

Council Members

Buddy Collins
Chairman

Elista H. Smith
Vice Chairperson

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.
Allen W. Floyd
Oscar Foxworth
Thomas Shaw
Milton W. Troy, II

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G. Timothy Harper
Administrator

Kent M. Williams
Deputy Administrator

Sabrina Davis
Clerk To Council

Charles L. McLain, III
County Attorney

June 22, 2017

The Marion County Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marion County Council Chambers, Administration Building, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Buddy Collins, Chairman; Elista H. Smith, Vice Chairperson; Chaplain Allen W. Floyd, Councilman Thomas E. Shaw and Councilman Milton W. Troy, II. Also present were G. Timothy Harper, Administrator; Kent M. Williams, Deputy 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.

Absent: Councilman John Q. Atkinson, Jr. and Councilman Oscar Foxworth.

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

Councilman Allen Floyd stated for the record that he had a written proxy from Councilman John Q. Atkinson, Jr. voting in favor of all matters.

Chairman Collins stated for the record that he had a written proxy from Councilman Oscar Foxworth voting in favor of all matters.

Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Shaw, and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the regular meetings held on June 13, 2017.

Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Shaw, and carried unanimously, to recess the regular meeting and open the public hearing for Ordinance #2017-05.

The County Attorney opened the floor to the public for questions. There were no questions from the public regarding this ordinance.

Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded by Councilman Floyd, and carried unanimously, to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting.

The County Attorney told Council that item A& B first and third reading for ordinances listed on the agenda as follows was ready: **A.** Third Reading of Ordinance #2017-05 Fiscal Year Budget 2017-2018. **B.** Third Reading of Ordinance #2017-06 An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement in an amount of \$243,607.00 Relating to the Purchase of Certain Vehicles and Rolling Stock for County Purposes, and Payment of Related Costs for Marion County Authorizing the Execution of Other Necessary Documents and Papers, and Other Matters Relating Thereto; **C.** First Reading of Ordinance #2017-07 An Ordinance of Marion County, South Carolina to Amend An Amended and Restated Agreement for Development of Joint County Industrial and Business Park by and Among Marion County, Dillon, County, South Carolina and Marlboro County, South Carolina, So As to Enlarge the Park and Modify the Distribution of Park Revenues in the Event of the Issuance by Dillon County to Certain Special Source Revenue Bonds; and Other Matters Related to the Foregoing.

The Administrator told Council that item A. on the agenda; Third Reading of Ordinance #2017-05 Fiscal Year Budget 2017-2018 was ready. Mr. Harper reported to Council that the budget includes a 2% cost of living. He stated that the budget requires dipping into the fund balance in the amount of \$396,830. The budget is \$19,028,526 and includes a 2 mil tax increase. The budget includes raising the cable franchise fee from 3% to 5%. Mr. Harper stated that the utility audit will generate revenue. He also made some adjustments to EMS fees. The budget includes the 2% increase in the employer retirement. Retirement will continue to increase 1% over the next 8 years. The budget reflects an increase in Environmental Services fees from \$15.50 to 15.75 due to the increase from Waste Management. The budget includes seven (7) vehicles five (5) at the Sheriff's Department one (1) at the Magistrates Office and one (1) in the fleet. Mr. Harper told Council that \$250,000 would go into public buildings for renovations on roofs, air condition replacement, and generators. The budget also includes \$250,000 to begin work on the animal shelter. The Road & Bridges budget includes a Tri-Axle Dump Truck. A new Motor grader to replace the John Deere lease. A Helipad at the Airport and a Drone in GIS and E-911 Addressing. He stated during the budget process there were two (2) part-time positions in the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Harper stated that he has been requested to ask Council to approve the budget with an amendment to add one (1) full-time position in the Sheriff's Department. Motion was made by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Floyd, and carried unanimously. Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Shaw, and carried unanimously, to approve third reading of Ordinance 2017-05.

The County Attorney told Council that item B. on the agenda; Third Reading of Ordinance #2017-06 An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement in an amount of \$243,607.00 Relating to the Purchase of Certain Vehicles and Rolling Stock for County Purposes, and Payment of Related Costs for Marion County Authorizing the Execution of Other Necessary Documents and Papers, and Other Matters Relating Thereto was ready: Motion was made by Councilman Troy, seconded by Councilman Shaw, and carried unanimously, to approve third reading of Ordinance 2017-06.

The County Attorney told Council that item C. on the agenda; First Reading of Ordinance #2017-07 An Ordinance of Marion County, South Carolina to Amend An

Amended and Restated Agreement for Development of Joint County Industrial and Business Park by and Among Marion County, Dillon, County, South Carolina and Marlboro County, South Carolina, So As to Enlarge the Park and Modify the Distribution of Park Revenues in the Event of the Issuance by Dillon County to Certain Special Source Revenue Bonds; and Other Matters Related to the Foregoing. The County Attorney introduced the title of the ordinance and stated that this constitutes first reading of Ordinance #2017-07.

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

The County Attorney had nothing to report.

Ms. Cynthia Ford the Director for the Department of Juvenile Justice appeared before Council to give a brief update. Ms. Ford mentioned several ideas pertaining to the youth in Marion County. She stated that DJJ works with the youth who are on probation and parole. She mentioned a community field day, free summer movies, a combined health/job fair, a video game tournament, a talent show, an art contest, keep Marion County beautiful, and a sports tournament. Vice Chairperson Smith asked Ms. Ford did she work for the Solicitor's Office. Ms. Ford replied that she works for the State. Vice Chairperson Smith stated that the Solicitor had mentioned that money is available for these types of programs. Vice Chairperson Smith stated that she contacted the State and was informed that Marion County was the only County that had not asked for money in years. Ms. Ford stated that she would check into this said matter. Ms. Ford stated that DJJ also offers classes to encourage the youth on how to avoid being incarcerated. Vice Chairperson Smith told Ms. Ford that some of these programs would be great for the Success Academy. She advised Ms. Ford to contact Dr. Kandace Bethea. Councilman Troy suggested getting the Sheriff's Department, the recreation departments, and the schools involved to discuss a plan on how to keep the youth out of the system. Chairman Collins thanked Ms. Ford for her presentation.

The Administrator presented to Council a Resolution in reference to a Memorandum of Understanding between Harbor Freight and the Tri-County Park Partners (Dillon, Marion, and Marlboro County). Mr. Harper told Council that Harbor Freight is considering the expansion of its approximately 2,000,000 square feet distribution warehouse facilities in Dillon, which will approximately create 400 new, full-time jobs an additional investment of approximately \$80 million. Mr. Harper asked Council's approval on the MOU. Motion was made by Councilman Troy, seconded by Councilman Floyd, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator passed out bid tabulations in reference to the Archives Building Roofing Project. Mr. Harper told Council that there were three bids. They are as follows: Robert Nunnery Roofing, Roofco Incorporated, and Sunbelt Roofing Service, Inc. Mr. Harper explained to Council the bidding process. It was the recommendation of the Administrator to award the bid to Sunbelt Roofing. Motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Shaw, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator presented a special assessment as agriculture for Thousand Oaks LLC. Tax Map Number 64-57. A total number of acres 768.10. Motion was made by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Floyd, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator updated Council on the Capital Sales Tax. Mr. Harper told Council that the projects are moving forward.

The Administrator updated Council on Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Harper told Council that the Palmetto Disaster Recovery Group is continuing to work in the Administration Building. He stated that by the first of July they may be moving.

The Administrator updated Council on the meeting with the Fire Chiefs. Mr. Harper told Council out of eight (8) fire department only four (4) attended. He asked the fire department to get together as a group and present a proposal to Council. Mr. Harper stated that he has contacted Mayor Lawson Battle, Mr. David Hudspeth, City of Marion, and Centenary. Mr. Harper stated that the Centenary Fire Department has not signed a contract in several years. After a discussion by Council; The County Attorney wanted the record to reflect that Council is not stating that the County is responsible for this territory. He stated that the rural fire departments are a jurisdictional issue and it is not the County's duty to fix this problem.

The Administrator updated Council on the meeting with Florence-Darlington Technical College. Mr. Harper told Council that Senator Williams and himself met with Dr. Dillard and the CFO of Florence-Darlington Technical College in reference to Marion County becoming a part of Florence-Darlington Technical College system. He stated that the meeting was very productive. Mr. Harper asked Council's permission to send a letter to the chair of Florence-Darlington Technical College to start that discussion. Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded by Councilman Troy, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator reported to Council that the audit is ready, however; Mrs. Brenda Jackson is waiting on information from the library. Mr. Harper told Council that the audit report will be given at the July 11th meeting.

The Administrator presented to Council a graph in reference to unemployment. Mr. Harper told Council that the unemployment rate in Marion County is 6.2%. He stated it's the lowest since 1990. Vice Chairperson Smith told Mr. Harper that this type of information needs to be published.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Vice Chairperson Smith, to adjourn the meeting at approximately: 8:05 P.M.

Buddy Collins, Chairman

Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council