

**Clarendon County Special Called Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 29, 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  
Councilman Benton Blakely  
Administrator David W. Epperson

Councilman A.C. English  
Councilman A.C. English  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

**Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson**

**Press in attendance:** None

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	David Hilton	James Williams
Ann English	Patricia Pringle	Cathy Williams	Dr. Shawn Johnson
Glynn Bethune	Clinton Bethune	Arthur Moyd	George E. Frierson
And Other Clarendon County Residents			

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and said the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**1. Consideration of a request by Clarendon County School District to approve its operating millage for the 2022-2023 FY Budget**

Chairman Stewart presented Dr. Shawn Johnson, School District Superintendent.

- Dr. Shawn Johnson began by presenting Mrs. Cathy Williams, Finance Director.
- Mrs. Williams began by requesting 4.7% millage cap increase for the school year. She continued by stating that this will bring the total operating millage to 171.7 operating mills and 4.7 mills for FE Dubose.
  - **Councilman English** stated that he still has not received the information he asked for in reference to the proposed salary for the Superintendent and how did they arrive at the figure of \$460,426 which is the 11<sup>th</sup> highest in the State which is too much.
  - **Dr. Johnson** stated that the \$460,426 is the total amount for his office staff that works directly under him and not just the superintendent.
  - **Mr. Arthur Moyd**, Vice Chairman of Clarendon County School Board, stated that the issue was not raised when Dr. Angela Bain was receiving \$216,000 for 1600 students and worked 3 days a week. He stated that it would not be fair to Dr. Johnson for two more days of work, 2800 more students, and 600 more staff to pay him less than what Dr. Bain was getting.
  - **Councilman Blakely** stated that Dr. Bain told him that the Superintendent's salary was too high because she worked as a consultant and the consulting firm received half of what the district paid her as the superintendent, and she paid her expenses out of her half.
  - **Mr. Moyd** stated that Dr. Bain received \$1500 for housing and \$1000 for travel monthly.
  - **Councilman Blakely** stated that our children are our most important products, and we have to do what is best for the children. We need a new Elementary and High School.

- **Administrator Epperson** stated that a millage must be adopted no later than June 30, 2022 and the school district must have a public hearing and the district does not have the authority to adopt a millage themselves, not until 2024.
- **Councilman Blakely** stated that if we pass this millage tonight and you are not having the public hearing until July 14, It's over and done with and you will have everything. He asked Dr. Johnson which job is the part-time job, Pastoring or Superintendent.
- **Dr. Johnson** responded by stating that what he does when he leaves the school is his business.
- Councilman Blakely stated that if we vote on a millage without the proper reading that you can be sued.
- **Administrator Epperson** stated that the school district did what it was required to do with the information that they had, and we have to adopt a millage by June 30, because the school district cannot adopt the millage themselves. If the millage is adopted tonight, you have to have a 15 days-notice for a public hearing and the school district cannot adopt their own millage.
- **Councilman Blakely** asked what will happen if a millage is not adopted before June 30.
- **Administrator Epperson** stated that the school district does not have a budget, so how would they continue to operate. How would they pay salaries and contracts? The district worked as fast as it could, but they had to wait on the Department of Revenue.
- **Chairman Stewart** stated he wants this Council to obey the law which calls for us to pass a millage and we will have to do what we were elected to do by the citizens. We were not elected to chastise the school board for what they did or did not do.
- **Councilman Richardson** stated that some things are out of the school district's control when it comes to school consolidation. The superintendent's salary might be a little excessive, but it's in the range of what Dr. Bain was making so with that I make a motion that we approve the millage of 171.7 operating mills.
- **Chairman Stewart** recognized Senator Kevin Johnson.
- **Senator Johnson** stated that the Legislative Delegation is working very hard for Clarendon County, and we are looking at what can be done to benefit the entire county of Clarendon. He stated that we have gotten the money to build Walker Gamble Elementary School in Turbeville. We have gotten the money to build a library in Turbeville and the Bruce Lee Foundation will donation \$750,000 to help build the library and Mr. Dorn Smith will donate the land to build the library. School consolidation was not an easy task, but we worked hard because that what the people wanted. The appointed school board was appointed to govern the school district and we do not stand over them to tell them what to do. I can't fault the school district for not passing their budget because all school districts across the state have problem passing their budgets. This is new for us, and we will disagree, and we will have stumbling blocks so we should come together and make this happen, but the superintendent package is not that far out of line. We have to come together as a District and make this happen for the students.
- **Councilman Blakely** thanked Senator Johnson for what he is doing for Clarendon County. He stated that the talk around town is that some schools will close.
- **Senator Johnson** said that the plan is not to close any schools, but at the end of the day, it will be based on student's enrollment.

On motion by Councilman Richardson, and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted to approve the millage of 171.7 operating mills for Clarendon County School District. Councilman Blakley abstained.

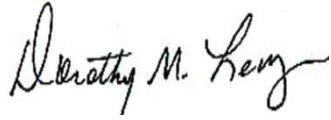
Administrator Epperson stated that the millage for FE Dubose Career Center was included in our General County Budget and that has already been approved.

## 2. Adjourn

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he declared that the Special Called Meeting is Adjourned

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorothy M. Levy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

