



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 14, 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: Councilman A.C. English

Press in attendance: The Item, Kareem Wilson

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Meesha Witherspoon	Sam Gamble
Judy Hooks	Jane Buie	Dennis A. Reynolds	Velinda H. Reynolds
Patricia McCutcheon	Marilyn E. Wilson	Ruthie Walker	Sue Avin
Ranzy McFadden, Jr.	Yolanda Martin	Cynthia Henry	Phillis Rivers
Linda H. Godwin	Rebecca Bryant	J. Wallace	David McCabe
Frankie McCabe	Jacqueline Blackwell	Robert Pegram	Mary Billups
Tiffany Myers	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 Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for June 14, 2021.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, May 10, 2021.

3. Board Appointments

- On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Robert B. Fleming, Jr to the Clarendon County Zoning Board of Appeals.
- On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint Ms. Julie Rickenbaker to serve another term on the Clarendon County Assessment Appeals Board.
- On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint Mr. W. Tommy Benton, Mr. Bon Gardner, and Mr. Donald Bethume to serve another term on the Clarendon County Assessment Appeals Board.

- On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint Mr. W. Stanley Moore to serve another term on the Clarendon County Assessment Appeals Board.

4. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CCTC)

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC was now in session. The CCTC began at 6:10 pm.

- Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, presented the CCTC with a request to resurface Pointer Drive and Gibs Drive in an amount not to exceed \$170,000.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, CCTC voted Unanimous Approval to the request by Mr. Anthony to resurface Pointer and Gibs Drives in an amount not to exceed \$170,000.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC Meeting will now close. The CCTC closed at 6:12 pm.

5. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-05

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is open for 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.

Administrator Epperson stated that this is a rezoning of a parcel of land.

Ms. Maria Rose, Planning Director, stated that this request was made by Mr. Gamble, and it was approved by the Planning Commission that this parcel 239-00-03-004-00 be rezoned from Agriculture II to General Commercial for a mini warehouse.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:16 pm.

6. Ordinance 2021-05

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

7. Clarendon County Accommodations Tax Fund –“Promotional Fund”

Mr. Anthony began by stating that 30% of Accommodations Tax Fund could be used for Tourism Promotion.

Ms. Tiffany Myers, Clarendon County Director of Tourism, began by giving Council an overview of Tourism Department Operational Budget. She stated that the 2020 Bass Master Tournament was held in October 2020, and she gave an overview of the Tournament. She further stated that during the Bass Master Tournament in 2020, Clarendon County was represented because the Clarendon County Chamber logo was printed on shirts and a boat. Ms. Myers continued by requesting \$43,500 of Accommodation Funds for Tourism Promotion.

Councilman Blakely abstained from voting.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Ms. Tiffany Myers for \$43,500 of Accommodation Funds for the County Tourism Promotion.

Mr. Anthony stated that the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce is requesting \$75,000 from The Hospitality Fund to host the upcoming Bass Master Tournament in Clarendon County.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Mr. Anthony on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for funding in the amount of \$75,000 to host the upcoming Bass Master Tournament.

8. Presentation of Proposed FY2021-2022 Budget

Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his presentation by stating the following:

General Fund:

Mr. Anthony began by thanking the staff of the Finance department, our department managers, elected officials and members of the public that have assisted in producing the balanced budget. The budget for Third Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 1.23% for County operations [160.0 mills] . The General Fund budget includes the 3.0 mills [163.0 mills] that were not utilized when we implemented the Emergency Services Special Tax District integrating EMS into the Fire department.

We are recommending that you adopt a Local Option Sales Tax credit back to our taxpayers in the amount of \$3,000,000, an increase of \$200,000.

At your request, we have included a Cost-of-Living adjustment for our employees and an additional amount for certified law enforcement officers. Our Capital purchase requests are centered around a vehicle replacement in Public safety, replacing our twenty (20) year old Public Works front end loader and significant upgrades to our Corrections facility security systems. Total General Fund revenues and expenses are anticipated to be \$23,312,710.

We are requesting that the Hospitality Fund continue its level of operational support for Weldon of \$60,000; as well as a \$10,000 transfer to the General Fund again this year.

Fire Rescue:

The budget submission reflects the same 1.23% millage increase as requested in the General Fund. We are requesting that the Fire service utilize \$50,000 in available fund balance to be used in supporting capital asset purchases that we were not able to implement in the current year.

Other:

We would like to include in Third Reading our request that a \$2,000,000 TAN be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. While we do not anticipate the need; it is, nonetheless, part of our annual planning process.

We are requesting to borrow an amount not to exceed \$350,000 this year in the form of a five-year capital lease, primarily for the purchase of heavy equipment within our public works department.

For purposes of this Third reading, I would like to “formally” state that we have the following expenses contained within the FY2022 Budget:

General Fund	\$ 23,312,710
General County Debt	1,194,996
FE Debose VoTec	285,000
Fire Rescue	6,906,290
Fire Debt	105,163
Emergency Services	1,710,000
Admin Complex Debt svc	489,815

Courthouse Debt svc	256,419
Total Appropriations	\$ 34,260,393
Water & Sewer (op ex)	\$ 591,012
Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	\$ 126,960

1. Clarendon School District Two, Dr. Shawn Johnson, Superintendent, presented Ms. Cathy Williams, Finance Director, to County Council.

- Ms. Williams began her presentation by stating that the budget has an estimated revenue of \$22,089,021. She stated that District Two is requesting to increase their millage from 140.2% to 147.9%. Ms. Williams continued by stating that Clarendon Two is not requesting a TAN. She concluded her presentation by requesting to replace the digital signs at both Manning Early Childhood Center and Manning Primary School. She stated that the District is also requesting to purchase a driver’s ed. car, chariot scrubbers, distance learning software, drainage project repair, bathrooms renovations, bus shop renovations, IT equipment, tennis court refurbish, and scoreboard and batting cage for softball.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request that was made by Clarendon School District Two. The request was to increase their millage from 140.2% to 147.9% and to replace the digital signs at both Manning Early Childhood Center and Manning Primary School, to purchase a driver’s ed. car, chariot scrubbers, distance learning software, drainage project repair, bathrooms renovations, bus shop renovations, IT equipment, tennis court refurbish, and scoreboard and batting cage for softball.

2. Clarendon School District Four, Dr. Angela Bain, Interim Superintendent, presented Mr. David Loadholt, Chief Financial Officer.

- Mr. Loadholt began his presentation by stating that Clarendon Four is not finished yet. He stated that the operating budget is to cover Clarendon One and Clarendon Three. Mr. Loadholt continued by stating that as of June 1, 2021, Clarendon One is debt free. He stated that 3.9 million dollars was paid to erase Clarendon District One debt. He concluded his presentation by stating that Turbeville has school buildings that need to be renovated.
- Councilman Blakely stated that Clarendon Districts One and Two schools are State of the Art and Clarendon District Three school buildings were built back in the 1950s.
- Administrator Epperson made a request to table the request from Clarendon District Four until the Department of Revenue gives the Millage Rate.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to table the request from Clarendon District Four until after the Department of Revenue gives the Millage Rate.

9. Ordinance 2021-04

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-04 – An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 and Ending June 30, 2022, to Direct the Expenditures of Said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be followed During Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

10. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,917,340 and Revenue figures were not available as of May 31, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$25,206 for the month ending May 31, 2021 and total Expenses were \$117,403. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of May 2021 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$32,197.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had income of \$1,035,277 for the month ending May 31, 2021 and total Expenses were \$522,990. He stated that after Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest Income, and USDA Phase II, Water and Sewer ended the month of May 2021 with a net utility income of \$232,133.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of May 2021 had a Cash Balance of \$2,435,485 of which \$939,947 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 \$1,495,538 as of the end of May 2021.

14. Administrator’s Report

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

- **Wyboo Fire Station** – The pier is completed, and floating dock is under construction. We anticipate both should be open to the public once completed and inspected.
- **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 June 14, 2021

Active Cases (last 14 days)	13
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. All county facilities remain open to the public during normal operating hours.

➤ **Miscellaneous**

Summerton Park – The demolition of the Harvin Building in Summerton has been completed. We are in the process of finalizing the plans for the park with the Town of Summerton and Ms. Mary Franklin Harvin. Once these are finalized and signed off on by both parties, we will move forward with solicitation and construction.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – As you know, the County is set to receive around \$6.5 million through this Act. In order for staff and Council to discuss the rules surrounding the expenditure of the funds and recommendations of items and projects to allocate funding for, we have scheduled a special council meeting on Tuesday, June 29 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers. We welcome the public to attend.

Office Closure – County Offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021, in observance of the July 4th holiday.

15. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he attended the Department of Commerce Presentation on June 1st and it was very informative, and he will be participating in a Hazard Mitigation Zoom meeting on June 28th.

16. Public Comments

1. **Ms. Ruthie Walker** – She began by asking for help to clean up the Rimini Cemetery which is located on Governor Richardson Road. Ms. Walker showed Council pictures of the condition of the cemetery.
 - Councilman Richardson asked what church uses that cemetery.
 - Mrs. Walker replied by stating that parcel of land was given by individuals to be used as a cemetery and no church uses it.
 - Chairman Stewart stated that we will ask Administrator Epperson to see if we can do something because we can not use public funds on private property.
2. **Ms. Frankie McCabe** – White Oak Sand Bar. Ms. McCabe began her comments by stating that there is loud music, singing, and under-age drinking going on at the White Oak Sand Bar. She stated that she can sit on her porch and hear all of the profanity, the loud music, and something needs to be done. Ms. McCabe stated that the former sheriff stopped it, but now it is back and nothing is being done about it. She stated that the fire department has been out at the sand bar.
3. **Mr. David McCabe** – Stated that this has gotten out of hand, and he wants to invite DNR to sit on his porch or just ride by the Sand Bar. He asked can the sand bar be closed.
4. **Ms. Linda H. Godwin** – Thanked Council for allowing them to speak. She continued by stating that The music is too loud, and condoms and bottles are washing up on the shore.
5. **Mr. Jimmy Fickling** – Showed photographs of the number of people who visit the lake.
 - **Administrator Epperson** – the current sheriff administration has patrol over the lake. He stated that fire rescue has a boat for medical assistance, but they do not patrol the area. He stated that multiple parties should be involved, Santee Cooper, DNR, and the Sheriff's Department.
 - **Chairman Stewart** – stated that he will write a letter to Senator Johnson and Representative Johnson and the Representative from Williamsburg County and invite them to a meeting to discuss this. He stated that Cal Land is on the board of Santee Cooper.
 - **Administrator Epperson** - stated that Santee Cooper owns the lake, and the County does have a Noise Ordinance.
6. **Rev. Ranzy McFadden** – Rev. McFadden began by stating that he is the Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist and he asked what is the procedure to get the road by St. John Baptist Church paved.
 - **Administrator Epperson** stated that there are factors that we use because the fee to get a road paved is expensive.

17. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter in the Assessor's Office.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter in the Assessor's Office.

The Executive Session began at 7:36 pm.

17. Open Session

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

The Executive Session ended at 8:04 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter in the Assessor's Officer and action would be taken.

Administrator Epperson stated that the Tax Assessor will be retiring, and we will offer her an Employment Agreement to return to work.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to offer the Tax Assessor an Employment Agreement to return to work after retirement.

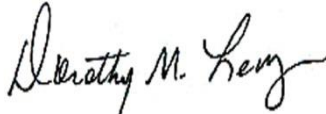
18. Adjourn

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

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

