

Council Member

Dewayne Tennie

Chairman

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.

Vice Chairman

Allen W. Floyd

Oscar Foxworth

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Joel Rogers

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Chavis Watford

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Charles L. McLain, III

County Attorney

March 27, 2025

The Marion County Council held its regular meeting, and Zoom Conference on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marion County Council Chambers, Administration Building, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Dewayne Tennie Chairman, John Q. Atkinson, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Councilman Allen W. Floyd, Councilman Oscar Foxworth, Councilman Tarus Gilchrist, Councilman Joel Rogers, and Councilman Robin Turner. Also, present were Chavis Watford, Administrator, Charles L. McLain, III, County Attorney, and Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council. A representative from Star and Enterprise was not present and was duly notified.

Chairman Tennie 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.

Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 11, 2025.

The Administrator asked for Council's approval of a resolution designating April as Fair Housing Month. Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Councilman Rogers, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator asked for Council's approval of a resolution honoring Mr. Maceo Nance who has been instrumental in Economic Development and Tri-County Park development in Marion County. Mr. Nance at the end of 2024 retired after fifty years of outstanding public service. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman, Foxworth, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilchrist entered the meeting.

The County Attorney told Council that item A, second reading for the ordinance listed on the agenda, as follows, were ready: **A.** Second Reading of Ordinance #2025-01 An Ordinance to Authorize the Conveyance of a portion of Marion County Tax Parcel Number 055-00-00-008-000,

containing 6.63 acres off of Lipscomb Road to Robert K. Grant, pursuant to the terms of a purchase and Sale Agreement dated attached hereto and made a part hereof, To Authorize the County Administrator of the Chairman of County Council, to execute any and all documents for the Conveyance and Transfer of the property, and to Authorize All Other Matters Related Thereto to Effectuate the Conveyance was ready.

The County Attorney asked Council to delay item (6) ordinances to section (14) on the agenda. Mr. McLain told Council there are a few substances legal matters that need to be discussed in executive session and come out under section (14). Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Councilman Turner, and carried unanimously.

The County Attorney told Council that item A. on the agenda; Second Reading of Ordinance #2025-01 An Ordinance to Authorize the Conveyance of a portion of Marion County Tax Parcel Number 055-00-00-008-000, containing 6.63 acres off of Lipscomb Road to Robert K. Grant, pursuant to the terms of a purchase and Sale Agreement dated attached hereto and made a part hereof, To Authorize the County Administrator of the Chairman of County Council, to execute any and all documents for the Conveyance and Transfer of the property, and to Authorize All Other Matters Related Thereto to Effectuate the Conveyance was ready.

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

The County Attorney had nothing to report.

Ms. Linda Adams with Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault appeared before Council to present information about Sexual Assault. Ms. Adams stated that April is considered Sexual Assault Month. In 2024 South Carolina reported 285 human trafficking tips with 94% involving sex trafficking. The state also saw a 58% increase in the number of adult victims. As of 2023 Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in South Carolina provided services to 13,143 children which was a 4% increase from 2022. Ms. Adams stated that PDC offers a 24-hr. crisis line, free emergency sheltering that houses women and minor child for up to 90 days, a transitional shelter for up to a year. Ms. Adams also provided Council with a Pee Dee Coalition's Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event Calendar. Chairman Tennie thanked Ms. Adams for her presentation.

The Administrator asked Council's approval for a bid on the Marion County Outfall Ditch cleaning. Mrs. Watford told Council that the bid was awarded to Mr. Mark Hewitt. Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Councilman Turner, Councilman Rogers asked the Administrator how long that bid was posted. Mrs. Watford replied that a bid has to be posted for at least two weeks. Councilman Rogers mentioned to the Administrator that some constituents said that it is hard getting to the bid information from the County's website. Mrs. Watford told Councilman Rogers that she can make it more accessible on the County's main page, but the County does have the bids online under the departments. Mrs. Watford also stated that the bids are posted on the South Carolina Business Opportunities page. The motion carried unanimously.

The Administrator provided Council a copy of the February financial report.

The Administrator asked Council to encourage their constituents to subscribe to Text my Gov. This is the most sufficient way to receive County information.

Councilman Rogers wanted to acknowledge the passing of Ms. Hannah Ford who fostered over 217 children in her lifetime. Councilman Rogers stated that Ms. Ford was a remarkable human being and her support and service to this County was tremendous.

Councilman Rogers wanted to know if the County could email everyone that had a business license with the County regarding the bid process. The Administrator told Councilman Rogers that the County subscribes to a national site that contractors can go on. She stated those sites provide email notifications. Mrs. Watford stated as a County it is a requirement to put information on those sites. Mrs. Watford stated that she would check into the email notification. The County Attorney addressed the question and stated that the County can send out notifications to classes of people, but the County has to be careful not to sectionalize it to where it broken down where the County is showing preferential treatment to certain types of people. Mr. McLain stated that if the County did business licenses across the board it would work. He also stated that if the County tried to localize it to what that bid was about the County tread a little bit into a territory that we do not need get into. Councilman Rogers suggested sending it out to everyone that has a business license across the board. Mrs. Watford stated that the County is updating the business license system. Mrs. Watford stated in the short term the new bids can be put online on the front page of the website.

Councilman Foxworth brought up the timber bid. The Administrator told Councilman Foxworth that there are no timber professionals in the County. The County has hired a consultant through American Forestry to handle the timber bids. Mrs. Watford stated that she has communicated with the consultant to make sure that Marion County timber businesses are aware.

Councilman Floyd wanted to thank everyone for their prayers during his surgery.

Motion was made by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Foxworth, and carried unanimously, to go into executive session for personnel, contractual and a legal matter.

Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Councilman Floyd, and carried unanimously, to close executive session and reopen the regular meeting, Chairman Tennie stated that no action was taken during executive session called for personnel, contractual and a legal matter.

The County Attorney told Council that section (6) ordinance #2025-01 on the agenda was ready for second reading. Mr. McLain asked Council's approval for an amendment to the title of the ordinance. Mr. McLain read the title as it is going to be amended. Second Reading of Ordinance #2025-01. An Ordinance to Authorize the Conveyance of a portion of Marion County Tax Parcel Number 055-00-00-008-000, and 056-00-00-193-000, containing 5.89 acres off of Lipscomb Road to Robert K. Grant, pursuant to the terms of a purchase and Sale Agreement dated and attached hereto and made a part hereof, To Authorize the County Administrator or the Chairman of County Council, to execute any and all documents for the Conveyance and Transfer of the property, and

to Authorize All Other Matters Related Thereto to Effectuate the Conveyance. Motion was made by Councilman Gilchrist, seconded by Councilman Turner to approve second reading of Ordinance #2025-01. Chairman Tennie called for the vote by the showing of hands. Vice-Chairman Atkinson, Councilman Floyd, Councilman Gilchrist, and Councilman Turner voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Foxworth and Councilman Rogers voted against the motion. The motion carried.

The County Attorney told Council that the 5.89 acres is comprised of areas A, B,C and half of area D to come up at that 5.89 acres. Mr. McLain stated that those are off a map that is incorporated into this that was done by David Byrd on January 20, 2025. Motion was made by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Floyd. Chairman Tennie called for the vote by the showing of hands. Vice-Chairman Atkinson, Councilman Floyd, Councilman Gilchrist, and Councilman Turner voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Foxworth and Councilman Rogers voted against the motion. The motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss motion was made by Councilman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Foxworth, to adjourn the meeting at approximately: 9:35 PM.

Dewayne Tennie, Chairman

Sabrina Davis, Clerk of Council