

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

“CALLED MEETING”

MAGNOLIA ON MAIN RESTAURANT, 104 E. MAIN ST., BENNETTSVILLE, SC

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015

5:30 PM

CHAIRMAN	RON MUNNERLYN
VICE-CHAIRMAN	JASON STEEN
ADMINISTRATOR	JIM HAYNES
CLERK TO COUNCIL	PATRICIA M. BUNDY
COUNTY ATTORNEY	HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,	WILLIE GLADDEN, *
RON MUNNERLYN,	CORRIE H. PLATO,
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,	KEN ALLEN,
STEVE BLACKMON, AND *	ANTHONY WOODS

* Absent

Others Present: Bennettsville City Council members, Mayor Dexe Bostick, Mr. Max Alderman, Ms. Bernice Johnson, Mr. Larry Pelham, Ms. Wilhelmina Pegues, and Mr. Waldo Pearson. Those absent were: Ms. Jean Quick and Ms. Sandy Donaldson: Also present was Mr. Heath Harpe.

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Lynn McQueen 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.marlbtorocounty.sc.gov).

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

Chairman Ron Munnerlyn welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to participate. He stated that the meeting would be a very informal meeting for the members of the Bennettsville City Council and County Council to generally discuss ways that we can work together for the citizens of the county.

After everyone enjoyed a delicious meal, Chairman Munnerlyn discussed recreation ideas that might be funded by a penny sales tax after a successful referendum. He stated that the recreational facilities could be located behind the Administration building and joined in with the community center to also include a walking trail to the lake. Chairman Munnerlyn presented a map in color that indicated suggested recreational facility locations to give the

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members of Bennettville City Council a general idea of what his thoughts were on this. Chairman Munnerlyn reiterated that the map indicated general ideas and included both city and county properties. He stated that for a plan as this to succeed, that County Council would need the support and help of both the members of the Bennettville City Council and the School Board. He stated that a referendum for a penny sales tax would have to be voted on throughout the entire county which meant that all municipalities throughout the county would need to be in agreement. Chairman Munnerlyn asked the members of Bennettville City Council what their thoughts were on this. Mayor Dexe Bostick stated that she thought it was a great idea and that she felt that the ideas should be pursued. Councilman Ken Allen stated that he felt that the county needed an area like this very much and that it would benefit everyone in the county. General discussion was held regarding swimming pools and splash pads that might be included in the plans. Chairman Munnerlyn mentioned that Richmond County owned and operated a public swimming pool and asked Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, if he could make additional comments on this as far as liability. Mr. Haynes stated that the Richmond County pool was highly utilized by daycares and folks after school. He confirmed that the demand for the pool was very high and that grant funds were used to get it started. He also mentioned that he did not remember liability being a terrible issue since it was covered like all other grounds owned by the county.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that she attended the Lake Paul A. Wallace Authority meeting the week before and the authority is planning a water show event in June and stated that plans were in the works to open the swimming area for the summer.

Councilwoman Wilhelmina Pegues mentioned that if facilities like this were available that rooms could be rented out to individuals and groups for special events with splash pads, etc.

Chairman Munnerlyn stated that he thought that our first step should be to find out how much money facilities and plans as this would cost and then find out where the money might come from. He stated that some of the Marlboro Council members who would never agree to a tax increase seemed to be in favor of a penny sales tax referendum because this would include all citizens in the county and not just owners of real or personal property. Chairman Munnerlyn stated that he also felt that we should move pretty quick on this before other plans for recreation are made by the School District. He mentioned the new school in Blenheim and stated that discussions were still in the works to have a recreational facility in that area.

Councilman Anthony Woods stated that he thought this was a great idea and that everyone could benefit from it, including young and old. He stated that the recreational sites should be safe, with lighting and call boxes, so that all children and adults could use it.

Councilwoman Wilhelmina Pegues stated that she thought it was a good idea.

Chairman Munnerlyn stated that council would need the entire county's support in order to move this forward. He stated that more work on this would be done and that another meeting would be scheduled to discuss further.

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Chairman Munnerlyn recognized Mr. Heath Harpe and stated that the Chamber of Commerce folks had been invited to make a brief presentation as to what their goals and plans were but that a letter was sent indicating that they were not ready to make such presentation as the positions on the board had not yet been filled and they would get back with us once that was done.

Mr. Max Alderman thanked Chairman Munnerlyn and County Council for the invite to the dinner and agreed that the ideas presented were very interesting.

Chairman Munnerlyn responded by saying that it would be the City’s turn next to schedule such a dinner meeting.

Chairman Munnerlyn thanked everyone for coming and stated that lengthy meetings are not always necessary and that much can be accomplished in short meetings. He stated that the council members should make more of an effort to get together to discuss things going on.

Mayor Dexe Bostick stated that the community did need countywide recreation.

Councilman Ken Allen stated that both County Council and City Council needed to pool our resources together for the community in order to get things done.

Councilman Waldo Pearson arrived at 6:30 p.m. but stated that he did come by at 5:00 p.m. to find the doors of the restaurant locked. He stated that he came by shortly after 5:00 and they were still locked. He apologized for arriving so late but stated that he was a little confused.

With no further discussions held, the meeting ended at 6:35 p.m.

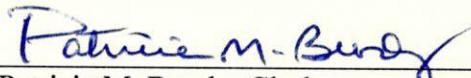
(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Adopted: April 14, 2015



J. Ron Munnerlyn, Chairman
Marlboro County Council



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council