

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

"CALLED" MEETING

SANDY OCEAN RESTAURANT, 1951 15-401 BYPASS, BENNETTSVILLE, SC

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

6:00 PM

CHAIR	DR. CAROLYN PRINCE
VICE-CHAIR	RON MUNNERLYN
ADMINISTRATOR	JIM HAYNES
COUNTY ATTORNEY	HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Add New Business, Resolution # 03-13-03, a Resolution supporting a 2013 Recreational Trail Program Grant Application.

Added Executive Session for Personnel Issues at end of meeting.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve the agenda with items added. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, welcomed Representative Elizabeth Munnerlyn and Representative Jackie Hayes to our called Council meeting. She advised that the entire Legislative Delegation had been invited to attend the meeting but that Senator Gerald Malloy and Senator Kent Williams had prior appointments and could not attend. She advised that this would be in informal meeting and asked for updates and comments.

Representative Jackie Hayes thanked Council for inviting him to the meeting and advised that he had been representing Dillon County in the Legislature now for about 15 years. He reported that he had served on the 3-M Committee and the LCI Committee and currently serves on the Ways and Means Committee in the State Legislature and was very familiar with the way things work in Columbia. Representative Hayes said that he tries to serve the citizens with honesty and if he tells you something, you could bank on it. He stated that he had enough problems himself and wanted to help Marlboro County in any way possible. He stated that he never made any decisions to insure his re-election or for political favors and that he only voted in the best interests of the citizens. He advised that his voting record spoke for itself. He stated that he has an open door policy and welcomes input by all members of the Delegation.

Representative Hayes stated that education was his number one priority. He stated that he had been in education for the past 30 years and understands the impact it has on a community. He stated that although Economic Development drives the big engine and is very important, that you must have qualified and educated individuals in order to make it work.

Representative Hayes reported that he knew several individuals in Marlboro County and was happy to be a part of Marlboro County. He reported that his father served as a Supply Pastor at Bruton Fork, Hickory Grove and Fellowship Baptist Churches here in Marlboro County.

Representative Elizabeth Munnerlyn also thanked Council for inviting her to the Council meeting. She felt that all present at the meeting knew her pretty well. She advised that she would try to work with Council to help Marlboro County in any way possible. She reported that Representative Hayes had been really good and votes in the interest of the citizens of Marlboro County and she advised that she would also continue doing that same thing. She reported that Representative Hayes is on the Ways and Means Committee and this could be a big help to Marlboro County.

Representative Munnerlyn reported that she presently serves on the Judiciary Committee, as well as the Ethics Committee. She reported that she would continue to fight for money for education and funds for local government and all the important issues to the citizens of Marlboro County. She advised that she agreed with Council on most issues and felt that all were on the same page.

Dr. Prince, Chair, thanked Representatives Munnerlyn and Hayes for their comments and for all the work they are doing for the citizens of Marlboro County.

Mr. Willie Gladden thanked the Representatives for attending the meeting and expressed his disappointment that Senator Gerald Malloy and Senator Kent Williams were unable to attend. He stated that he felt it was very important to have all of the Legislative Delegation get together with Council to put all things on the table so that we could move forward on behalf of Marlboro County. Mr. Gladden stated he did not feel like Marlboro County had been receiving the attention it deserved and felt that we needed to do whatever was necessary to make things right with the Delegation.

Mr. Gladden stated that he would like to attempt again to have all members of the Legislative Delegation meet with Council to discuss issues and to try and get some help for Marlboro County. He stated that he was pleased with Representative Munnerlyn's service and the fact that she continues to fight for Marlboro County and was happy to learn that Representatives Munnerlyn and Hayes appeared to be on the same page. He stated that he was happy Representative Munnerlyn had some help now.

Representative Hayes stated he considered himself a mediator and advised that he and Representative Munnerlyn needed to find a way to get the Delegation to work together. He reported that at the end of the day, you will see results if this happens. Representative Hayes reported that he and Representative Munnerlyn had been working well together and commended Representative Munnerlyn for her efforts on behalf of Marlboro County. He stated that everyone needed to get on the same page and this could not be done with existing conflicts. He reported that not all of the Delegation would agree on everything and is not expected to, but that all should work together for the best interests of the citizens. At the end of the day that is what matters most.

Representative Hayes advised Council that the Delegation is at a disadvantage because the system only requires two signatures to represent a majority. He stated that Senator Malloy represents a large portion of Marlboro County and has a lot of voting power. He stated that he would try to work with the other Delegation members towards getting past this and moving forward.

Mr. Gladden stated that he had been told that Senator Malloy represented 94% of Marlboro County and that his vote was the stronger vote. Mr. Gladden stated that he did not understand this and did not think things should work this way. He stated that when Senator Elliott represented our County, we did not seem to have the problems we have now. He stated that no one person should try to dictate to the County.

Representative Hayes stated that the Delegation would get beyond where they are at this point but it would take some time. He reported that he planned to sit down with Senators Malloy and Senator Williams and would try to get them to work together so that every Delegate would have an opportunity to weigh in. He stated that he would work really hard to insure that each Delegate played a big part.

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that a request had been received from the Sheriff's Department to assist with funding SRO officers for the schools in the County. She reported that the Police Department provides officers for the schools located within the city limits. Dr. Prince stated that the County did not have money for this type request. She went on to say that the Sheriff's office had advised that the cost of one SRO officer is around \$70,000.00 to cover the training, transportation, uniform, etc. Dr. Prince, Chair, inquired of Representatives Hayes and Munnerlyn if there were any funds in the budget in Columbia to help with this type request.

Representative Hayes stated that the School Districts should have been given a flexibility clause in the Appropriations bill with which to use these funds from other programs for this type need. He stated that the up-front costs of one Resource Officer is estimated by the Ways & Means Committee to be \$49,730.00 for one year and this would cover the training, uniform and vehicle. He stated that he was unsure if the Resource Officer and the SRO officers were treated any differently as far as training, but he did not think they were. He stated that the Resource officers for elementary schools should not require very extensive training and the main focus should be to provide protection for the children at school and help the parents feel safe about sending their children to school. He stated that the cost which the Marlboro County Sheriff quoted may have been more due to resources that are available to other counties may not be available to our County which would escalate the costs.

Dr. Prince, Chair, again thanked everyone for their comments and advised that she felt relieved after having the discussion with Representatives Hayes and Munnerlyn. She reported that Council had been caught between a rock and hard place for some time and did not know how to resolve the problem. She stated that we will now know how to respond to the School District.

Representative Hayes reported that \$36,000,000.00 has been budgeted for IDA which is the payoff of fines to Federal Government because the state did not meet the IDA Federal mandates. The lawsuit is now in the Court of Appeals and is scheduled to be heard in Washington on Thursday and advised that if this case is won that the money will go into Appropriations bill and there is a flexibility clause that will allow it to be used to assist schools with obtaining resource officers.

Dr. Prince, Chair, stated that at the beginning of the Legislative session there was a per pupil amount of money from the State that could follow each child if a child wanted to go to charter school of some sort and questioned if this was still active.

Representative Hayes stated that this has always been the case and that Charter schools are considered public schools in South Carolina and the money does follow the child. He reported that in 2012, the house version budget included an increase of approximately \$140 per child which would be a tremendous impact on Marlboro County School District. This increase is based on a formula which includes the poverty rate.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated that he was very concerned with the procedures of the Veterans Affairs Officer position and how this was handled. He felt that one person was considered and Senator Malloy made the appointment based on his opinion of her. Mr. Gladden stated that everyone should have had an opportunity to have input on this appointment and that many people were upset with the way that this was handled. He asked Representative Hayes if anything could be done to keep this from happening in the future.

Representative Hayes stated that from day one that he had talked with Representative Munnerlyn about Ms. D. J. Fox and advised her that he had received seven to eight emails as well as five to six letters in support of Ms. Fox. He reported that Ms. Fox had received

training from the Veterans Affairs Officer in Dillon, as well as other training, and that she had made every effort to become qualified for the position. He had received no negative information with regard to Ms. Fox and was not aware that Representative Munnerlyn had not signed the appointment letter appointing Ms. Fox to this position. Representative Hayes reported that when the letter by the Delegation appointing Ms. Fox was presented to him, he simply assumed that this was Representative Munnelryn's choice for the appointment as well. Representative Hayes stated that jobs as this should not involve politics but the most qualified person should be chose for these type positions.

Mr. Gladden stated that he had no problems with Ms. Fox but simply did not agree with the way it was handled.

Mr. Ron Munnelryn stated that this is a problem that we have always battled with. He mentioned the Lake bill. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that we are now on the offensive side. He stated that when Representative Doug Jennings and Senator Dick Elliott represented Marlboro County that everything was great and they helped us so much. He reported that some of our Council members attended meetings in Columbia and were not treated appropriately. He stated that working together does not mean doing what we are told. We need to get past this and we need this bad. He further stated that if things are getting done, credit would take care of itself.

Representative Hayes advised that Senator Malloy could help Marlboro County tremendously and that we needed to get past all these conflicts and move forward. He stated that he would do everything in his power to make this happen.

Dr. Prince, Chair, stated that Senator Malloy had assisted Darlington County with gaining about \$900,000.00 and that we could not get assistance for the Norwood Acres water project in the amount of \$250,000.00. She stated that she felt that we were being held hostage.

Representative Hayes asked that the Norwood Acres problem be brought back to him and he would give it his best effort to have something done.

Mr. Gladden stated that he would be attending the City Council meeting the next night and that he would certainly ask the City Council to contact Representative Hayes for assistance on this.

Representative Hayes reported that Elizabeth was very cordial and works very hard for Marlboro County. He stated that she had been placed in a very tough position but that she continues to fight with all she has for Marlboro County. He stated that Representative Munnerlyn is presently on the Judiciary Committee and this will help a great deal in the future.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that he thought all of Council would agree with what Representative Hayes has reported. He stated that the purpose of this called meeting was to put everything on the table and try to move forward. He advised Council that we would all

come and go as human beings, but Marlboro County would be here when we're gone. He stated that we should move forward.

Representative Hayes stated that there is a lot bigger picture and he would continue to have communications with Senators Malloy and Williams to work together.

Representative Munnerlyn stated that she wanted to work closely with Senator Malloy and Senator Williams and she had made that known to them. She advised that her main concern is that the Delegation go forward with getting board seats appointed and finalized. She reported that she has asked Representative Hayes to help her get together with the other Delegation members so that they can get things moving.

Dr. Prince, Chair, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and advised that this too shall pass, she wanted it to and was willing to work to that end.

Representative Hayes inquired about the relationship the Council has with the School District and advised that it is very important to have a close working relationship with the School District for our children.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn reported that Council had been cohesive with the School District and has met with them on occasions. He stated that he thought we could work well with them when the need arises.

Mr. Willie Gladden reported that he has worked well with the School District concerning park equipment which the School District had intended to donate to the Brightsville Park but found out later that the equipment had already been donated somewhere else in honor of a school official. Mr. Gladden stated that once this was disclosed to him that he withdrew his request for the equipment and Dr. Helena Tiller assured him that they would work on getting him some equipment for the Brightsville Park. Dr. Tillar was most appreciative that Mr. Gladden withdrew request.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### RESOLUTION # 03-13-03 – A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A 2013 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked where the trail would be located and Mr. Willie Gladden advised that since he had requested the grant he would hope that it would be located at the Brightsville Park.

**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to approve Resolution # 03-13-03 – A RESOLUTION supporting a 2013 Recreational Trails Program Grant Application. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTER

**Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to enter into executive session for the discussion of a personnel matter. Vote in favor. Unanimous.**

**Motion made by Mr. Ken Allen, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden to leave executive session and re-enter open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

**Dr. Prince, Chair, advised no votes had been taken and no decisions were made during the Executive Session.**

NON AGENDA ITEMS

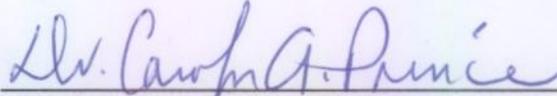
No items were heard.

ADJOURN

No further discussion was heard. The meeting was adjourned.

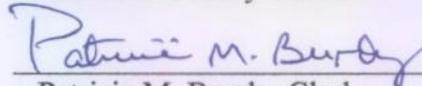
**Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.**

(SEAL)



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair  
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk  
Marlboro County Council

Date Adopted: April 9, 2013