



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, September 13, 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	James Williams	Jacqueline Blackwell
Robert Pegram	Charlotte Johnston	David Hilton	Michael A. Johnson
Jacqueline Blackwell	Leroy Todd	Maria Rose	Moses Levy, Jr.
Linda P. Lemon	Tammy Rodvansky	Johnny Wilson	Michael Ragin
Faye Ragin	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 Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for September 13, 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, August 9, 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 one employee with a service award. The award was presented as listed:

- Leroy Todd 5 Years

4. Presentations

- **Mr. Arthur Moyd**, SC Department of Education and DHEC, presented Council with an update on the importance of getting vaccinated with the COVID vaccination. He read an article stated that since March 2020, there were 9,737 deaths in South Carolina due to COVID related symptoms and there were 2,299 confirm cases this pass Friday. Mr. Moyd stated that he is here to promote Clarendon County and to encourage people to get vaccinated. He stated that they will be hosting a vaccination event at Manning High School on Thursday, September 16, 2021 from 3 pm to 6 pm and in Summerton on Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 1pm to 4pm. He stated that he will continue to educate citizens on the importance of getting vaccinated.

Mr. Moyd continued by stating that 49% of the population in South Carolina are fully vaccinated and 46%

of the citizens in Clarendon County are fully vaccinated, 58% of the population in South Carolina had one shot and only 55% of the citizens in Clarendon County had one shot. He stated that he is asking County Council to encourage your constitutions to get vaccinated. We need to get to 70% for herd immunity. There are two more variants, the C1.2 and the MU. People are hesitant to get vaccinated because of the speed of creating the vaccine, but the Polio vaccine was created in a much shorter time than the COVID vaccine. Mr. Moyd concluded his presentation by encouraging everyone to get the booster shot eight months after they were fully vaccinated so that Clarendon County can get to herd immunity.

- Mr. Lebon Joye, Recreation Director, presented Council with an update on Parks and Recreation. He stated that Touch Football had two teams that signed up and Flag Football had three teams to sign up and there are four soccer teams that signed up. Mr. Joye continued by stating that the online registration is working well and Mrs. Epperson is doing a good job with the online registration applications.

Mr. Joye continued by stating that the \$42,000 Parks Grant that Summerton received is being used to fix up the park. He stated that the fencing is being replaced at the Taw Caw Park and the Achieve building has reopened to the public. Mr. Joye concluded his presentation by stating that he attended a banquet and accepted an award for the Best of Clarendon from the Sumter Item as being the best Parks and Recreation for the year 2021.

5. Board Appointments

- On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Ms. Jennifer M. Johnson to the Clarendon County Behavioral Health Services Board representing District 3.
- On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Christopher R. Durant to the Clarendon County Behavioral Health Services Board representing District 3.
- On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint Ms. Mary Jane Howard and Ms. Shanna Morgan to serve another term on the Harvin Clarendon County Library Board representing District 3.

6. Presentation – Mr. Winfred Reese

Mr. Reese, South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy, presented Council with information on the SC Youth Challenge Academy. He stated that the Youth Challenge Academy is a Multi-phased intervention program targeting high school dropouts from ages 15.5 to age 18. Mr. Reese stated that since 1993, the academy had 189,139 graduates which included 37,420 graduates the last 4 fiscal years.

Mr. Reese stated that this program is 75% funded by the Federal Government and 25% funded by State Contributions. He stated that the Academy used military-style discipline and training along with educational instructions, experiential learning, and mentoring. He continued by stating that this program target students that are at high risk of not graduating. He concluded his presentation by stating that all program offered are 100% free to the cadets through scholarships and will be completed in 5 months or less while the cadets live on campus.

Mr. Reese ask Council to put this information on the County website as a resource for the citizens of Clarendon County.

7. Ordinance 2021-06

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-06 – An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2021-2022 County Budget.

8. Resolution – Project Power

Mr. George Kosinski, Economic Development Director, began by stating that Project Power is an existing business which would be investing 12 to 15 million dollars in Clarendon County over a five-year period. He concluded by stating that the Fee-In-Lieu Tax would be reinvested back into Clarendon County.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to a Resolution Providing Preliminary Approval for Certain Incentives to Induce a Company Identified as Project Power, Acting for itself, one or More Current or Future Affiliated and Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, “Company”) to Establish Certain Facilities in Clarendon County, South Carolina (“County”), Including (1) Negotiated Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorem Tax Arrangement; and (2) Other Related Matters.

9. Ordinance 2021-07 and Fee Agreement

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

10. Ordinance 2021-08

Administrator Epperson presented Council with 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.

Administrator Epperson stated that this is a recommendation from the Planning Commission. This parcel consists of 2.4 acres and the owner wants the property rezone so she can put a day care on the property.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council Voted Unanimous Approval to the First 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. Resolution – S-401

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution S-401, which was sent by the South Carolina Association of Counties, which supports Senate Bill 401. The bill will increase the millage cap for a two-year period.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to a Resolution to Express Clarendon County Council’s Request that the General Assembly Allow Counties to Increase the Millage Cap Set by Section 6-1-320 of the S.C. Code of Laws in the Limited Manner Set Out in Senate Bill 401.

12. Resolution – User Fee Resolution

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a User Fee Resolution that Express Clarendon County Council’s Request that the S.C. General Assembly take necessary actions to continue to allow Local Governments to Collect User Fees that fund Critical needs such as Public Safety and Infrastructure. He said this Resolution changes the language to Greater Than.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council Voted Unanimous Approval to the User Fee Resolution which Express Clarendon County Council’s Request that the S.C. General Assembly take the necessary Actions to Continue to Allow Local Governments to Collect User Fees that Fund Critical Needs Such as Public Safety and Infrastructure.

13. Financial Report

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

- **ARPA Fund** – We have received 102 applications over a two-month period. We had 5 Meetings and have approved \$726,420.16 to 73 applicants with 18 applications waiting to be reviewed and \$123,579.84 remaining out of the \$850,000 allocation for the ARPA Fund. The problem is very popular with the public.
 - Administrator Epperson stated that we will exceed the \$850,000 allocation and we need to set a hard deadline. He requested that Council set today, September 13, 2021 as the hard deadline.
 - Vice Chairman Frierson stated that this would not give enough notice to our constitutions, and we want to give them proper notice to get their applications submitted.
 - Administrator Epperson stated that if council wants to extend the deadline date, we just need to set a cut off date.
 - Administrator Epperson stated that our cut-off date was August 31, 2021 but we have received applications since that date that have already been approved.
 - Councilman Richardson stated that we should extend the cut-off date for another week.
 - Administrator Epperson stated that he would suggest extending the cut-off date to close of business on Monday, September 20, 2021 by 5 pm.
 - Mr. Anthony stated that if we continue to receive applications through September 20, 2021, we will not have enough funds to cover the approved applications.
 - Councilman Blakely stated that if applications come in after the money runs out, then we should hold those applications and if other funds become available, the applications that we are holding should be the first ones to get the funds.
 - Chairman Stewart asked will we have enough funds to fund the additional approved applications through September 20, 2021.
 - Vice Chairman Frierson stated that with the 6.5 million dollars that the County received for ARPA, we can shift money around if necessary to cover the applications.
 - Administrator Epperson stated that Council would need to authorize additional funds to cover all approved application through the hard dead-line, which is close of business on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5 pm.
 - Administrator Epperson stated that we can move monies around and some of the items on the list will not get funded.

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to extend the deadline for accepting ARPA Fund applications to 5 pm, close of Business, on Monday, September 20, 2021 and to fund all approved applications received prior to close of business on Monday, September 20, 2021.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to extend the deadline on receiving applications for the ARPA Fund to close of business, 5 pm, on Monday, September 20, 2021 and to fund all approved applications received prior to close of business on Monday, September 20, 2021.

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,633,165 and Revenue figures were not available as of August 31, 2021.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$1,600 for the month ending August 31, 2021 and total Expenses were \$19,571. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of August 2021 after transfers with a Zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had some personnel changes and no report is available.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending August 31, 2021, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$2,335,150 of which \$512,718 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 \$1,822,432 as of the end of August 2021.

14. Administrator's Report

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

- **Old Forestry Building** – 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.
- **COVID-19** - As of September 13, 2021
 - Active Cases (last 14 days) 218
 - Total Deaths: 132
- **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 have a list of proposed roads for the CTC committee for review and consideration at the October meeting.
 - **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.
 - **COVID Testing** - Free drive through COVID tests will be given at the Weldon Auditorium parking lot on Mondays through Fridays 10 am until 4 pm. All results will be back in 72 hours.
 - **COVID Booster Shots** – Can be taken at your pharmacy

15. Chairman’s Report.

Chairman Stewart began his report by encouraging everyone to get vaccinated whenever possible and to be safe.

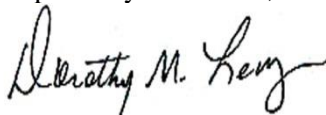
16. Adjourn

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

