



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, June 13, 2022  
6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC**

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**Those in attendance:**

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
Administrator David W. Epperson  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Councilman A.C. English  
Councilman Benton Blakely

**Absent:** Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson

**Press in attendance:** Ashley Miller, The Item

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Jamie Welch	Robert Pegram	Jacqueline Blackwell
Sampson Pearson	Ronnie Rhodes	Rose Yeadon	Bessie Harvin	George E. Frierson, III
Jason Montgomery	Clinton Bethune	Glynn Bethune	Carrie Myers	Angeline Bradley
Sescily R. Cory	Patricia Pringle	Lucille Thomas	Dr. Stephen Cory	Rev. Albert Thomas
Betty Phillips	Linda Lemon	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 June 13, 2022.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting which was held on May 9, 2022.

**3. Service Awards Recognition**

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting, Linda Lemon, HR Director, Chairman Stewart, and Administrator Epperson presented 5 employees with service awards.

- |                   |          |                |          |
|-------------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| • Contrell Watson | 5 Years  | William Stone  | 15 Years |
| • Amanda Lindler  | 5 Years  | Foster Sumpter | 20 Years |
| • David Wells     | 10 Years |                |          |

**4. Board Re-Appointment**

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint Ms. Rachel Gainey to serve another term on the Clarendon County Development Board.

## 5. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC)

Chairman Stewart called the CTC to order. The CTC began at 6:08 pm.

Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator presented Council with three requests for the CTC.

1. A request to authorize the payment of \$500 to SCDOT for the fabrication and installation of dedication signs for Don Drose Causeway.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorization the payment of \$500 to SCDOT for the fabrication and installation of dedication signs for Don Drose Causeway.

2. A request for a concurrent request to award P040305 and P040787 to the low bidder of \$258,583.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorization a request for a concurrent request to award P040305 and P040787 to the lowest bidder

3. A request to approve the construction and paving of Pearson Road in an amount not to exceed \$226,000.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request for the construction and paving of Pearson Road in an amount not to exceed \$226,000.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CTC will now close. The CTC closed on 6:13 pm.

## 6. Presentations

### a. Clarendon Behavioral Health – Ms. Natalie Gray

Ms. Gray began her presentation by stating that Behavioral Health budget is 1.3 million dollars annually with 13 staff members which consists of 3 part-time staff members. She continued by stating that they provide substance abuse treatment for Disorder and with their treatment, they treat the whole person not just the condition. Ms. Gray continued by stating that vaping is a big problem in Clarendon County and its very dangerous. She continued by stating that you can get about 1500 vapes per vape pipe.

Ms. Gray further stated that there are 30 to 35 clients in treatment, and they meet 6 times a week. She further stated that they served 257 clients in 2021. She concluded by stating that their goal is to be the County or the go to person for treatment.

### b. Santee-Wateree - Mr. Ronnie Rhodes, Regional Director

Mr. Rhodes began his presentation by stating that Santee-Wateree partnered with South Carolina State University to raise the standard of living for all individuals. He continued by stating that their mission is to address the needs of Clarendon County. He continued by stating that their target audience are high school students and parents.

Mr. Rhodes further stated that they operate a residential camp that runs from July 17-22 for residents of Clarendon, Lee, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties. All camp participants must be ages 8-16 and there are 25 slots available. He concluded by stating that the camp highlights wildlife education, barrier island exploration, salt marsh studies, birds of prey, character building activities and more.

## 7. Clarendon County Accommodations Tax Fund – “Promotional Fund”

- Ms. Jennie Lee, Executive Director of Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce, began by introducing herself and by giving Council an update on what Tourism does and what the money was spent on.

- Mr. Jesse Surette, Director of Tourism, began by giving Council a detailed outline of the operational budget for Tourism. He continued by requesting \$67,500 from the Tax Accommodation Tax Fund for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

On motion by Councilman Blakley and Seconded by Council Richardson. Council voted Unanimous Approval to authorize funding in the amount of \$67,500 to the Clarendon County Chambers of Commerce for its ongoing tourism promotion program in fiscal year. 2023.

**8. Resolution 2022-02**

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2022-02 a Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of identified space within F.E. Dubose Career Center to Clarendon County School District from Central Carolina Technical College, the Management and Operations of Career and Technical education and Adult Education to Clarendon County School District and Other Matters Related Thereto.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to a Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of identified space within F.E. Dubose Career Center to Clarendon County School District from Central Carolina Technical College, the Management and Operations of Career and Technical education and Adult Education to Clarendon County School District and Other Matters Related Thereto.

**9. Ordinance 2022-05**

Consideration was given to Ordinance 2022-05 – An Ordinance to the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Repeal the 2011-05 Unified Development Code Ordinance, Subsequent Amendment thereto and the 2011 Zoning Classification Map and to Adopt the 2022 Unified Development Code and 2022 Zoning District Classification Map in Conformance with the Requirement of Section 6-29 et.seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina; Providing for Severability and an Effective Date.

Administrator Epperson made a request to Council to table the Second reading of his Ordinance- Ordinance 2022-05 until August which would allow the Planning Commission time to clear up some confusion in the language.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval table the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-05 until the August Council meeting allowing the Planning Commission to clear up some confusion in the language.

**10. Ordinance 2022-07**

On motion by Councilman English, and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2022-07 – an Ordinance to Create and Establish a Special Tax District in Clarendon County, South Carolina, To Be known as Clarendon County Library Services Special Tax District; To Define District’s Area and Boundaries; to Authorize the Annual Levy and Collection of Taxes and the Imposition and Collection of Fees for District’s Operation and Maintenance and Repayment of Any Bonds; To Authorize the Issuance and Delivery of General Obligation Bonds by Clarendon County, South Carolina, or Revenue Bonds Payable from the Imposition of Collection of Fees Related to the District, the Proceeds of Which will be used to Purchase Equipment and Facilities for District; and other related Matters.

**11. Presentation of Proposed FY2022-2023 Budget – Mr. Lynden Anthony**

Mr. Anthony began by thanking the staff of the Finance department, our department managers, elected officials, and members of the public that have assisted in producing the balanced budget before you. The budget that we are submitting for Third Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 4.7% for County operations. He stated that we have reduced General Fund ad valorem taxes by 5.5 mils to fund or “seed” the

Library Special Tax district. At the same time, we have also removed the Library appropriation, essentially making the process revenue and expense neutral. We are continuing to see our collections of LOST revenue increase over what we have received in prior years. In light of this, we are recommending a further increase of \$500,000 to the Local Option Sales Tax credit given back to our taxpayers; the credit would then become \$3.7 million.

We have included a cost-of-living adjustment for our employees of 3% across all operating Funds; as I shared last month, this represents an investment in our staff of \$586,000. Total General Fund revenues and expenses are anticipated to be a little more than \$25 million. In terms of intra-fund transfers, we are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund increase its level of operational support for Weldon to \$90,000; as well as a \$10,000 transfer to the General Fund again this year.

With regards to the Fire Rescue service, the budget submission before you reflect the same 4.7% millage increase, as requested in the General Fund. The Fire Rescue budget is also balanced at \$7.8 million; supported through tax collections within the Emergency Services Special Tax District as well. We would like to include in Third Reading our request that a \$2 million TAN be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. While we do not anticipate the need; it is, nonetheless, part of our annual planning process.

No changes have been made to our Enterprise fund budgets from the last reading; that would be Weldon Auditorium or the Water and Sewer System. We are requesting to borrow an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million in the form of a five-year capital lease, or leases, primarily for the purchase of heavy equipment within our Landfill operations and a new fire engine in Fire Rescue.

For purposes of this Third reading, I would like to “formally” state that we have the following expenses contained within the FY2023 Budget:

General Fund	\$ 25,070,400
General County Debt	1,474,094
FE Debose VoTec	300,000
Fire Rescue	7,764,615
Fire Debt	105,163
Emergency Services	1,883,820
Library	730,500
Admin Complex Debt svc	491,490
Courthouse Debt svc	<u>258,269</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 38,078,351
Water & Sewer (op ex)	\$ 809,435
Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	\$ 133,600

I thank you for the confidence you, and the community, continue to have in our ability to operate effectively and efficiently in times of both “sunshine and rain”.

- Clarendon School District – Dr. Jacqueline Inabinette, Assistant Superintendent, stated that she was standing in for Dr. Shawn Johnson. We are here to share the 2022/2023 school budget. We are excited to work toward the first day of the consolidated school district. She stated that there was a press release from Superintendent Spearman’s office. It touched on Infrastructural funding. They are recommendation from the team that did the study and there has not been any discussion on the recommendation. She concluded by presenting Ms. Cathy Williams, Director of Finance.
- Ms. Williams presented the proposed general fund budget for Clarendon County School District in the amount of \$47,520,604 for Revenue and Expenditures. We know that changes will be made when the House and Senate convenes on June 15, 2022. We are requesting an opportunity to present an amended budget since FE Dubose and Adult Ed will also be a part of the consolidation under Clarendon County School District. I understand that FE Dubose budget will be around \$300,000 and

Adult Ed's budget will be around \$28,000. We do not have any debt service requirements and we are not requesting a TAN for FY2022/2023.

- Councilman English stated that he reviewed the budget and he stated that the Superintendent salary is \$225,000 and he thinks that this is excessive for a district the size of Clarendon County. He asked if a survey was done on the Superintendent salary.
  - Dr. Inabinette stated that they receive the question and she asked that he gives them the opportunity to respond at a later time.
  - Councilman Blakely asked if we should wait to approve the millage.
  - Administrator Epperson stated that there is funding in the budget for Central Carolina Technical College (FE Dubose) and Clarendon County Adult Education and both of them will be under the School District and the numbers will not be finalized until in August. He stated that the millage must be approved by June 30, 2022 in order to adopt the school millage. Administrator Epperson further stated that after the reassessment, the value of the mil will go up.
- Central Carolina Technical College – Ms. Beth Young, began by stating that Central Carolina relies on County funding and 12% of their enrollment is from Clarendon County. She continued by stating that FE Dubose has to replace the HVAC system. She continued by stating that FE Dubose will have a Commercial Driver's License Program, and they offer no cost tuition. She concluded by requesting an increase in funding from \$100,000 to \$480,000 which is needed for the 12% student enrollment from Clarendon County.

## 12. Ordinance 2022-06

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2022-06 – An Ordinance to provide for a Levy of taxes for County purposes of Clarendon County, SC, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023, 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, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023.

## 13. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$22,193,795 and Revenue figures were not available as of May 31, 2022.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$24,754 for the month ending May 2022 and total Expenses were \$184,295. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of May, 2022 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$99,541.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$1,288,433 for the month ending May 31, 2022 and total Expenses were \$751,574. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and USDA Phase II, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending May 31, 2022 with a Net Utility Income of \$701,057.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending May 31, 2022, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$3,475,342 of which \$2,688,663 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 \$786,680 as of the end of May 2022.

## 14. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by thanking Mr. Lynden Anthony and all Department staff for working on the budget. He stated that we will be giving our employees a 3% salary increase in July and the salary study should be back in August.

- **Water and Sewer Projects** – Moving as planned
- **Miscellaneous** -
  - Baseball/Softball seasons have ended
  - Fall Sports will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The park downtown Summerton has started
  - Would like to recognize some teams and individual that won State Champion Ships this year:
    - East Clarendon Golf team won Class A state championship.
    - Clarendon Hall girls' softball team won state championship
    - LMA baseball teams won state championship
    - Delaney Frierson was a state champion for track at Manning High School.

Councilman Blakely stated that the Recreation Department did a great job this year.

## **15. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Stewart began his report by asking County Council did they have any questions or comments. He recognized the National Director for Stop the Violence as well as Representative Kimberly Johnson who were present at meeting.

## **16. Executive Session**

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss to discuss a Personnel Matter in the Planning and Zoning Department.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter in the Planning and Zoning Department. The Executive Session began at 7:39 pm.

## **17. Open Session**

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to come out of the Executive Session and back into Open Session.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 8:01 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council discussed extending and employment agreement until June 30, 2023 and he asked what was the will of Council.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to extend the employment agreement for the Planning and Zoning Department personnel until June 30, 2023.

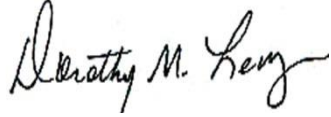
## **18. Adjourn**

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

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

