



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2021
6:00 PM

Weldon Auditorium, 7 Maple Street, 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

Press in attendance: The Item, Kareem Wilson

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Meesha Witherspoon	Sharron Haley
Harrison Conyers	Hallie Conyers	Dr. Kevin Pollock	Mary A. Billups
Larry Johnson	Sam Gamble	Jane G. Buie	Dana McCoy
Leon Richburg	Moses Levy, Jr.	Robert Levy	Robert McFadden
Hammett Lemon	Mamie Lemon	Lisa Justice	Terry Booth
Helen Weeks	Johnnie Horace	Dwayne Pinckney	Ethel Chatman
Timothy Chiller	Andrew Dorch	Robert Boykin	Brad Gerfin
Charlotte Johnston	Harriet Rawlinson	Jason Dennis	Bobby Ridgeway
Bessie Harvin	Ophelia Tindal	Robert Pegram	Elbert Harvin, Sr.
Jacqueline Blackwell	Phyllis Way	George Frierson III	Diane Georgia
Clayton Pack	Jessie Gipson	Frank Gipson	Peggy Knox
Carrie 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 Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for May 10, 2021.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Board Appointments

Administrator Epperson gave Council an overview of the duties of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint the following members to serve on the Clarendon County Zoning Board of Appeals:

1. Mr. Franklin D. Postell and Mr. Nehemiah Conyers representing District One.
2. Dr. Hugh Wayne Epperson and Mr. Johnny Wilson representing District Two.
3. Mr. Justin K. Harrington representing District Three.

4. Public Hearing – Vickie Williams – USDA Rural Development Project

Ms. Williams was not present so the USDA Rural Development Project Public Hearing will be delayed until another meeting.

5. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CCTC)

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC was now in session. The CCTC began at 6:06 pm.

- Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator, gave Council an update on the new purple Heart signs posted in the county. He stated that there will be a flag retirement box in the corridor of the Council Chambers to dispose of old flags. Mr. Felder continued by stating that there will also be a Memorial Day Event on May 31, at 11 am on the grounds of the County Court House and the Manning High School JROTC will participate in the Memorial Day program.
- Ms. Harriett Rawlinson, DAR, thanked Council for providing the funds to purchase the signs for the County.
- Mr. Roger Marlin also thanked Council for the signs.
- Mr. Leon Richburg, Veteran’s Affairs Director, thanked Council for their support and generosity. He continued by thanking the veterans and extending a moment of silent prayer for all veterans. Mr. Richburg concluded by saying a prayer.
- Chairman Stewart thanked the Veterans for all that they do.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC will now close. The CCTC closed at 6:14 pm.

6. Request

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to amend the Clarendon County Employee Guidelines. He stated that currently employees can accumulate up to 480 hours of sick leave and he wants to increase that amount up to 720 hours of sick leave to be effective July 1, 2021. He stated that when someone is out on FMLA, the 480 hours of sick leave is not enough hours to cover the full 12 weeks of leave which is the maximum numbers of weeks covered under FMLA.

Mr. Epperson concluded that the extended hours of sick leave would allow an employee on FMLA to continue receiving benefits for the entire 12 weeks under FMLA.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson to amend the Clarendon County Employee Guidelines which will increase the amount of sick leave hours an employee can accumulate from 480 hours to 720 hours.

7. Resolution – Project Mobile I

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Resolution – Authorizing an Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the Sumter-Clarendon Industrial Park by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and Sumter County, South Carolina, to Expand the Boundaries of the Park to Include Real Property; and Other Related Matters. He stated that this Resolution would amend the boundaries for various properties in Clarendon and Sumter Counties. The property for this amendment is Project Mobile I which is the Palmetto Yacht Company that is coming to Clarendon County.

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

8. Ordinance 2021-03

Consideration was given to the Third and Final 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.

- Chairman Stewart gave an overview of Chapter 96 of the South Carolina Solid Waste and Policy Management Act Article I.
- Administrator Epperson stated that this fee will be placed on the tax bill effective July 1, 2021. He stated that the County can not sell property if the Solid Waste Fee has not been paid. He also stated that Clarendon County is one of the few counties in the state that does not have a Solid Waste Fee. He continued by stating that Williamsburg County Solid Waste Fee is \$95 per year, Sumter County Solid Waste Fee is \$52 per year and Florence County Solid Waste Fee is \$75 per year. Administrator Epperson further stated that there are 16,901 residential units in Clarendon County and the County would need to charge \$100 per residential units just to break even with what it costs to dispose of solid waste.
- Councilman Richardson stated that the Ordinance can be amended for exemption so that it does not show up on their tax bill.
- Vice Chairman Frierson stated that if someone is exempted from taxes now, then with the exemption, they will remain exempt.
- Councilman Blakely stated that the Solid Waste Fee would allow the centers to stay open longer.
- Administrator Epperson stated that the homestead exemption is on the first \$50,000 of your property value. If we exempt everyone that are exempted now, over 2,000 residential units would be exempted but the Solid Waste Fee would go up from \$50.00 a year to \$60.00 a year to make up the difference.
- Mr. Robert McFadden stated that he opposes this Solid Waste because this is bad timing and its very cold-hearted to do this during a pandemic.
- Chairman Stewart stated that he could not let Mr. McFadden speak unless he lets everyone speak because we had the public hearing at our April 12, 2012 Council Meeting. He continued by stating that being in a position of leadership, you have to lead and make tough decisions. Chairman Stewart continued by stating that we have dedicated people, but are we paying them enough money, no we are not but we are part of the community and sometimes, we have to make tough decisions and that is what we are doing.
- Chairman Stewart concluded by stating that we can amend the Ordinance for the Homestead Exemption and change the Solid Waste Fee from \$50 to \$60 per year.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous approval to amend Ordinance 2021-03 to include 2,000 residents that have the Homestead Exemption and change the Solid Waste Fee from \$50.00 per year to \$60.00 per year.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous approval to the Third and Final Reading of the amended 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.

9. Ordinance 2021-05

Consideration was given to 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 his Ordinance is for a Zoning Change.

Ms. Maria Rose, Planning Director, stated that Mr. Gamble requested to have the Official Zoning Map change on this parcel and to have it rezoned from Agriculture II to General Commercial.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First 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.

10. Presentation of Proposed FY2021-2022 Budget

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

General Fund:

What we are submitting for Second Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 1.23% for County operations. [160.0 mils] Last year, we did not utilize all of the available millage for the General Fund when we implemented the Emergency Services Special Tax District and integrated EMS into the Fire department. The General Fund budget before you also included these 3.0 mils. [163.0 mils] We are recommending an increase to the Local Option Sales Tax credit given to taxpayers of \$200,000 resulting in a total credit of \$3.0 million.

We have included a 1% COLA for employees; and, at your request, we have included an additional 6% increase for certified law enforcement officers (certified officers will see a 7% increase). In order to fund these added increases, we have removed the \$150,000 set aside for capital purchases of law enforcement vehicles.

We have made a couple of changes as well to new positions being requested and changes to existing positions. The part time position within the Probate Judges office has been modified to a full-time position. As instructed, we have removed the new position being requested within the Coroner's office. Lastly, neither the Solicitor's office nor Public Defender's office will have an increase in their respective appropriations.

We have oriented the budget binders, tables, and departmental expense sections the same as previous years. You will see that we are presenting a balanced General Fund budget to you this evening with total General Fund operational expenditures total \$23,241,200.

Fire Rescue:

We are budgeting the same 1.23% mil increase for Fire Rescue operations and billable (net) collections of \$1.25 million.

With total Fire Rescue revenue of \$6,856,290 and expenditures of \$6,909,930; at this time, we are requesting that \$53,640 of current Fire Rescue fund balances be utilized in the upcoming fiscal year to balance.

Water and Sewer System:

Continued system expansion is being funded through a remaining USDA grant. After non-cash depreciation expenses of about \$423,500, we are anticipating a net utility loss of close to \$25,000. That said, the budget submission from the Water System indicates that there is sufficient cash flow from operations to make debt service requirements on its USDA bonds in the upcoming year.

Weldon Auditorium:

We anticipate an increase in facility utilization as our local economy opens back up. While we are not requesting a transfer from the General Fund to support operations this year, we are requesting the same \$60,000 transfer from Hospitality fee fund.

Other:

In terms of additional intra-fund transfers, we are also requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund maintain its level of operational support of \$10,000 to the General Fund.

As we do each year, we would like to include in our request a \$2 million TAN be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. I would like to point out that we do not anticipate the need for a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN).

At first reading we requested to borrow an amount not to exceed \$350,000 in the form of a five-year capital lease and have made no changes to this request.

Ms. Lisa Justice, Director of FE Dubose Career Center, started her presentation by stating there are three separate budgets for FE Dubose. She stated that Adult Ed, FE Dubose Career Center, and Central Carolina Technical College all have a separate budget and housed in the same facility. Ms. Justice continued by stating that the Center has 9 programs. She continued by stating that School Districts share a base student cost of ½ the rate per student which is about 54% of their budget. Ms. Justice concluded by stating the Clarendon County funding is 17% of their budget and FE Dubose is being funded at a much lower rate than other public schools in the area. She said that the center did not receive any funds from the CARES Act for the Pandemic. She stated that if FE Dubose does not receive additional funding, they may be forced to cut back on programs and teachers.

Ms. Terry Booth, Vice President of Business Affairs at Central Carolina, stated that Clarendon County students make up 13.25% of their enrollment from the four-county service area and Clarendon County funding was 2.8% of the total physical plant operation and maintenance costs. Ms. Booth concluded by requesting a budget request per scholar of \$20,000 and budget request for operations of 5 mil.

11. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-04

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing was open for 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.

The Public hearing opened at 7:31 pm. Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments on the budget:

- Ms. Jacqueline Blackwell, Coroner, - She began by stating that to clerical position that the Coroner's office requested was removed from the budget, she asked that the clerical position be placed back in the budget because the Coroner's office needs someone to input data into the new software and to be available in the Coroner's office when no one else is there. She stated that she wants the Coroner's office to be open to assist the public during business hours.
- Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, stated that it was requested that he remove the clerical position.
- Ms. Jacqueline Blackwell – Stated she is asking Council to reconsider and re-insert that position back into the budget for the Coroner's office.
- Mr. Hammett Lemon –Opposes the Solid Waste Fee
- Ms. Conyers – Opposes the Solid waste Fee and what system is the county going to use.
- Mr. Robert McFadden – How much waste does each family use?
- Administrator Epperson – We did an average from Florence, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties
- Mr. Robert McFadden – Is there a Litter Management System in Place.
- Administrator Epperson – Yes – Solid Waste and Landfill
- Mr. Robert McFadden – The citizens were blind-sided, and we did not know about the Solid Waste Fee.
- Chairman Stewart – Council makes decisions every month that affects us and there are meetings that no one shows up for, but we still have to make decisions.
- Citizen – Is there a director and how many employees will there be in the program monitoring the Fee.
- Administrator Epperson – There is the Auditor, the Treasurer, The Assessor, and the Planning Director.
- Ms. Peggy Knox – Because of the Pandemic, can you use other means other than Manning Live and how do you come up with the budget for each Entity?
- Administrator Epperson – Each department submits their budget to the Finance Department for Consideration
- Ms. Peggy Knox – What if there is a surplus, will you make the public aware of that.
- Administrator Epperson – 15 to 25% of the budget must be kept in Fund Balance.
- Ms. Phillis Way – Why can't you have meetings in other areas.
- Chairman Stewart – We have a meeting in Turbeville in March and in Summerton in October.

- Citizen – Can the citizens see the budget and where can we see it.
- Chairman Stewart – Contact Mr. Lynden Anthony and he will make it available to you.
- Citizen – Was this Solid Waste Fee already included in the budget, and does the County get money from Waste Management for recycling.
- Chairman Stewart – No not any more
- Ms. Mary Cooper – When time to be elected, we see you all over the County, why can't you call a meeting sometime and talk to your people. Don't just throw us under the bus because we break our necks to get you elected. Each Councilman should talk to their constituencies before the meetings.
- Citizen – What is the budget for Waste Disposal and are they hiring within the County.
- Mr. Lynden Anthony – the budget for Waste Disposal is \$1.7 million that includes Household Solid Waste, Electronics, and tires.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 8:08 pm.

12. Ordinance 2021-04

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous approval to the Second 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.

13. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,592,489 and Revenue figures were not available as of April 30, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$9,647 for the month ending April 30, 2021 and total Expenses were \$103,837. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of April 2021 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$34,190.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had income of \$933,913 for the month ending April 30, 2021 and total Expenses were \$489,118. He stated that after Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest Income, and USDA Phase II, Water and Sewer ended the month of April 2021 with a net utility income of \$205,389.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of April 2021 had a Cash Balance of \$2,307,723 of which \$943,578 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 \$1,364,145 as of the end of April 2021.

14. Administrator's Report

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

- **Wyboo Fire Station** – The pier and floating dock are currently under construction and should be completed soon.
- **JC Britton Basketball Courts** – Lights have been recently installed at the basketball courts at JC Britton Park. The lights are on a timer and go off at 10 pm each night.
- **Landfill Recycling Center** – We are currently in the process of re-locating the convenience center at the landfill from its currently location to a larger and more secure location on site (the old cardboard building site). We are hopeful this will be completed within the next 3-4 months.

- **JAG Grant** – We recently submitted a grant for the purchase of bullet proof vests for the Clarendon County Sheriff’s Office. We are hopeful that the grant will be approved so we can move forward with the purchase.
- **Radio Grant** – We recently submitted multiple grants through USDA to assist with the purchase of new 800 mega hertz radios for the Clarendon County Sheriff’s Office. We should hear from USDA on the funding of these grants.
- **COVID-19** - As of May 10, 2021

Active Cases (last 14 days)	35
Total Deaths:	112
- **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. Vaccines are accessible to our citizens through different providers throughout the County.
- **County Operations**
 - All employees continue to operate on normal schedules.
 - Strict protocols continue to be put 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**
 - **Detention Center** – Detention Center Officer Joseph Taylor was honored in March with receiving the highest academic honors when he graduated from the SC Basic Detention Officer Training Program at the SC Criminal Justice Academy. He was able to maintain a CPA of 96 throughout his training. Officer Taylor was also awarded the Bert Friday Award for being the top student in his class.

15. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Stewart stated that he did not have anything to add.

16. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for a Legal Briefing- Pending Legal Matters.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session for a Legal Briefing – Pending Legal Matters.

The Executive Session began at 8:21pm.

17. Open Session

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

The Executive Session ended at 9:12 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received information on a Legal Briefing - Pending Legal Matters and no action would be taken.

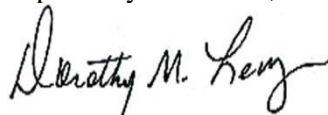
14. Adjourn

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 9:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

