund expenditures totaled \$8,953,191 for the same eight months ending February 28, 2023. In conclusion, revenues posted are lower in comparison to last year because of delay in collection of fee in lieu income, various property tax reimbursements from South Carolina Department of Revenue – property tax valuation reimbursement, fee in lieu depreciation reimbursement and homestead reimbursement. When the effect of the delay is taken into account, revenues are on target and consistent with prior year. Expenditures are up in comparison to the prior year but are consistent with year-to-date budget.

Expenditures through February 29, 2024 from Capital Projects Funds 40, 55, 70, 72, 73, and 75 were provided in Council Packets. The report provided a listing of payments according to the budget as approved for those funds. The only project activity was in Fund 75 for February.

Mr. Jason Steen questioned page 202 concerning the Golf Course Irrigation System. He asked had it been awarded. Mr. Park advised he would have to review to find out the status.

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Ms. Lawson questioned page 195 concerning the Lake Paul Wallace Authority. Had the funds been allocated? Mr. Park responded "Yes". Page 197, she wanted to know whether the funds were going to be used to demolish the building or were they going to be reallocated. She advised if the funds were going to be reallocated, a letter must be written to request the reallocation.

Dr. Johnson said the County probably needs to State that the funds will still be allocated to Broad Street, but, not for the demolition.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – MR. WILSON A. CLYBURN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Clyburn reminded everyone to fill out their Ethics Commission Report

He wanted to Recognize Sheriff Larry McNeil before continuing. He had some information he needed to provide to Council.

Sheriff Larry McNeil advised he had received a call the previous day from the Mayor of Clio. The Police Office has been disbanded due to non certified officers. The Marlboro County Sheriff Department will start providing law enforcement to the town of Clio during the hours certain hours as needed.

Ms. Lawson asked if this will create Over Time for his staff. Sheriff McNeil stated that the Town of Clio will reimburse them for the cost.

Mr. Clyburn recognized Mr. Tony McNeil to present the Economic Development Report.

Mr. Tony McNeil stated he was happy to report Four (4) Economic Development announcements were scheduled for the next day before 12 p.m. He advised of additional prospects that are interested in the county, 30 active, interest in the Mohawk Plant and Spec Building, new conversation with new Hospital providers interested in the county with locations identified.

The County has applied for a \$230,000 NESA grant and received \$250,000 grant funds from the State for Project Purity.

Mr. Stroman asked if these where guaranteed job positions. Mr. McNeil said this was a \$250 Million Dollar investment in Marlboro County with more details given at the announcement the next day. When asked who would be present at the announcement, Mr. McNeil advised the Company and him.

Ms. Lawson said he made a great report, however, she wished they could have gotten a copy of his report.

She said the statement he had just made concerning the announcement, as the employer, she felt that he did not ask or tell them whether they were invited. Were they invited? Mr. McNeil responded "Yes". She said this was the kind of stuff that when she went home that night, she wouldn't know if she were invited or not. She said when these announcements were being made, she would definitely appreciate enough notice. She did not want to feel like she was being left out of things by not being told in a timely manner. She said she was not aiming that at him, but she

wanted to give this to him as a reference for anything going on. She said she definitely wanted to be invited. She wanted him to make it plain so she would know for sure. She asked what time the announcement was to be made. Mr. McNeil advised it would be made the next day sometime between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. at the Economic Development Building.

Mr. Jason Steen said he did not want to Piggy Back off of what Ms. Lawson had said, but, It did seem that they were getting a last minute notice. He said that on the previous Friday, the only way he knew about the Ground Breaking for the Aquatic Center was by stopping by to ask about something else. He had not known about it prior to 8 a.m. and could not attend and did feel left out. He said that as a Council Member, he did want to be invited and they did need to be notified when things are going on. They did need to have better electronic communication.

Ms. Lawson thanked Mr. Steen for understanding how she felt. She said she really felt bad the previous Friday because for the first ground breaking during her tenure in the county, this was the first she could attend, she had a long standing prior engagement for an event she was sponsoring with the Probate Judge and could not attend. She felt left out, but she was a person of her word, when she committed to something she felt obligated to be there. She said she was told by email about the ground breaking and saw it in the newspaper an hour later. This had left her appalled and disgusted and wanted it on the record that she wants to be notified in ample time and she wants to feel that transparency is there.

Mr. Verd Odom asked how many were present for the ground breaking. Mr. McNeil advised he was not sure.

Dr. Damien Johnson advised Council did receive an email to inform them about the ground breaking ceremony. He wanted to applaud Mr. McNeil for the work he had put in since coming to work for the county. He had accomplished a lot within a short period of time. He said it had not gone unnoticed. He did want to re-iterate that they did want to know what was going on in the county, and they did receive an email. It was a good ground breaking with five (5) council members attending.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman said he did not know where the disconnect was because they had discussed the date and did receive emails. He said Mr. McNeil had done a wonderful job with the Ground Breaking and told him to keep up the good work. They probably could improve on communication, however, the proper protocol was followed with the Ground Breaking Ceremony.

Ms. Lawson said she did want to say again that she felt there was a lack of proper communication for her.

Mr. Clyburn continued with his report to Council.

City/County Trash Pickup Event – scheduled for March 16th.

Inmate Assistance Program - met with the Warden and the inmates have been requested. The inmates have to choose to come here. It's going to take some time.

County Rodeo – scheduled for April 12th and 13th. Have taken out a full page ad on the back page of the Herald Advocate. Have also placed ads on Facebook. The address for the Rodeo is 999 Fayetteville Avenue Extension between the High School Football Field and Pop EZ.

Internship Program – aiming to start this summer working with the Marlboro County Schools. Will allow high school seniors to shadow certain positions and gain a higher awareness and interest in local government.

CW Love Park Renovations – the bathrooms, lighting and fencing have been fixed from vandalism. We are waiting on the Brick Sign to be fixed.

Brightsville Park Upgrades – Field was tore up pretty bad by ATV's and 4 Wheelers. The Road leading into it needs to be repaired. Received new benches for the dugouts, ordered fencing, and ordered Road Signage and it will come in the week of council.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Pearly Lawson told Chairman Woods there was a report she wanted to present before they heard from Council Members. Chairman Woods recognized Ms. Lawson.

Ms. Lawson said she had attended the PD COG Meeting the previous night. Marlboro County has the highest unemployment in the State. By January Figures, there are 510 people unemployed out of 7273 people in Marlboro County.

Also, with Marlboro County being hurt by the Ten Million Dollars (not getting any), she did want to note that the City of Bennettsville is doing work in her area with the sewer. They are also getting funds for dilapidated homes on West Main Street in the City as well as street lights in the City. She said the County will be receiving information from the Transportation Committee about funds the county may get because she has requested it.

Mr. Verd Odom wanted it on the record that there was a tremendous crowd from McColl attending the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming. The Town of McColl cancelled their meeting in order to attend the meeting.

Mr. Clyburn advised he would reach out to the Town of McColl. The park has been closed for renovations and repairs due to vandalism. They do need to get everyone on board as far as procedures.

Mr. Odom said the county does need to look into getting cameras for the park, also including the other parks.

Mr. Steve Blackmon said he appreciated what staff does behind the scenes. Everyone has problems, but he is thankful for the jobs coming.

Dr. Damien Johnson thanked the Parents and Children. The Recreation program had been destroyed. They needed to take a hard look at what can be done. There are volunteers in the communities to help. Hopefully they can improve the lives of the citizens.

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Mr. Clyburn said the county is trying to get the programs back into all the communities, quit decentralizing.

Dr. Johnson said the county needed to keep pushing for a hospital.

Mr. Jason Steen said we need recreation in every community. The good thing was the volunteers helped to keep the program going in all the areas. We just want them to be able to play. Need to take some pressure off of Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Jamal Campbell said he would like to clarify an issue mentioned earlier stating that he had stopped a team from practicing. The County has policies and procedures that he must follow. There's no way you can break the rules for one team and not another. There were issues we had to deal with such as the vandalism . There are proper channels to go through. Under no circumstances would he have stopped a team from practicing, however, it is their job to make sure that everything that goes on is legal.

Mr. Kenneth Stroman said he was glad Mr. Campbell had clarified what had happened. He said even if the county had been able to give the park back to McColl, McColl would have been policies to go through. He thought it was a good Audit report and hoped they could find a way to give something back to the citizens. He said the Aquatic Center Ground Breaking was good. He encouraged everyone to go out and look at the banquet hall which had been renovated. He recognized both the Towns of Clio and McColl for all of their accomplishments. He thanked Mr. Tonny McNeil for a job well done, keep doing a great job and don't get aggravated.

Ms. Pearly Lawson said she thought their etiquette was getting better by not interrupting each other. She recognized **Women's** History Month, said she was going to be more assertive. She has as much weight on the council as the gentlemen and she was going to make sure the employees knew that. She said that District 4 has been ignored for many years and she was going to do everything she had to fight for them.

She said she did believe in a county wide clean up where all the towns are involved. Bennettsville will be for Bennettsville and she applauds that. However, she wants all the towns to be a part of the clean up. She said she was not there to address that, she was there to speak for district 4. She requested the telephone number for Public Works. Mr. Campbell provided her with his direct line number. She addressed Mr. Jamal Campbell, Operations Director of Public Works advising that people were calling and complaining to her that they could not get in touch with him. Mr. Campbell advised the county had a new telephone system and there were some major issues with it. It's not that staff are ignoring the calls, they are not getting the calls. Sometimes they are not even able to call out. Ms. Lawson thanked him for clearing that up because she was going to get in touch with the people of her district to plan a trash pick up for April. She was going to look at their responses to see if they wanted to look at the first week of April or the second week of April. She said everyone was talking about the trash along their main corridors.

She said she was going to organize a clean up for her district and she would be getting in touch with him and give him the information. She was going to put out flyers. She would provide him the locations because she knew Public Works would want to know where to pick up the green bags. She said the county normally allows for tires to be dropped off during the county trash pick

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up, so she was going to push that for the county. Ms. Lawson said she was also going to encourage the citizens to contact Public Works because of issues like the one discussed earlier concerning the ditches, the ditches in her district (4) were the same way: green and clogged.

Mr. Campbell tried to explain what the county is allowed to do with the various types of roads, depending on county owned or county maintained. He explained on county maintained the county could only do some courtesy provisions. Ms. Lawson said she thanked him but she was making the point about the drainage in every community. When Mr. Campbell tried to respond, She advised that she was going to finish what she had to say and that she or the Chair would then recognize him. Ms. Lawson then read out loud the telephone numbers for both the County Public Works and SC DOT. She said she knew the State Laws had been neglected, however, if enough people start complaining, something will be done.

Ms. Lawson said she followed up with the Humane Society and visited there. As of the previous Thursday, they had 60 dogs and 25 cats. She said she had met the two ladies working there and they had a good program. She said the Animal Shelter was in her district and it disturbed her when she saw the women doing that heavy work and cleaning the cages. They were doing everything properly. She requested contact be made with the animal control office concerning the situation, she knew that procedures for intake of animals had been pushed aside.

Ms. Lawson said that the ladies from the court house had come to her and Mr. Odom the previous year regarding having some type of picnic area for them outside to use on pretty days. She said she told them she could not promise anything, she could only bring it up again.

Mr. Charles Midgely, Jr., thanked Mayor Gardner for attending the meeting. He welcomed everyone that attended and advised his door was always open.

Chairman Anthony Woods wanted to mention a situation in Clio where a Citizen passed away and his wife was disturbed about the situation and wanted to meet with EMS. He had gone by to talk with her and she wanted to talk to the EMS man. He wanted her to know that he along with Mr. Calvin Cassidy, EMS Director had gone to her home, however, she was not there. They had made every effort to contact her. He wanted her to know that Mr. Cassidy said he would be more than glad to speak with her and to let her know of their procedures. He thanked Mr. Cassidy for taking time out to try and help this lady.

He said Team Work is Dream Work. That is something they know. He was a Recreation Man from top to bottom. He wanted everyone to know there is a lot of vandalism going on in the county. Clio Bennett Park has been broken into so many times, They have even had a water pump put in that was stolen. They had to go to county water. He asked the citizens to let someone know if they see anything. He understood people did not want to get involved. But, if we see kids tearing up our property and we don't say anything, we are just as bad as they are. Why would a kid take a sledge hammer and bust up a urinal, why burn a car at Bennet Park? We know people see these things. An anonymous call can be made to report it. Kids are going to be kids, however, until we slap them on the hands and take care of our own property, it's going to get better. He encouraged everyone to come forward and report it when seeing it. He thanked everyone for coming out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - DISCUSSION OF LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Stroman, to enter into Executive Session for the discussion of Contractual Matters. Vote in Favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Verd Odom to leave Executive Session and re-enter open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

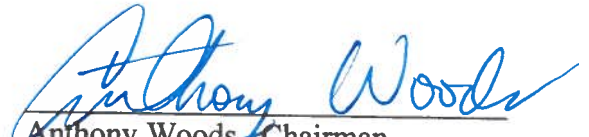
Chairman Woods advised no votes had been taken, no decisions had been made.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Dr. Damien Johnson, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.


The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

(SEAL)



Anthony Woods, Chairman
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Susan E. Rivers, Clerk
Marlboro County Clerk

Adopted: April 9, 2024

* With correction