



**Clarendon County Special Called Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 29, 2021**  
**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC**

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**Those in attendance:**

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
Councilman Benton Blakely  
Administrator David W. Epperson

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson  
Councilman A.C. English  
Councilman A.C. English  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

**Press in attendance:** The Item, Kareem Wilson

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Meesha Witherspoon	Tammy Rodvansky
Emily S. Brown	Dorothy Mathis	Betty Bosier	Sarah B. Mathis
Rev. Dr. Bennie Colclough	Howard Brown	Deborah Nesbitt	Deloris N. Conyers
Rev. William T. Johnson	Annie Robinson	Arlene Ham	Charlotte Johnston
Virbria Conyers	Maggie Conyers	Jamie Welch	Jennifer Nelson
Jacqueline Blackwell	Sue Avin	Jennifer Powell	Ernestine Morris
Michael Johnson	Willie Briggs	Alfreda Langhorne	
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 for Clarendon School District 4 Budget Request**

Administrator Epperson stated that the information for Clarendon School District 4 Budget was not complete at the last meeting therefore, Council did not approve the budget for District 4.

- Mr. David Loadholt, Chief Financial Officer, for Clarendon School District 4 stated that he contacted the Department of Revenue, The Clarendon County Auditor, and the Clarendon County Administrator in reference to the millage for District 4. He stated that the estimated millage is 188 mills for operations and 0 mills for Debt service. Mr. Loadholt continued by stated that everything should be finalized by the end of September for District 4 based on the 2020 assessment value.
- Administrator Epperson stated that this could change in September when the numbers are finalized. He stated that when everything is finalized, Council would have to approve the final numbers.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval the Estimated mills of 188 for operations and 0 mills for Debt Service for Clarendon School District 4.

**2. Presentation and Discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding.**

Administrator Epperson began by stating that State and Local Government received half of the funds that Clarendon County would be receiving, and the other half would be received in 6 months.

- Mr. Lynden Anthony, Chief Financial Officer, began by stating that on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law and established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery

Funds (SLFRF). The SLFRF provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs - including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest-hit by the crisis. These funds also deliver resources that we can invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading our water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

- To support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery. The US Department of the Treasury is in the process of funding every State, County, and municipality across the country a total of \$350 billion in aid.
- While we have a great deal of flexibility in determining how to best utilize the funding, we do have to work within five (5) categories:
- **Support public health expenditures**, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.
- Clarendon County will receive about \$6,555,000 in direct Federal funding.

#### Community Grants Program

- We recognize that our non-profit partners are most often in a much better position to assist our citizens in addressing the harmful impacts that this pandemic has wrought upon our communities.
- The proposed program allocation is \$850,000.
- We wish to make available, throughout the community, a grants program will be open to all non-profit entities operating and/or providing services within Clarendon County. Entities may request a grant in amount not to exceed \$15,000 (no more than one grant within a twelve (12) month period).
- In order to confirm non-profit status, each applicant must provide a copy of their IRS Tax Exempt Status letter.
- Each applicant must provide a narrative statement as to how the requested funds will be used in responding to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; generally, within two (2) very broad categories:
  1. Supporting the local public health response – recipients may use this funding to address a broad range of public health needs to include Covid-19 mitigation and/or reduction, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources to contain its spread.
  2. Addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency:
    - a. Delivering assistance to households facing food insecurity, help with utilities, housing, or other financial help.
    - b. Assisting workers and families through unemployment aid, job training programs and work counseling.
    - c. Support in addressing the financial challenges caused by the pandemic and to make investments in Covid-19 prevention and mitigation tactics; and,
    - d. In low-income, socially vulnerable communities, funding can be utilized in addressing health disparities, investments in housing and neighborhoods, addressing educational inequities and promotion of healthy childhood environments.

Grant applications will be available after July 12<sup>th</sup> upon Council’s approval at its regular scheduled meeting. The program will be administered out of our Finance department.

- Administrator Epperson presented a Power Point Presentation showing the Reimbursement of County Incurred Expenses:
  1. County Vaccination Program \$ 5,000
  2. Unreimbursed PPE Purchases \$ 10,000

3. Federal Grant Administrative expense Reimbursement	\$ 10,000
<b>Infrastructure Improvements</b>	
4. County's Wastewater Treatment Decommission	\$2,500,000
5. Patriot Road Well Site Water System – Wyboo	\$ 850,000
6. Fund to the water systems of Town Summerton, Manning and Turbeville	\$ 450,000
7. Primary Ground Storage Tank Improvements	\$ 185,000
8. County Water System Field Office Expansion and Renovations	\$ 75,000
9. Backup Generators and switches for water system	\$ 60,000
10. Funds to Business Development Corp for water	\$ 200,000
<b>Community Health and Safety</b>	
11. Two fully equipped Ambulances	\$ 700,000
12. Expand Fire Rescue with additional paramedic and vehicles (2 years)	\$ 180,000
13. Funds to McLeod Health Clarendon for needed equipment	
Portable X-Ray Machine	\$ 143,000
Arterial Ultrasound Machine	\$ 37,000
14. Purchase 30 additional 800 MHz radios for Fire Rescue	\$ 200,000
<b>Community Education and Support</b>	
15. Funds to F.E. Dubose Vocational School for the development and Implementation of job training program(s).	\$ 100,000
16. Community Grants Program. Grant Applications for area non-profit Organizations to be awarded based on need and deliverable to respond to The public health emergency with respect to the pandemic and /or its negative economic impact to the community.	\$ 850,000

- Councilman English – What about a Recreation Complex like Sumter has
- Mr. Anthony responded by stating that Green Space Parks are allowable in low to moderate areas.
- Vice Chairman Frierson – Does the 6.5 million include Municipalities
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the Municipalities received their own funds
- Councilman Blakely – What about the people who are not aware of the funding.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that we are going to get the word out by using all social media outlets.
- Councilman Blakely – What is the deadline for applying for this money.
- Administrator Epperson – We do not have a deadline yet.
- Councilman Richardson – Did the hospital get any money from ARPA Fund?
- Administrator Epperson – Yes, they did but it was not enough to get the equipment that they wanted.
- Councilman Richardson – Would there be a portable x-ray machine on the ambulance?
- Administrator Epperson – No, it will be at the hospital
- Vice Chairman Frierson – How much time will we have to spend this money.
- Administrator Epperson – We have a 3-year period. All monies must be disbursed by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026.
- Mr. Anthony – Any funds not disbursed or spent by 12/31/2026 will have to be sent back to the Federal Government by January 2027.
- Chairman Stewart – When will the application and guidelines be available.
- Administrator Epperson – We will have a formal list of option by July 12th Council meeting and if it is adopted by Council, it will be ready to go out the next day, July 13th.
- Mr. Anthony – The Community Grant of \$850,000 is limited to \$15,000 per applicant per year. The agreement will have the Federal Language in it, a statement stating how the funds will be used: COVID Related, Medical Expenses, Help with Housing, Utilities, and Food for low-income communities.
- Councilman Richardson – Would the applicant need the supporting documents right then?
- Administrator Epperson – The applicants would need some form of documents right then.
- Councilman Richardson – We have to find a way to give the money not ways to stop them from getting it.

### 3. Public Comments

- Lt. Foster Sumter – We are essential employees, we matter, and we took care of everyone. We were working every day 12 hours through COVID while others did not work, and we should be compensated.
- Tammy Rodvansky – I am speaking for our employees, ARPA Fund can provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service.
- Ms. Morris – What if the non-profit organization does not have an IRS tax exempt letter, can some other form of verification be used like a 501C or partner with someone else.
- Sue Avin – Essential Workers were not the only employees that worked every day during COVID. Family Court worked every day, and you need to do something for the employees that worked.
- Malcolm Cameron – Is Taw Caw Community Center eligible for reimbursement for items purchased to assist others during COVID?
- Administrator Epperson – Yes, you can look back and going forward for reimbursement.
- Jacqueline Blackwell – Can you include the Coroner’s Office with those 800 MHz radios and there is a bill coming up to add the Coroner’s office staff as essential workers.
- Rev. Dr. Bennie Colclough – Would there be a committee to rule on the grants.
- Administrator Epperson – We do not have a committee; the grants would be administrated through the Finance Office at this point.

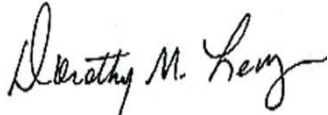
Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for their input, and he stated that this is a work in progress.

**4. Adjourn**

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he declared that the Special Called Meeting is Adjourned

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
 Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

