



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, November 8, 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: The Item, Kareem Wilson

Press in attendance:

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Patricia Pringle	Jacqueline Blackwell	Mary L. Cooper
Robert Pegram	Emily S. Brown	Tim Baxley	Charlotte Johnston	Willie Briggs
Jacqueline Blackwell	Myra Pearson	David Hilton	James Williams	Linda P. Lemon
Tammy Rodvansky	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 Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for November 8, 2021.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, October 11, 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 a service award. The awards were presented as listed:

- Gabriel Blackwell 10 Years Ava Marie Rose 30 Years

4. Presentation – South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office – Mr. Frank Rainwater

Mr. Frank Rainwater, Director of SC Revenue & Fiscal Affairs, presented Council with the 2020 Redistricting Benchmark Report. He began his presentation by stating that Clarendon County's population has decreased 10.94% and Clarendon County is one of 30 Counties whose population is less than it was 20 years ago. He stated that Clarendon County has lost more of the black population than the white population.

Mr. Rainwater continued his presentation by stating that the preliminary results of their analysis indicate that there appears to be a racially polarized voting in Clarendon County. He continued by requesting that County Council conduct a public meeting to discuss their report and solicit feedback from the public on the following:

- Request that Districts or wards be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district or ward are connected to each other.
- Districts or wards be drawn to minimize the division of voting precincts.

- Districts or wards be geographically compact such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for a more distant population.
- Districts or wards be drawn to comply with other court decisions and federal and state laws.
- Districts or wards be drawn with respect to existing districts and communities of interests, which will require input from council and the citizens.

Mr. Rainwater concluded his presentation by stating that some precincts will have to be split and all factors must be balanced. He further stated that this must be done before the first of March 2022.

Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Rainwater for his presentation.

5. Presentation – Ms. Vickie Williams, Grants Coordinator

Ms. Williams began her presentation to Council by stating that the Grants Department is responsible for submitting and administering between 36-40 grants averaging about 3.5 million dollars annually. She continued by stating that the Grants submitted are for numerous County Departments and covers a variety of equipment and items:

- Emergency and Training Supplies and Equipment for EMS
- Bullet proof vests, scanners, radios, body cameras, drug dogs, personal protective equipment, equipment for vehicles, and vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department.
- Bullet proof vests, personal protective equipment, and computers for the Detention Center.
- Transmission radios, Emergency shelter supplies, disaster responses equipment, portable generators, and fuel for Emergency Management Department.
- Body Bags, supplies, automated stretcher, and a refrigerated trailer for the Coroner’s Office.
- Recycling supplies, recycling of solid waste, educational materials, and equipment for the recycling center.
- Rural water system which resulted in 90.8 miles of new water main and connections, deep water wells, and a new water tower for the Water and Sewer Department.

Ms. Williams concluded her presentation by stating that USDA and RIA Grants totaling \$7.5 million have been used for the Wyboo Fire Station, removal of trees at the Santee-Cooper Airport as well as replacing wildlife fencing, taxiway reconstruction, and surfacing the runway.

Chairman Stewart thanked Ms. Williams for what her department is doing.

6. Request – Mr. George Kosinski, Development Board Director

Mr. Kosinski presented Council with a request in reference to Project Gamechanger. He requested that the current balance for the County’s Infrastructure Account be approved for use on Project Gamechanger.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request that was made by Mr. George Kosinski that the current balance for the County’s Infrastructure Account be approved for use on Project Gamechanger.

7. Ordinance 2021-07 – And Fee Agreement

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-07 – An Ordinance and Fee Agreement Authorizing, Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, The Execution and Delivery of A Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and a Company Identified for the Time Being as Project Power, Acting for itself, one or More Current or Future Affiliates and Other Project Companies (Collectively, “Company”); Providing for a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentives; and Other Matters.

8. Ordinance 2021-08

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

Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-08 - An Ordinance of The Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel # 084-00-02-015-00; From Single Family Residential (SFR) to Agriculture I (AGI) and providing an Effective Date.

9. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-09

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open for Ordinance 2021-09 - an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and [Project Crossroads] for Itself and One or More Affiliated or Related Entities; Providing for A Special Source Revenue Credit; And Other Related Matters.

- Administrator Epperson stated that Project Crossroads is an exciting entity wanting to come to this area.
- Mr. George Kosinski stated that this entity would be creating 15 full-time jobs, 25 part-time jobs, and investing 2.5 to 5 million dollars and the official name will be announced in December.

The Public Hearing began at 6:41 pm.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments on Ordinance 2021-09. Hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:43 pm.

10. Ordinance 2021-09

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-09 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and [Project Crossroads] for Itself and One or More Affiliated or Related Entities; Providing for A Special Source Revenue Credit; And Other Related Matters.

11. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,767,335 and Revenue figures were not available as of October 31, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$3,459 for the month ending October 31, 2021 and total Expenses were \$41,746. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of October 2021 after transfers with a Zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$383,156 for the month ending October 31, 2021 and total Expenses were \$247,810. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and USDA Phase II, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending October 31, 2021 with a deficit of \$57,053.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending October 31, 2021, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$3,406,329 of which \$2,235,455 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 \$1,170,874 as of the end of October 2021.

12. Administrator's Report

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

Water / Sewer

- **Phase II Water Expansion** – surveying is complete and work is scheduled to begin soon.
- **HWY 260 Sewer Expansion** – design is ongoing . (ARPA Funds)

Capital:

- **Fire Rescue**

County is in the process of Securing Property within the Town of Turbeville for the construction of a new fire station. Once property is secured, design will begin.

County is also moving forward with pricing on a new fire station in Davis Station. This will be located on property currently owned by the County not far from the current fire station in Davis Station.

- **Animal Control**

County is in the process of developing plans to construct a new animal control facility to replace its current one. The plans call for better access to the pens by staff, additional pens for the animals and an improved sewer system. This project is being developed in collaboration with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office and the Second Chance Animal Shelter.

COVID – 19 as of November 8, 2021

Active Cases (last 14 days)	65
Total Deaths:	136

➤ **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. Masks are not required to be worn in County Facilities by the public but are recommended. All county facilities remain open to the public during normal operating hours.

➤ **Miscellaneous**

➤ **Solid Waste** – Our solid waste department has developed informational signage that will be installed at all recycling centers explaining hours of operation, what waste is accepted and when. They have also prepared paper handouts that will be sent to all mailing addresses in a mailing coming up near the end of November. This information will also be disseminated to all schools and community organizations in Clarendon County. We anticipate that this information will help educate our residents on our solid waste program and answer any questions that may have.

➤ **Re-districting** – Due to our recent census numbers for Clarendon County, the County will have to go through a re-districting process to update the district lines on County Council members. I anticipate having an Ordinance and proposed map for you to consider at our December meeting. The final map will need to be adopted prior to the end of February so we can provide the final map to the Clarendon County Office of Voters Registration and Elections ahead of the March filing for the election primaries.

➤ **Recreation** – Basketball registration began on November 1 and will continue to November 19. Practices are scheduled to take place in December and games are scheduled for January and February. Registration is available online or in-person at the Clarendon County Recreation Department Offices in Manning (JC Britton Park) or Turbeville (Smith Field).

13. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by welcoming the Elected Officials. He stated that County Council will be having a winter retreat in February and the purpose for the retreat is to make some long-term decisions for the County.

14. Executive Section

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss two items. A personnel matter in Administration and Project Zenith.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss two items. A personnel matter in Administration and Project Zenith.

The Executive Session began at 7:03 pm.

15. Open Session

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson 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 8:24 pm.

- Chairman Stewart stated that in the Executive Session Council received information on Project Zenith and no action will be taken.
- Chairman Stewart stated that the other item was a personnel matter about the Administrator's Contract. He thanked the Administrator for all that he does for Clarendon County and no action will be taken.
- Administrator Epperson thanked County Council for the vote of Confidence.

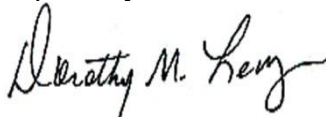
16. Adjourn

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

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

