

**MINUTES OF MARION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
August 11, 2015
9:00 A.M.**

The Marion County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting, and on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 9:00 A.M., in the City Council Chambers City Hall, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Buddy Collins, Chairman; Elista H. Smith, Vice Chairperson; Allen W. Floyd, Simon Jenkins, John Q. Atkinson, Jr., Thomas E. Shaw, and 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.

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Simon Jenkins to lead the Invocation, after which he welcomed visitors and read the Freedom of Information Announcement.

Motion was by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and carried unanimously, to approve as written, the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 23, 2015.

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

Vice Chairperson Smith scheduled a Committee #2 meeting for Monday, August 17th at 4:00 P.M. at the Marion County Administration Building.

Ms Nanci Conley the Executive Director of American Red Cross, appeared before Council to give a brief overview. Ms. Conley told Council that emergency communications services to members of the armed forces and their families. In 2015 they assisted 56 Marion County military families. The American Red Cross also works with veterans and families who need financial assistance. She stated that the largest disaster every year in the United States is home fires. In Marion County the

Red Cross responded to the immediate emergency needs of 35 families in 2015. Ms. Conley stated in 2014 they assisted 25 families that represented 68 people. The Red Cross responds around the clock providing for the immediate emergency needs of food, shelter and clothing for victims. She also stated that ninety percent of Red Cross services are provided by trained volunteers. Currently they have 3 disaster responding volunteers in Marion County. The Red Cross needs 30 additional volunteers in Marion County. Vice Chairperson Smith told Ms. Conley that the Marion Area Ministerial Alliance would like to partnership with the American Red Cross. She asked Ms. Conley to contact Rev. A.C. Robinson, who is the president of MAMA regarding the volunteers. Mr. Harper advised Ms. Conley to contact our IT department to post their volunteer link on the County's website. He also mentioned Hometown TV-8. Chairman Collins thanked Ms. Conley for her presentation.

The Administrator presented to Council a resolution designating September as Hunger Awareness and Action Month. Mr. Harper asked Council's approval on the resolution. Motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Troy, and carried unanimously.

The County Attorney updated Council on the West Mullins Drainage Project. Mr. McLain told Council that there has been no movement regarding this said matter.

The County Attorney updated Council on the meeting with Griffin Brothers. Mr. McLain told Council that he received an email, which were comments to the County's original agreement. Mr. McLain stated that he would review their comments and have a report by the next meeting.

The County Attorney told Council that there was a series of deeds that were sent from the school district to the County to consider accepting the properties. They are as follows: the Spring Branch Community Park and the Centenary Community Park. He stated that there was a third one, but that parcel should have not been included it should have been the Saffold Building. Mr. McLain stated that there two were changes to the Spring Branch and the Centenary deeds. He stated that those properties are fine. Mr. McLain stated that he has not examined the tile regarding the Saffold Building. He told Council that there is a reversion clause in the deeds. Mr. McLain asked Council's approval to accept the properties from the school district. Motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Jenkins; Mr. Harper stated that the Saffold Building is a Capital Sales Tax Project. Mr. Atkinson abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

The Administrator updated Council on the New County Administration Building. Mr. Harper provided to Council two layouts of the new Council Chambers Bench. Mr. Harper asked Council to approve the one they prefer. Motion was made by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to approve the circular County Council's Bench. The motion carried unanimously.

The Administrator updated Council on the Capital Sales Tax. Mr. Harper told Council that the Saffold Building project will begin soon. The fire station in Britton's Neck has been give to the contractor. Mr. Harper stated that a discussion was held with the Administrator in Mullins regarding the fire station in Mullins. He stated that they would like to schedule a joint meeting to discuss this said matter further. The project in Mullins is moving forward. The infrastructure at the Industrial Park completion date is the end of September.

The Administrator updated Council on the 911 Communication Tower. Mr. Harper told Council that the tower has been ordered, but they have run into a standstill with the Historical Preservation. They are requesting an evaluation of a study to be done on the property because it lies close to the historical district and several historical buildings in Mullins.

The Administrator provided Council a list of grass cutting sites that the County maintains. He also provided a report completed by the auditor in reference to tax collections.

The Administrator reminded Council about the meeting with Pee Dee Mental Health Board of Directors that is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th at 6:30 P.M. at the Marion County Mental Health Clinic.

The Administrator presented to Council an agreement from the Department of Juvenile Justice for housing juvenile inmates at \$50.00 per day. Mr. Harper asked Council's permission to sign the continuation of the agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Motion was made by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Atkinson stated that he attended a COG meeting and reviewed a list of proposals, things that the counties have in the works. He stated that the West Mullins Drainage Project was on the list. Mr. Atkinson wanted to know if there was anything they could do to get this project handled more expediently. The County Attorney stated that he is communicating with the attorneys regarding this matter and does not know what else to do.

Mr. Shaw mentioned the fire departments and the fire districts. Mr. Harper stated that he has not been contacted regarding district lines. He stated that within a month the fire departments contract agreements will be put together.

Vice Chairperson Smith along with the members of Council gave recognition to Mr. John Q. Atkinson, Jr. as the New President of the South Carolina Association of Counties. She also mentioned that the County received a regional award at the SCAC.

Vice Chairperson Smith asked Mr. Harper if the County provided addressing for the City of Marion. Mr. Harper stated that the City requested that the County provide E-911 addressing. He stated that any changes are given to the Administrator, and he presents them to City Council for approval. Vice Chairperson Smith stated that the County needs to be able to identify the City when these letters go out. She stated when those letters go out from Jeffery's office a copy of what they signed off on needs to be included. Mr. Harper stated that he would check into this said matter.

Mr. Jenkins stated that in reference to E-911 Addressing number changing was brought to his attention. Mr. Harper stated that Mr. Williams and himself met with the Postmaster and they had an issue in the Post Office themselves on getting some of those corrected.

Mr. Atkinson stated that everyone that had their address changed should receive a letter explaining the changes. Vice Chairperson Smith asked if it would be feasible for the City of Marion to send their own letters. The County Attorney stated that for those in the City limits the jurisdiction for that change lies with the City not the County. Vice Chairperson Smith advised Mr. Harper to send a letter to the City of Marion regarding this said matter. Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded by Mr. Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Troy asked if it's appropriate to do a news release regarding the West Mullins Drainage Project. The County Attorney stated that as an attorney his answer is NO. He stated that when you have litigation going on it needs to confine to litigation.

Mr. Jenkins acknowledged Mr. Jerome Williams and Mr. Clem Ham. Mr. Jenkins told Council that he has completed Level I and Level II Institute of Government Classes.

The Administrator told Council that the Clerk to Council has completed the Clerks to Council Training Program.

Vice Chairperson Smith acknowledged Ms. Faye Cross who works with Pee Dee Mental Health.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded, by Mr. Shaw, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:04 A.M.

Buddy Collins, Chairman

Elista H. Smith, Vice Chairperson

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.

Allen W. Floyd

Simon Jenkins, Chaplain

Thomas E. Shaw

Milton W. Troy, II

G. Timothy Harper, Administrator

Charles L. McLain, III County Attorney

Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council