

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 9, 2021
6:00 PM
Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman Benton Blakely
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman A.C. English
Administrator David W. Epperson

Absent: The Item, Kareem Wilson

Press in attendance:

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Meesha Witherspoon	Jacqueline Blackwell
Robert Pegram	Charlotte Johnston	Jennifer Powell	Michael A. Johnson
Ericka S. Floyd	Mary Cooper	Vickie Williams	Shelton Hughes
Linda P. Lemon	Tammy Rodvansky	And Other Clarendon County Residents	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for August 9, 2021.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, July 12, 2021.

3. Service Awards Recognition

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting, Chairman Stewart, Administrator Epperson, and Linda Lemon, HR Director, presented four employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

• Braxton Murray	5 Years	Tammy Rodvansky	15 Years
• Amy Land	10 Years	Jonathan Coker	15 Years

4. Proclamation

Chairman Stewart presents Ms. South Carolina 2021, Ms. Julia Herrin, a Proclamation recognizing her for her contribution and for representing Clarendon County in the Ms. South Carolina Pageant.

Ms. Herrin thanked Council for recognizing her and for all the support she has received from Clarendon County Council and the citizen of Clarendon County.

5. Letter of Conditions – Mr. Angelia Johnson, Loan Specialist, USDA – RD (VIA- Telephone)

Ms. Vickie Williams, Grants Coordinator presented Ms. Johnson to County Council by phone.

Ms. Johnson introduced herself to Council and gave Council the letter of Conditions for the grants. She stated that the grants are for four projects. She stated that the projects are to purchase two-way radios for the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Johnson stated that the grants are for the following amounts: \$13,700, \$35,000, \$41,200, and \$50,000. She concluded by giving council the form numbers that must be signed and returned to USDA in order to process the grants.

Ms. Williams stated that she had the packet ready for signatures.

6. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC)

Chairman Stewart declared that the CTC was now in session. The CTC began at 6:22 pm.

Mr. George Kosinski gave the CTC an outdate on the Spigner Road Project. He stated that this project is around 150 acres which will be called the Alcolu Technical Industrial Park Rail Service Site. He continued by stating that Spigner Road needs to be extended 250 feet at a cost of \$599,624. Mr. Kosinski concluded by stating that this extension is necessary to market the site for end users.

Mr. Ted Felder stated that the funds for this extension would come from the State Portion of C-Fund.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, The CTC voted Unanimous Approval to extend Spigner Road at the cost of \$599,634.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CTC will close. The CTC closed at 6:27.

7. Requests

1. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a check in the amount of \$13,486.15 from the Forestry Commission and he suggested that the check is divided evenly between the two school districts, Clarendon School District 2 and Clarendon School District 4.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to evenly divide the \$13,486.15 from the Forestry Commission between Clarendon School District two and Clarendon School District Four.

2. Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, presented Council with a request from the Mayor of Turbeville. He stated that Turbeville Business Association is requesting \$1,000 from Hospitality Fund to support out-of-area marketing and promotions of the fall Puddin Swamp Festival.

On motion by Councilman Blakely, and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request from the Turbeville Business Association for \$1,000 from Hospitality Fund to support out-of-area marketing and promotions of the fall Puddin Swamp Festival.

3. Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator, presented Council with a request from the Hospitality Fund in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for Project Zenith. He stated that this would be for Hospitality and Tourism.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request from the Hospitality Fund in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for Project Zenith for Hospitality and Tourism.

8. Fire Rescue Debt Set Off Program – Mr. Lynden Anthony

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, presented Council with a Resolution and two Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements in reference to participating in the Setoff Debt Collection Program introduced by the South Carolina Association of Counties. He concluded by stating that the County is using this Debt Set Off Program in the Water and Sewer Department and we would like to use the same program in Fire Rescue.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution and Memorandums of Understanding Agreements in reference to the Debt Set Off Collection Program for Fire Rescue.

9. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-06

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open for Ordinance 2021-06 – An Ordinance to Amend the FY2021-2022 County Budget. The Public Hearing opened at 6:33 pm.

Mr. Lyndon Anthony, CFO, stated that this amendment would reduce the Road User Fee from \$35 per vehicle to \$15 per vehicle based on the recent ruling of the South Carolina Supreme Court decision in Burns v. Greenville County Council and Greenville County. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that this will cause a reduction in our Revenue of \$571,500.

- Vice Chairman Frierson asked would this reduction in User Fee be retroactive.
- Administrator Epperson stated that the Supreme Court Decision was effective June 30, 2021, therefore; any user fee paid as of July will be at the reduced rate of \$15 per vehicle.
- Mr. George Frierson asked would there be a mask ordinance for schools.
- Administrator Epperson stated that the County passed a Resolution in 2020 for mask and to mandate masks wearing for schools would be a legal challenge. He continued by stating that he would recommend that the County wait to see what the courts are doing on this matter before making a decision.
- Councilman English stated that he would like to see all students wearing masks.
- Councilman Blakely stated that we want to keep all of our students safe and we will have to make a decision but right we don't know what that decision will be.
- Administrator Epperson stated that we will keep our eyes open for the court's decision.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:47 pm

10. Ordinance 2021-06

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-06 – An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2021-2022 County Budget.

11. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating the following:

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$2,124,507 and Revenue figures were not available as of July 31, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$650 for the month ending July 31, 2021 and total Expenses were \$8,661. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of July 2021 after transfers with a Zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had income of \$100,696 for the month ending July 31, 2021 and total Expenses were \$47,087. He stated that after Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest Income, and USDA Phase II, Water and Sewer ended the month ending July 31, 2021 with a net utility income of \$2,376.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending July 31, 2021, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$2,335,145 of which \$512,718 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction

Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds. He stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$1,822,427 as of the end of July 2021.

12. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council the following updates:

- **Water Projects** – The engineering of water system expansion project into Lake Marion Shores has been completed. Surveying is underway and construction should begin soon.
- **COVID-19** - As of August 9, 2021
 - Active Cases (last 14 days) 250
 - Total Deaths: 114
- **Public Outreach Efforts**
 - We continue to push out information regarding the pandemic and ways the public can protect itself and their families and we are also encouraging citizens to get vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine whenever they are eligible to do so. Vaccines are accessible to our citizens through different providers throughout the County.
- **County Operations**
 - All employees continue to operate on normal schedules. Protocols remain in place for employees who test positive for COVID and employees who are quarantined. PPE continues to be provided to staff as requested. Masks are not required to be worn in County Facilities by the public but are recommended. All county facilities remain open to the public during normal operating hours.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - **C-Fund** – Staff are currently reviewing proposed projects for the upcoming fiscal year. We hope to have these before the Clarendon County Transportation Committee for review in the next few weeks so the list can be presented to the CTC at the September meeting.
 - **Solid Waste** – We are in the process of doing a complete overview of our solid waste system. The engineering firm conducting the study has visited all of our sites. We anticipate seeing the preliminary finds from the study soon.
 - **Recreation** – Fall sports registrations are taking place from August 2nd – 20th. Flyers were provided to all schools prior to their registrations. Our online recreation registration program has been released and is being heavily used during registration.
 - **South Carolina Association of Counties** – has sent out two resolutions for Council to consider passing, One of them is dealing with the Supreme Court decision in Burns v. Greenville County (user fees) and the other one is regarding S.401 which relates to a temporary milage cap exemption for fire services.
 - **Clarendon County Fire Rescue** – Was awarded the designation of a Fire Safe Community from Fire Safe Carolina. This is based on the events and actions Clarendon County Fire Rescue is conducting in our community to educate it on fire safety.
 - **Clarendon County** - was awarded Honorable Mention in the J Mitchell Graham Award Competition sponsored by the South Carolina Association of Counties on August 2, 2021. This award recognized Clarendon County and Clarendon County Fire Rescue in addressing community challenges, implementing operational improvements and enhancing its citizens quality of life as a result of the merger of Clarendon EMS and Clarendon County Fire on July 1, 2020.

Administration Epperson thanked EMS and the Fire Department for all that they do for Clarendon County. He concluded his report by stating that Clarendon County received 10 ARPA grant applications and made 5 awards and the others are pending.

13. Chairman's Report.

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he attended the Association of Counties Annual Conference in Hilton Head and he stated that we are grateful to have the Fire Rescue Department in Clarendon

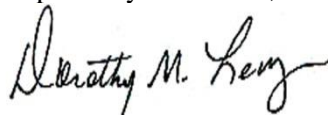
County. He concluded his report by stating that he was invited to attend Celebrating the History of Clarendon County-Briggs v. Elliott Historical Markers Dedication which will be held on Saturday, September 4, 2021 beginning at 11:00 am.

14. Adjourn

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he declared that the Regular Council Meeting is adjourn.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

