



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 8, 2021
6:00 PM

Clarendon School District III, 1177 Atkinson St., Turbeville, 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

Press in attendance: The Item, Kareem Wilson

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony
Robert Boykin
County Residents

Ted Felder
Jennifer Powell

Meesha Witherspoon
Jacqueline Black

Connie J. Dennis
And Other Clarendon

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilman Blakely 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 March 8, 2021.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English 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, February 8, 2021.

3. Presentation

Chairman Stewart stated that the presentation will be delayed until another meeting due to the fact that the presenter was not able to attend this meeting.

4. Clarendon Branch NAACP Request

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request from Clarendon County Branch NAACP requesting funding for their Annual Briggs vs. Elliott's Cultural Event to be held on May 14, 2021 through May 16, 2021 in Summerton, SC. He continued by stating that they requested \$7,000 but some of the items are not allowed by the rules of the Hospitality Fund. Mr. Epperson concluded by asking Council to approve the same amount that was approved last year in the amount of \$2,500.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to donate \$2,500 from Hospitality Fund to the Clarendon County Branch NAACP to assist with the Annual Briggs vs. Elliott's Cultural Event to be held on May 14, 2021 through May 16, 2021.

5. Resolution

On motion by Councilman Blakley and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the Sumter-Clarendon Industrial Park by and between Clarendon County, South Carolina, to Expand the Boundaries of the Park to Include Real Property, and Other Related Matters.

6. Ordinance 2021-01

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-01 an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and [Project Sunshine II]; Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; and Other Related Matters.

7. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-02

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing was open for Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement By and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and [Project Mobile I]; Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; and Other Related Matters.

Chairman Stewart stated that this was the Project that was discussed in the Executive Session on last month. He continued by stating that this is a new business considering relocating in Clarendon County. He concluded by stating that they will build a facility in the County and will provide a lot of jobs.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:08 pm.

- Administrator Epperson stated that this is an Economic Development Project that would be investing 5.8 Million dollars in Clarendon County and will create 75 full-time jobs over five years.
- Councilman Blakely stated that Clarendon County has a bright future.
- Bobby Boykin stated that the Development Board had an outstanding year and has sold all existing buildings that were available.
- Councilman Blakely asked if there were any movement at the 527 Mega Site.
- Mr. Boykin replied by stating that there is currently no movement at the 527 Mega Site.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:11 pm.

8. Ordinance 2021-02

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-02 – an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement By and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and [Project Mobile I]; Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; and Other Related Matters.

9. Ordinance 2021-03

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Ordinance 2021-03 – An Ordinance to Adopt, Charge, and Collect a Service or User Fee for Disposal of Residential Solid Waste for Clarendon County, South Carolina and Other Matters Related Thereto. He stated that trash is a big problem in Clarendon County, and it comes with a high cost of disposing of all the waste. Mr. Epperson continued by stating that because of the high cost of disposing of the solid waste, the County needs assistance from our residents because the fee to dispose of the solid waste increased 2.6% over the last 5 years.

Administrator Epperson continued by stating that the County can no longer foot the bill without assistances. He further continued by stating that this would be for all residential units and there are 16,400 residential units in

Clarendon County on the tax bill. He stated that this user fee will be included as a line item on the bill and collected annually.

Administrator Epperson concluded by stating that Clarendon County is one of a handful of Counties that are not charging a User Fee for Solid Waste.

- Councilman Blakely asked how much would be charged annually for Solid Waste Disposal.
- Administrator Epperson stated that we talked about \$50 per residential unit per year.
- Administrator Epperson stated that solid waste is a nationwide problem, and we need to expand our footprint and add additional recycling centers in areas where there is no recycling center.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2021-03 –An Ordinance to Adopt, Charge, and Collect a Service or User Fee for Disposal of Residential Solid Waste for Clarendon County, South Carolina and Other Matters Related Thereto.

10. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,570,489 and Revenue figures were not available as of February 28, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$357 for the month ending February 28, 2021 and total Expenses were \$82,440. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of February 2021 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$22,083.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had income of \$751,119 for the month ending February 28, 2021 and total Expenses were \$393,484. He stated that after Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest Income, and USDA Phase II, Water and Sewer ended the month of February 2021 with a net utility income of \$190,369.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of February 2021 had a Cash Balance of \$2,107,028 of which \$1,085,746 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 \$1,021,282 as of the end of February 2021.

11. Administrator’s Report

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

- **USDA Water Projects** – Design and Surveying work is being completed for the Lake Marion Shores Extension Project. We hope to have this completed soon so work can begin.
- **Wyboo FS Pier Project** – We have advertised for bids to construct the pier. As soon as bids are received and the contract is awarded, we expect construction to begin.
- **BRIC Grant for Walker Gamble Branch Project** – The application was submitted to FEMA on the Federal Level for evaluation and approval. At this time, no word from FEMA has been received on the project.
- **SCDPS Grant for COVID Scanners** – the Sheriff’s Office was recently awarded a grant to purchase temperature scanners for protection against COVID. These scanners have been received and have been placed at the Clarendon County Sheriff’s Office and the Clarendon County Courthouse.
- **Airport Apron Enhancement** – As part of our annual enhancement of the airport, we have been awarded funds to reconstruct the Aprons at the airport. This project will be in conjunction with the FAA, State Aeronautics omission, and the County. Our Airport Engineer is currently working on design and approvals with the FAA and State Aeronautics Commission.
- **Clarendon County Fire Station 17** – The County recently took occupancy of the old New Zion EMS station in order to open a new volunteer fire station and public services facility. This building will hold

Clarendon County Fire Rescue, Clarendon County Public Works, and Clarendon County Emergency Services.

- **COVID-19** - As of March 7, 2021

Active Cases (last 14 days)	169
Total Deaths:	105

- **Public Outreach Efforts**

- We continue to push out information regarding the pandemic and ways the public can protect itself and their families. Social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing hands.
- We are also encouraging citizens to get vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine whenever they are eligible to do so. It is our hope that the vaccine will be accessible to our citizens through different providers as we move through this process.
- Vaccinations are occurring in the County. McLeod Health Clarendon, Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and Clarendon County Fire-Rescue (CCFR) are Administering vaccines. Currently Clarendon County Fire-Rescue has given 224 - 1st shots and 159 - 2nd shots. As a County, a little over 4000 residents have been vaccinated.

- **County Operations**

- All employees returned to their normal working schedules.
- All county facilities remain open to the public during normal operating hours.

- **Miscellaneous**

- Clarendon County Offices will be closed on Friday, April 2, 2021 for Good Friday.

12. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that he appreciates everyone working hard on the COVID project.

13. Executive Session

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

Administrator Epperson asked Coroner Jackie Blackwell and Deputy Administrator Ted Felder to come into the Executive Session.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter within the Coroner's Office.

The Executive Session began at 6:46 pm

14. Open Session

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

The Executive Session ended at 7:06 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council discussed the salary of the Coroner and Council decided to bring the salary of the current Coroner up to the same level as the former Coroner.

On motion by Councilman English, and Seconded by Councilmen Blakely and Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to increase the salary of the current Coroner to the same level as the former Coroner.

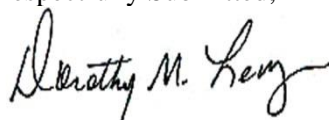
13. Adjourn

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 Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

