

Council Members

Buddy Collins
Chairperson

Elista H. Smith
Vice Chairperson

John Q. Atkinson Jr.
Allen W. Floyd
Simon Jenkins
Thomas Shaw
Milton W. Troy, II

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G. Timothy Harper
Administrator

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Sabrina Davis
Clerk To Council

Charles L. McLain, III
Deputy Administrator



March 14, 2017

The Marion County Council held its regular meeting, on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 9:00 A.M. in the Marion County Council Chambers, Administration Building, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Buddy Collins, Chairman; Elista H. Smith Vice Chairperson; Councilman John Q. Atkinson, Jr., Councilman Allen W. Floyd, Councilman Oscar Foxworth, Councilman Thomas E. Shaw and Councilman Milton W. Troy, II. Also present were G. Timothy Harper Administrator; Charles L. McLain, III, County Attorney; and Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council. A representative from the Star & Enterprise was not present and duly notified.

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order and asked Chaplain Allen Floyd to lead the Invocation, after which he welcomed visitors and read the Freedom of Information Announcement.

Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Shaw, and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the regular meetings held on February 14, and 23, 2017.

The County Attorney told Council that item A.& B. first reading for ordinances listed on the agenda as follows was ready: **A.** First Reading of Ordinance #2017-02 An Ordinance to Approve a utility easement to Grand Strand Water and Sewer to install a water/sewer line over that certain area of the County's old railroad bed property located between Marion and Mullins which is depicted by that certain Easement Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein, to authorize the County Administrator to execute the same or to ratify his prior execution of the same, and to authorize all other matters related thereto. **B.** First Reading of Ordinance #2017-03 An Ordinance to Approve a Lease Agreement for the charitable organization A Father's Place to lease the former Environmental Services' office building located at 1301 North Main Street in Marion pursuant to the terms of that certain Lease Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein, to authorize the County Administrator to execute the same or to ratify his prior execution of the same, and to authorize all other matters related thereto.

The County Attorney told Council that item A. on the agenda; First Reading of Ordinance #2017-02 An Ordinance to Approve a utility easement to Grand Strand Water and Sewer to install a water/sewer line over that certain area of the County's old railroad bed property located between Marion and Mullins which is depicted by that certain Easement Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein, to authorize the County Administrator to execute the same or to ratify his prior execution of the same, and to authorize all other matters related thereto was ready: The County Attorney introduced the title of the ordinance and stated that this constitutes first reading of Ordinance 2017-02.

The County Attorney told Council that item B. on the agenda; First Reading of Ordinance

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#2017-03 An Ordinance to Approve a Lease Agreement for the charitable organization A Father's Place to lease the former Environmental Services' office building located at 1301 North Main Street in Marion pursuant to the terms of that certain Lease Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein, to authorize the County Administrator to execute the same or to ratify his prior execution of the same, and to authorize all other matters related thereto was ready: The County Attorney introduced the title of the ordinance and stated that this constitutes first reading of Ordinance 2017-03.

There were no reports given by Committee #1 or Committee #2.

Chairman Collins stated that Committee #1 has a pending matter. He scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, March 21st at 9:00 a.m.

The County Attorney updated Council on the SW Mullins Drainage Project. Mr. McLain told Council that everything has been settled with the property owner, but a cross-claim that was in litigation that dealt with the contractor has also been settled. He stated that a letter will be sent to the South Carolina Department of Commerce to get reimbursed for what the County paid out on that last payment to the contractor.

The Administrator updated Council on the Capital Sales Tax. Mr. Haper told Council that the contractors have begun cleaning out the Saffold building to begin work. Mr. Harper told Council that RFPs have been submitted for a Construction Manager at Risk in reference to the Mullins Fire Station.

The Administrator asked Council to table item 12 bids on CST Project- Mullins Fire Station.

The Administrator provided Council the current data from FEMA in reference to individual assistance and public assistance. Mr. Harper told Council that the Palmetto Disaster Recovery Team has started taking application. He stated that the State is moving forward with using the funds for low-moderate income.

The Administrator presented to Council a Proclamation designated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded by Councilman Floyd, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator presented to Council a Proclamation proclaiming April 2017 as National County Government Month. Motion was made by Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Vice Chairperson Smith, and carried unanimously.

The Administration reported to Council that Grand Strand is in the process of laying sewer lines next to the railroad bed. They do not have an easement nor a business license. The County has stopped Grand Strand from working until they get an easement and a business license.

The Administrator told Council that he received a letter from the Insurance Reserve Fund regarding the County's buildings. Mr. Harper stated effective March 20th that the insurance on the Heritage Building will be dropped due to the condition of the building.

The Administrator asked Council's permission to put into place a new program. Mr. Harper stated that someone is dumping tires throughout the County. Mr. Harper stated that he would like

to offer a reward to someone who reports those individuals who are dumping massive tires and other litter throughout the County. Mr. Harper asked Council's permission to use \$1,000 out of the budget. Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Foxworth, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator introduced Mr. David Holcombe the new Emergency Management Director.

The Administrator provided Council a copy of the South Carolina Association of Counties Friday Report. Mr. Harper told Council there will be major impacts on the counties throughout the State. Mr. Harper highlighted a few of the main areas such as the State Retirement System, Local Government Fund, and the Road Bill. After a brief discussion by Council, Councilman Floyd suggested writing a letter voicing their concerns. Councilman Troy suggested involving the citizens of Marion County by way of a news release on what's going on in Columbia. Mr. Harper stated that he would have Ms. Ogleretta White handle this said matter. Vice Chairperson Smith told Mr. Harper that it would be a great idea if he would go on the radio and discuss these issues that are arising.

The Administrator presented to Council the recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Committee. They are as follows: Historic Marion Revitalization \$5,000, Golden Leaf \$8,600, FoxTrot Festival \$8,600, Wildlife Action \$8,000, Marion Chamber of Commerce, \$6,000, Town of Nichols, \$6,000, Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce \$6,000 and the Raccoon Festival \$5,000. Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Vice Chairperson Smith, and carried unanimously, to accept the recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Ms. Ogleretta White appeared before Council to give an update on the Marion County Long Term Recovery. Ms. White reported to Council that officers have been selected. They are as follows: Bishop Michael Blue- Chair

Vice Chairperson- (vacant)

Secretary- Mary Dunbar

Treasurer- Wes Knight

She stated that the committee is in the process of finalizing the by-laws and policies and procedures. She reported that the Marion County Recovery Aid Fund has \$39,428.47 in the bank. The Long Term Recovery Group will be applying for grants for additional money for repairs. Ms. White provided Council a copy of the household income categories and also a letter from Mr. JR Sanderson the Program Management Direct with the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office Department of Commerce.

The County Attorney mentioned that there are two members that needed to be appointed to the Pee Dee Food Hub. Vice Chairperson Smith appointed Mr. Jimmy Taylor. Councilman Troy made a motion to nominate Mr. Robert Mason to fill the at-large seat. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shaw and carried unanimously.

Councilman Troy asked Mr. Harper to have the motor grader to scrap Fruit Loop Road. He also asked Mr. Harper to check into the procedure in reference to missed garbage pickup.

Councilman Floyd requested a Proclamation recognizing the Mullins High School Girls Basketball Team for winning the State Championship. Motion was made Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Troy, and carried unanimously.

Chairman Collins asked the Administrator and the County Attorney to work on ordinances in reference to the State Retirement and the Solar Farms.

Chairman Collins mentioned that Mayor Bobby Davis had a meeting in reference to a bike and walking trail. Chairman Collins stated that Councilman Shaw, Councilman Foxworth and himself attended the meeting. Chairman Collins stated that the estimated cost is \$273,000 per mile. He stressed that the County is not prepared to fund this project at this time.

Vice Chairperson Smith brought up PDRTA operating in Marion and not in Mullins. Mr. Harper stated that he was notified that the City of Mullins have not paid their amount that they had appropriated.

The Administrator told Council that Senator Williams has received funding to purchase the property on Dozier Street near the Council on Aging. The parking lot did not belong to the County or the Council on Aging it is privately owned. Senator Williams was able to get funding to purchase the entire vacant lot behind the Museum and the Council on Aging for parking. Mr. Harper asked Council's permission to send a letter to the Mayor requesting that the City of Marion maintain the property including lawn mowing, garden upkeep, litter control, etc. Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Troy, and carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded by Councilman Foxworth, and carried unanimously, to go into executive session for an economic development matter.

Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Councilman Floyd, and carried unanimously, to close executive session and reopen the regular scheduled meeting. Chairman Collins stated that no action was taken during executive session called for an economic development matter.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Councilman Troy, seconded by Councilman, Foxworth, to adjourn the meeting at approximately: 10:50 A.M.

Buddy Collins, Chairman

Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council

