

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, October 11, 2021
6:00 PM

Clarendon School District IV, Media Center, Summerton, 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
Robert Pegram	Thomasine McBride	Cheryl Pendergrass	Keishauna McFadden
Jacqueline Blackwell	Maria Rose	Shelton Hughes	Steve Rodvansky
Linda P. Lemon	Tammy Rodvansky	Myra Pearson	Julius Dukes, Jr.
Diane Georgia	Meesha Witherspoon	George Frierson, III	Faye Ragin
Mike Ragin	Tabitha Hanna	Rebecca Massey	

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 Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for October 11, 2021.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, September 13, 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 three employees with a service award. The awards were presented as listed:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| • Byron Brock | 10 Years | Shanita Brangman | 15 Years |
| • Stephen Rodvansky | 10 Years | | |

4. Requests

1. Mr. Loadholt, Clarendon School District Four Finance Director, presented Council with the proposed budget request, Local Option Sales Tax and Capital Improvement List for Clarendon School District Four. He stated that District Four is requesting 182.2 mils for Operations and 1.4 mils for the budget. Mr. Loadholt continued by giving Council a proposed Capital Improvement list for the Turbeville Area, the Summerton Area, and the District Wide Area.

- Councilman Blakely stated that Walker Gamble has a lot of sewer problems
- Administrator Epperson stated that the County is applying for Hazard Mitigation Fund that would cover some of the sewer problems.
- Mr. Loadholt replied by stating that in July and August, we had an inspection of the Drainage and made repairs and as of now, there are no issues.
- Councilman Blakely – Will there be storm shelters in the future.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that the Red Cross approved East Clarendon, Manning High, and Scott’s Branch Middle High as a Storm Shelter.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request that was made by Mr. Loadholt for Clarendon School District Four for 182.2 mils for Operations and 1.4 mils for the Budget, Local Option Sales Tax, and the Capital Improvement List.

2. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to approve and authorize the execution of a lease agreement in reference to 3 S. Church Street, Manning, SC. He stated that this agreement is for the Old DSS Building. The request is for a 20-year lease for Voter’s Registration.
 - Mr. Ted Felder stated that this lease is for 6800 square feet and all of the Voter’s Registration equipment and staff will move into the Old DSS Building.
 - Administrator Epperson stated that if approve, construction will begin in June 2022 to be completed January 2023.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request that was made by Administrator Epperson to enter into a lease agreement in reference to 3 S. Church Street, Manning, SC and to move the Voter’s Registration staff and equipment into the Old DSS Building.

3. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to amend the Clarendon County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project list. He stated that he is requesting to create a Premium Pay Program and give premium pay to employees based on certain departments and criteria. Administrator Epperson continued by stating that some department employees will receive premium pay as follows:
 - Fulltime – hired by January 1, 2021 - \$2000 (Sheriff, E911, Corrections, Fire-Rescue, Maintenance)
 - Fulltime – hired by January 1, 2021 - \$1500 (Fleet Maintenance, Public Works, Water & Sewer).
 - Fulltime - hired by January 1, 2021 - \$1000 (All other departments)
 - Parttime employees hired by January 1, 2021 would receive one half of what full-time employees receive for that department.
 - Fulltime and parttime employees hired after January1, 2021 would receive a lesser amount based on that departments.

Administrator Epperson stated that the total cost of this request would be around \$700,000 and if approved, a paper check will go out no later than November 1, 2021. He stated that we want to show the employees how much we appreciate what they are doing.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson to amend the Clarendon County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project list and to give employees premium pay as outlined above.

5. Presentation – Ms. Maria Rose, Planning Director

Ms. Rose began her presentation to Council by introducing Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Deputy Planning Director. She Continued by giving Council an update on what the Planning Commission is doing. She stated that the Planning Commission issued 730 building permits from July 2020 through June 2021 which includes 63 permits for commercial additions and 423 for residential additions. Ms. Rose continued by stating that 65 permits were

issued in July 2021, 78 in August 2021, and 95 in September 2021. She stated that in spite of the Pandemic, the Planning Commission was very busy.

Ms. Rose continued by stating that for the same period July 2020 through June 2021, the Building Department did a total of 1,620 various inspections. She further stated that there are 266 active zoning permits and there is an Emergency Camper Use for Catastrophic Events.

- Councilman Blakely stated that Campers / RVs was a big problem in the past.
- Ms. Rose replied that nothing has changed. She continued by stating that Clarendon County did not have a Code Enforcement Officer for a while but now we have one that is doing a great job.
- Chairman Stewart asked why do Campers / RVs have to be regulated.
- Ms. Rose replied by stating that Campers / RVs do not meet the code and they must meet a code to be permitted.

6. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC)

Chairman Stewart called the Clarendon County Transportation Committee to order at 6:52 pm.

1. Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator, presented Council with the 2021 dirt to Pave Road List and the projected cost to pave these roads.

- Vice Chairman Frierson asked how many miles of dirty road there are in Clarendon County.
- Mr. Felder stated that there are about 300 to 400 miles of dirt road in Clarendon County.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the dirt to pave road list for 2021 that was presented by Mr. Ted Felder.

2. Mr. Ted Felder presented Council with a ten-year Funding and Maintenance plan (2022-2032) on road paving. He said that if Funding occurs at or above current level for the entire 10 years, there would be a total \$1.2 million dollars annually for road paving. Mr. Felder concluded his presentation by stating that this mean a minimum of \$3.6 million would be applied to maintenance of existing county roads while still maintaining the ability to add a new road to the system if the need arises.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the ten-year Funding and Maintenance Plan presented by Mr. Ted Felder.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee will Close. The CTC closed at 7:05 pm.

7. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-07

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.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-07 is now open. The Public Hearing for opened at 7:06 pm.

- Mr. George Kosinski, Development Director, stated that Project Power will invest \$10,000,000 in Clarendon County over the next 5 years.
- Patricia Pringle, Clarendon County Auditor, asked will any of the money go to the school districts.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that County Council will have to make that decision.

- Patricia Pringle asked what would the money be used for .
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that no projects have been identified yet.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 7:08 pm.

8. Ordinance 2021-07 and Fee Agreement

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

9. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-08

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.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-08 is not open. The Public Hearing opened at 7:11 pm.

- Administrator Epperson stated that this is a request from the Planning Commission.
- Ms. Rose stated that this is a rezoning request to rezone property from Single Family Residential (SFR) to Agriculture I (AGI) for a commercial daycare.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments, hearing none he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 7:12 pm

10. Ordinance 2021-08

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

11. Ordinance 2021-09

Administrator Epperson presented Council with 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.

- Mr. George Kosinski, Development Board Director, stated that this is a company that would be investing 2.5 million dollars and bringing 15 fulltime jobs and 20 to 25 parttime jobs to Clarendon County.

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

12. Financial Report

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

- **ARPA Fund** – We have funded 111 sub-recipients – Non-Profit Organization a total of \$1,083,700 from the ARPA Fund.
- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,915,182 and Revenue figures were not available as of September 30, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$3,452 for the month ending September 30, 2021 and total Expenses were \$30,343. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of September 2021 after transfers with a Zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$287,367 for the month ending September 30, 2021 and total Expenses were \$188,557. After Depreciation. Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and USDA Phase II, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending September 30, 2021 with a deficit of \$42,391.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending September 30, 2021, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$2,533,142 of which \$664,499 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 \$1,878,643 as of the end of September 2021.

13. Administrator's Report

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

Water / Sewer

- **Phase II Water Expansion** – this building was recently torn down. Our plans are to potentially use this site to build a storage facility that will house our county maintenance staff and to store county supplies.
- **HWY 260 Sewer Expansion** – Design is ongoing . (ARPA Funds)
- **Generators** – these items have been ordered and are expected to be delivered and installed soon. (ARPA Funds).

Community Health and Safety:

- **Ambulances** – the fully equipped ambulances have been ordered and will be delivered in the upcoming months. (ARPA Fund)
- **Community Paramedic** – The second Community Paramedic has been hired and has hit the ground running. (ARPA Funds)
- **Radios:** 30 additional radios have been purchased for Fire/Rescue. (ARPA Funds). New radios have also been purchased for the Sheriff's Office. (Grant for USDA)

Community Education and Support:

- **Community Grants Program:** Project has ended. It was a resounding success. Over \$1 million was aid out to non-profits within our community for COVID related expenses or programs.

COVID – 19 as of October 8, 2021

Active Cases (last 14 days)	167
Total Deaths:	135

➤ 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

- **C-Fund** – Our plan is to finalize design and start the approval local projects as soon as we can. We anticipate being back before the CTC soon to discuss projects to fund on SCDOT roads.
- **Solid Waste** – We are in the process of implementing suggested changes and updates to our recycling centers and creating informational material to be conveyed to the public in paper and electronic formats. We feel that these changes and information will help educate the public on our Solid Waste System.
- **Clarendon School District 4** – We recently received a letter from the SC Department of Revenue regarding the initial operational millage for CSD4. Under the law that formed the new district, the Department of Revenue was tasked with setting the initial operational millage for CSD4 for the Fiscal Year 2022 will be 182.2 mills.

14. Chairman's Report.

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that the new ambulances that were ordered will be replacing the older ambulances. He ended his report by welcoming the Auditor and Coroner and the other elected officials that were present.

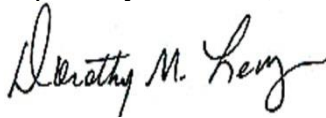
15. Adjourn

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

