

September 10, 2013

The Marion County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting, on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 9:00 A.M., in the City Council Chambers City Hall, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Elista H. Smith, Chairperson; Buddy Collins, Vice Chairman; Allen W. Floyd, Simon Jenkins, 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; Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council. A representative from the Star & Enterprise was present and duly notified.

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Simon Jenkins to lead the Invocation, after which she welcomed visitors and read the Freedom of Information Announcement.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Collins, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and carried unanimously, to approve as written, the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 22, 2013.

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

The County Attorney had nothing to report.

Dr. Julie Norman, who is Marion County Economic Developer, appeared before Council to give a brief overview on the Commercial Kitchen Incubator. She stated that based on Marion County's strong agricultural background the incubator will be placed where entrepreneurs can take what is grown in the ground and create, a value added product. She stated that products can include types of food such as biscuits mixes, jams, jellies and even cosmetics. Dr. Norman stated that all those things that are critical to running a business should be housed within the facility to not only serve

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the entrepreneurs going through the incubator, but any other small business that wants to grow. The project would be a tri-county venture including Marion, Dillon, and Horry counties. The Agriporium would give entrepreneurs a place where they could create their product, package it and distribute. The Agriporium will also include a farmers market, a small business assistance center, and a retail store. Dr. Norman stated that the kitchen will be designed to be flexible, including portable equipment so that multiple users can set up production lines in different areas of the facility. She stated that the site they are interested in is located behind Wal-Mart of US 501. Dr. Norman stated that they are looking into multiple sources of funding. She stated that the Department of Commerce has been contacted regarding this project. After a brief discussion, Mr. Williams stated that during legislative session \$6 million was included into commerce budget for business incubators across the State. He also stated that Marion and Florence County are the only two counties in the State that has been designated as an agribusiness. Mr. Harper asked Council's vote of support to move forward regarding this said matter. Motion was made by Mr. Troy, to authorize the Administrator to move forward with making this project happen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jenkins; Mr. Floyd stated that he would like to invite Florence County to become a part of this project. The motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Mr. Troy, that Chairperson Smith becomes a part of the steering committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shaw, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator presented to Council a resolution for establishment of revised policy and procedures for appointments to county boards, commissions, committees, or authorities. Mr. Harper stated that instead of adopting a resolution an amendment to Council Rules and Procedures was presented to Council's for review.

The Administrator told Council that a request from Marco Rural Water to apply for a Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant. Mr. Harper stated that Marco Rural Water being a for-profit organization cannot apply directly to the Rural Infrastructure Authority. He stated that Marco can apply through the County. Mr. Harper stated that Marco is asking the County to support their application for a water grant. After a discussion by members of Council, Motion was made by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Shaw, and carried unanimously, to authorize the County to move forward with Marco Rural Water to apply for a rural Infrastructure Authority Grant.

The Administrator provided to Council a bid tabulation in reference to cars, and trucks, for the Sheriff's Department, and also a van for the Detention Center. Mr. Harper told Council that there were two bids. They are as follows: Anderson Brothers Bank at 4.00% and Usbancorp at 1.78%. It was the recommendation of the Administrator to award the bid to Usbancorp contingent upon Anderson Brothers Bank accepting the 1.78%. Motion was made by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Vice Chairman Collins, and carried unanimously to award the bid to Usbancorp.

The Administrator provided to Council a bid tabulation in reference to ambulance remounts. Mr. Harper told Council that there were two bids. They are as follows: Anderson Brothers Bank at 5.00% and Usbancorp at 2.42%. It was the recommendation of the Administrator to award the bid to Usbancorp contingent upon Anderson Brothers Bank accepting the 2.42%. Motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Shaw, and carried unanimously, to award the bid to Usbancorp.

The Administrator told Council that the bids for food at the Detention Center and Prison Camp would be discussed at the next meeting.

The Administrator reminded Council about the County Council Coalition that is scheduled for Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina.

The Administrator reported to Council that the County has run into an issue with Carolinas Hospital System regarding EMS. Mr. Harper told Council that the EMS Director has met with the hospital administrator to resolve the issue.

The Administrator told Council that the meeting in reference to the commercial kitchen will be held today at 2:30 p.m. at Pee Dee Electric. He also stated that a railroad meeting will be held on Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup> in Loris, South Carolina at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Harper told Council that there is a legal issue regarding this said matter. He asked Council's permission to move forward to help pay some of the initial cost up to \$3,000 for Marion County. Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator presented to Council a letter from Time Warner Cable. Mr. Harper stated that effective October 1<sup>st</sup> Time Warner Cable will convert additional analog channels to digital format.

The Administrator reported to Council that Mr. Williams has been working hard on the boat landing project. He stated that Mr. Williams has met with Mr. Jeff Edwards regarding the boat landing in Pee Dee. Mr. Harper told Council that Mr. Edwards is not interested in selling the property. Mr. Williams stated that funding has been set aside to be used for the construction of a new boat landing at Pee Dee. He also stated that it's just a matter of identifying the property.

The Administrator told Council the United Fund Banquet will be held on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Chairperson Smith told Council that she and Mr. Harper met and discussed the following: diversity, mission & vision statement, job descriptions, department heads meetings, performance and improvement plan, and the evaluation process. Mr. Harper told Council that the strategic plan needs to be finalized.

Motion was made by Chairperson Smith, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, to adopt a resolution of appreciation for Rev. Terry McZeke. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Floyd, to adopt a resolution celebrating Mrs. Bertha Woodberry 100th Birthday. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Shaw, and carried unanimously, to go into executive session for an economic development, legal and an acquisition of property matter.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Collins, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and carried unanimously, to close executive session and reopen the regular scheduled meeting. Chairperson Smith stated that no action was taken during executive session called for an economic development, legal and an acquisition of property matter.

The County Attorney asked Council's approval to move forward on a purchase contract on the (Old Wellman Property) located in the industrial park. Mr. McLain stated that the property is listed for sale. He asked Council's authority to proceed with a contract to the seller to acquire the property, contingent upon 120 days due diligence with the cost not to exceed \$20,000. Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Shaw, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator reported to Council that Anderson Brothers Bank could not meet the bid on the cars, and the ambulance remounts.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Troy, seconded by Mr. Floyd, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:30 A.M.

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Elista H. Smith, Chairperson

(absent)

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John Q. Atkinson, Jr.

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Simon Jenkins, Chaplain

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Milton W. Troy, II

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Charles L. McLain, III County Attorney

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Buddy Collins, Vice Chairman

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Allen W. Floyd

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Thomas E. Shaw

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G. Timothy Harper, Administrator

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Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council