



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 12, 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: None

Press in attendance:

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Meesha Witherspoon	Jacqueline Blackwell
Robert Pegram	Howard Brown	Pastor Myra Pearson	Charlotte Johnston
Jennifer Powell	Emily S. Brown	Ken Harvin	Stacie Harvin
Ernestine Morris	C. Weeks	Harry Pringle	Michael A. Johnson
Dwayne Pinckney	Michael Ragin	Faye Ragin	Vickie Williams
Linda P. Lemon	And Other Clarendon County Residents		

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for July 12, 2021.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, June 14, 2021.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, June 29, 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 two employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

•Meesha Witherspoon 10 Years Joseph K. Coffey 5 Years

4. Fair Housing Resolution

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous

Approval to a Fair Housing Resolution Declaring July 2021 as Fair Housing Month in Clarendon County.

5. Public Hearing – Vickie Williams, Grants Coordinator

Chairman Stewart declared that the public hearing is open to discuss a USDA Rural Development Grant Project. The Public Hearing opened at 6:12 pm.

Ms. Vickie Williams stated that this public hearing is for a USDA Rural Development Grant Project consisting of the purchase of Inter Communication 800 MHZ Radios for the Sheriff's Office and this grant is in the amount of \$282,184.

- Administrator Epperson stated that every three years, the maintenance plan on the current radios have to be updated and this grant will replace 70 radios.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:13 pm.

6. Clarendon County Accommodations Tax Fund – Tourism Fund

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, presented Council with four requests:

1. Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce for its tourism promotion initiatives in the amount of \$42,000.
 2. Santee Cooper Country for out-of-area promotional activities in the amount of \$5,000
 3. Summerton Revitalization Commission for promotional activities associated with the 2021 Duck Fest in the amount of \$1,000
 4. Clarendon County Government for the operation and maintenance of the I-95 exit 119 beautification Project in the amount of \$55,000.
- Councilman Blakely asked why Turbeville is not included in this request.
 - Mr. Anthony replied by stating that Turbeville will have to make a request.
 - Councilman English asked is this amount the same as last year.
 - Mr. Anthony replied by stating that it is the same as last year.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the four requests that were made by Lynden Anthony. Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$42,000, Santee Cooper Country in the amount of \$5,000, Summerton Revitalization Commission in the amount of \$1,000, and Clarendon County Government in the amount of \$55,000.

7. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CCTC)

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee is now in session. The CCTC began at 6:17 pm.

Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator, presented the CCTC with a request to purchase Road Material for the Public Works Department in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, the CCTC voted Unanimous Approval to purchase road material for the Public Works Department in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC will close. The CCTC closed at 6:18 pm.

8. Ordinance 2021-05

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous

Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-05 – An Ordinance of the County of Clarendon County, South Carolina to amend the County’s Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel # 239-00-03-004-00; From Agriculture II (AGII) to General Commercial (GC) and Providing an Effective Date.

9. Resolution

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Resolution Authorizing Receipt, Acceptance, and Expenditure of funds Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA); and Related Matters.

- Councilman Blakely asked where would you get the information form to apply.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that the information will be in the Finance Office.
- Vice Chairman Frierson asked can we utilize funds from other projects if needed.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that it would have to come before Council for a vote.
- Administrator Epperson stated that expenses can go back to January 2020 for costs incurred relating to COVID.
- Vice Chairman Frierson asked did the City of Manning receive funds.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that yes the City of Manning received funds
- Administrator Epperson stated that we set the cap at \$15,000 per Non-profit Entity once a year.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution Authorizing Receipt, Acceptance, and Expenditure of Funds Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA); and Related Matters.

10. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$2,132,432 and Revenue figures were not available as of June 30, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$24,320 for the month ending June 30, 2021 and total Expenses were \$126,528. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of June 2021 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$42,208.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had income of \$1,139,457 for the year ending June 30, 2021 and total Expenses were \$586,719. He stated that after Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest Income, and USDA Phase II, Water and Sewer ended the year ending June 30, 2021 with a net utility income of \$231,680.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of June 2021 had a Cash Balance of \$2,217,955 of which \$483,940 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 \$1,734,015 as of the end of June 2021.

11. Administrator’s Report

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

- **Wyboo Fire Station** – The pier and parking area have been completed. The floating dock is close to being finished. We anticipate both should be open to the public very soon.
- **Water Projects** – The water system expansion project into Lake Marion Shores is in the final stages of engineering. We are hopeful construction should begin soon.
- **COVID-19** - As of July 7, 2021
 - Active Cases (last 14 days) 5
 - Total Deaths: 113
- **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. All county facilities remain open to the public during normal operating hours.

➤ **Miscellaneous**

Newman Branch Flood Mitigation Program – FEMA has agreed to move the grant into a position for further review. We feel like this is a positive step in the process to having receiving approval for funding.

C-Fund – Staff are currently reviewing proposed projects for the upcoming fiscal year. We hope to have these before the Clarendon County Transportation Committee at the August meeting for review and approval.

Solid Waste – We are in the process of doing a complete overview of our solid waste system. The engineering firm of Davis and Floyd has been retained to complete this study. We anticipate the study providing some valuable recommendations that will enhance our solid waste program.

12. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by thanking Administrator Epperson and his staff and all Clarendon County Employees for the work that they have done. He concluded his report by stating that he will be attending the Association of Counties Annual Conference in Hilton Head beginning on July 31, 2021.

13. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for a Legal Briefing – Burns v. Greenville County.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session for a legal briefing – Burns v. Greenville County.

The Executive Session began at 6:45 pm.

14. Open Session

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

The Executive Session ended at 7:30 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received a Legal Brief – Burns v. Greenville County and action would be taken.

Administrator Epperson stated that Burns v. Greenville County is a lawsuit on the Road User Fees imposed on vehicle owners. He stated that this suit said that the User Fee was a Tax and not a fee and this decision could affect Clarendon County. Administrator Epperson continued by stating that the user fee was \$15, in 2001 it went up to \$25, and in 2016, it went up to \$35 per year, per vehicle. He requested that Clarendon County grandfather any road user fee prior to the increase of 2001. He concluded by requesting that effective immediately the Road user fee would go from \$35 per vehicle per year, to \$15 per vehicle per year and moving forward. He stated that Act 388 limits the County abilities to provide service.

15. Resolution

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Resolution Relating to Uniform Service Charges and their Application in Light of Burns v. Greenville County Council; and Related Matters.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution Relating to Uniform Service Charges and their Application in Light of Burns v. Greenville County Council; and Related Matters decreasing the Road User Fee from \$35 per vehicle per year to \$15 per vehicle per year effective immediately.

16. Ordinance 2021-06

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Ordinance 2021-06 – An Ordinance to Amend the FY-2021-2022 County Budget. He stated that this will take effect immediately and \$20 of the Road User Fee will be refunded on the bills for July and reflected on the bills for August going forward.

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

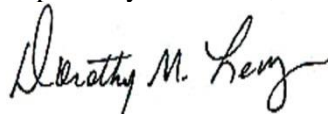
17. Adjourn

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

