

**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, November 14, 2022
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
Deputy Administrator Ted Felder

Vice Chairman W. J. Frierson, Sr.
Councilman A.C. English
Administrator David W. Epperson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Press in attendance: Ashley Miller, The Item

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony
George Frierson
Maria Rose

Terry Streath
Pat Coker
And Other Clarendon County Residents

Mike Streath
Kathleen L. Gibson

Michael A. Johnson, Jr.
Tabitha Hanna

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for November 14, 2022.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting which was held on October 10, 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 seven employees with service awards.

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|-----------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| • Bobby Ray | 5 Years | James Bagnal, II | 5 Years |
| • Zelda Johnson Canty | 5 Years | Joseph Bradshaw | 5 Years |
| • David Hilton | 5 Years | Mary Haselden | 10 Years |
| • Kyle Sargent | 5 Years | | |

Administrator Epperson stated that Ms. Toomes, USDA wants Clarendon County to call her at 6:30 pm, therefore; we will move on down the agenda until that time.

4. Presentation – Ms. Vicki Williams, Grants Administrator

Ms. Williams gave Council an update on the Grants Department and the Airport. She stated that with Grant funding, we were able to provide salaries for the Criminal Domestic Violence Investigator and School Resources Officers and equipment for the Sheriff's Department. She continued by stating that we provided COVID supplies,

bullet proof vests, and video recording equipment for the Detention Center. We were able to supply waste tires and oil for Public Works, EMS supplies, training and equipment for Fire Rescue and new fire truck. Communication, we were able to supply supplies for our emergency shelters. The Town of Paxville will be getting playground equipment and a basketball court with grant funding.

Ms. Williams continued by stating that we will be replacing radios for the Sheriff's Department and a recording system for the Magistrate's Office for a total of \$11,092,877. Ms. Williams concluded her presentation by stating that we did some improvements to the Clarendon County/Santee Cooper Regional Airport and Reconstructing the runway for a total of \$10,460,000. Ms. Williams concluded her presentation by stating that the Airport will be celebrating the 50th anniversary celebration next summer.

5. Resolution 2022-08

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2022-08 – A Resolution Declaring the Results of the 2022 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Referendum; and Providing for Related Matters and he thanked everyone who participated in it.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Resolution 2022-08 –A Resolution Declaring the Results of the 2022 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Referendum: and Providing for Related Matters.

6. Letter of Conditions -Ms. Nickie Toomes, USDA – VIA Phone

Ms. Nickie Toomes, presented County Council with the letter of conditions for the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant. She stated that \$301,000 is for the purchase of a new fire truck and Emergency Service Equipment. \$860,000 is the complete cost with Clarendon County's portion of \$559,000 with the time frame of 3 years to complete this grant.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, County Council gave Unanimous Approval to the Letter of Conditions for the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant that was presented by Ms. Nickie Toomes, USDA.

7. Resolution 2022-09

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2022-09 – A Resolution Declaring the Results of the 2022 Referendum According to South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-9-10 to Determine Whether the County Should Maintain or Change its Present County Council Election Districts and Composition: and Providing for Related Matters.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, County Council gave Unanimous Approval to Resolution 2022-09 - A Resolution Declaring the Results of the 2022 Referendum According to South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-9-10 to Determine Whether the County Should Maintain or Change its Present County Council Election Districts and Composition: and Providing for Related Matters.

8. Public Hearing - Ordinance 2022-08

An Ordinance By Clarendon County Council Authorizing the Acceptance of the Transfer of Authority for Conducting Municipal Elections for the Town of Paxville, South Carolina to the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission to Define the Powers, Duties and Responsibilities Assumed by the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission for the conducting of Municipal Elections in the Town of Paxville; To provide for Reimbursement of all Costs and Expenses Incurred by the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission in the Conducting of Such Municipal Elections; and to Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance would allow the Voters Registration Office to administer elections for the Town of Paxville and charge a fee for these elections.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open for Ordinance 2022-08. The Public Hearing began at 6:28 pm.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments, hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close, The Public Hearing closed at 6:30 pm.

9. Ordinance 2022-08

Consideration was given to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2022-08 – An Ordinance By Clarendon County Council Authorizing the Acceptance of the Transfer of Authority for Conducting Municipal Elections for the Town of Paxville, South Carolina to the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission to Define the Powers, Duties and Responsibilities Assumed by the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission for the conducting of Municipal Elections in the Town of Paxville; To provide for Reimbursement of all Costs and Expenses Incurred by the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission in the Conducting of Such Municipal Elections; and to Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2022-08 - An Ordinance By Clarendon County Council Authorizing the Acceptance of the Transfer of Authority for Conducting Municipal Elections for the Town of Paxville, South Carolina to the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission to Define the Powers, Duties and Responsibilities Assumed by the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission for the conducting of Municipal Elections in the Town of Paxville; To provide for Reimbursement of all Costs and Expenses Incurred by the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Commission in the Conducting of Such Municipal Elections; and to Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto.

10. Public Hearing - Ordinance 2022-09

Ordinance 2022-09 - An Ordinance to Accept, Adopt, and Implement the Classification and Compensation Study of Clarendon County, South Carolina; to Authorize Funding of the Classification and Compensation Study of Clarendon County, South Carolina; and Other Related Matters.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now Open. The Public Hearing opened at 6:31 pm.

Administrator Epperson stated that Clarendon County implemented the Classification and Compensation Study, the current dollar amount and to amend the budget to fund the change if approved. He stated that it has been a while since we did a formal study and we have tried to adjust our salaries. Administrator Epperson stated that some employees were in line and some employees were low or under paid.

- Administrator Epperson stated that the salary schedule for each position will be placed on the County Website.
- Councilman Blakely stated that this should eliminate Clarendon County being the training ground for other counties.
- Administrator Epperson stated that yes, some people will leave and some of them will come back to work for Clarendon County. He stated that this study looks at the position and not the person in that position.
- Vice Chairman Frierson stated that in his nearly 40 years in Human Resources, this is the best study that he has seen.
- Mrs. Terry Streatt asked how are the raises funded.
- Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, stated that we will have to amend the budget and it would cost the General Fund \$565,000. January 1, 2023 would create a deficit and the County has the money to cover it and the Fund Balance does not fall below 10%.

- Mr. Brian Garland – would this be a one-time thing or would we have to increase this every year and would there be an increase in taxes
- Mr. Anthony replied by stating that there would be a 1.2 million dollars added to the General Fund going forward.
- Administrator Epperson stated that no, taxes will not increase to cover the salary increases.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:51 pm.

11. Ordinance 2022-09

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-09 - An Ordinance to Accept, Adopt, and Implement the Classification and Compensation Study of Clarendon County, South Carolina; to Authorize Funding of the Classification and Compensation Study of Clarendon County, South Carolina; and Other Related Matters.

12. Public Hearing - Ordinance 2022-10

Chairman Stewart excused himself and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Frierson which stated that the Public Hearing is now open for Ordinance 2022-10. The Public Hearing opened at 6:53 pm.

Ordinance 2022-10 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County’s Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #122-00-03-017-00; from Agriculture II (AGII) to General Commercial (GC) and Providing an Effective Date. Ms. Tabitha Hanna stated that this parcel of land is 4.5 acres in the Ram Bay area of Highway 301 and this parcel is Agriculture II (AGII) and the owner is asking that the parcel of land is changed to General Commercial (GC) to be used for Mini Warehouses.

- Mr. George Frierson asked where is the location of this parcel
- Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, stated that this parcel is 4.5 acres on Hwy 301 in the Rambay section of Clarendon County.

Vice Chairman Frierson asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:58 pm.

13. Ordinance 2022-10

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-10 - An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County’s Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #122-00-03-017-00; from Agriculture II (AGII) to General Commercial (GC) and Providing an Effective Date.

14. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2022-11

An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Enacted November 8, 2010, Regarding Capital Projects, to Update the Definition of “Projects”; to Provide for the Use of Certain Fees In Lieu of Taxes; and Other Related Matters. He stated that the Ordinance will amend the Original Revenue Bond Ordinance to purchase the Administration Building and to Renovate the County Courthouse.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-11 is now open. The Public Hearing opened at 7:00 pm.

Administrator Epperson stated that the original Ordinance was to construct the Administration Building and to renovate the County Courthouse to eliminate the mold problem. This Ordinance is to amend the list and add some more projects that are needed to the list.

- E911 – Emergency Faculty- this is a high-volume call for the department with only 4 dispatchers in the facility and we need more. We need living quarters and space for training for office staff.
- A new Fire Station in the Turbeville Area and a substation for the Sheriff’s Office.
- A new Public Works facility. They are using two smaller buildings now. The new facility will be outside of the Town of Manning and will have space to store their equipment, material, and supplies.
- A new Law Enforcement facility for Animal Control.
- A New Maintenance facility with two bay areas.
- Administrator Epperson stated that the total cost is \$15,000,000.
- Chairman Stewart stated that the Fee In Lieu of taxes provided to new businesses provide a 25-year flat tax rate.
- Councilman English asked what is the estimate for Fee In Lieu.
- Administrator Epperson stated that he does not have the exact amount, but it would be around \$2,000,000 over 4 years.
- Citizen – People voted not to do the 1 cent sales tax. You all are trying to circumnavigate the will of the people and it should be investigated. You need to find another way because the people voted no to higher taxes.
- Chairman Stewart asked, what should we drop. Should we drop fire protection or dirt roads. This is a challenge for living in a rural county.
- Mr. George Frierson stated that the improvements are not on the side of the county where he lives. If you live in a part of the county where the property value is less, you pay less and if you live in a part of the county where the property is high, you pay more.
- Citizen – you all are out of touch -talk to your constituents. Did we replace the roof and fix the mold problem at the Weldon.

Chairman asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The public hearing closed at 7:39 pm.

15. Ordinance 2022-11

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted three to one in favor of the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-11 - An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Enacted November 8, 2010, Regarding Capital Projects, to Update the Definition of “Projects”; to Provide for the Use of Certain Fees In Lieu of Taxes; and Other Related Matters. Councilman English voted against Ordinance 2022-11.

16. Resolution 2022-11

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Chairman Stewart, Vice Chairman Frierson, and Councilman voted in favor of and Councilmen English and Blakely voted against Resolution 2022-11 – A Resolution Providing for an Installment Purchase Plan of Finance Relating to Various Capital Projects in the County; and Other Related Matters.

17. Ordinance 2022-12

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Ordinance 2022-12 – An Ordinance Authorizing an Increase in Compensation for Each Member of County Council; and Providing for Related Matters. He stated that this increase will increase each member of council’s salary an additional \$2,000 per annually.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Chairman Stewart, Vice Chairman Frierson, and Councilman Richardson voted in favor of the increase in salary, Councilman English abstained, and Councilman Blakely voted against the increase

18. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,685,917 and Revenue figures were not available as of October 31, 2022.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$5,696 for the month ending October 31, 2022 and total Expenses were \$36,503. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of October, 2022 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$457,032 for the month ending October 31, 2022 and total Expenses were \$247,910. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and USDA Phase II, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending October 31, 2022 with a Net Utility Deficit of \$41,707.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending October 31, 2022, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,001,344 of which \$2,186,825 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 \$3,814,519 as of the end of October 2022.

19. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council an update on the following:

- **Water/Sewer**
 - ✓ We have completed the solicitation process for the Wyboo Wastewater Diversion project and have awarded a contract. We anticipate this project beginning soon.
 - ✓ We are still awaiting a decision on the two (2) RIA/SCIIP Water Project Grants that we recently submitted to the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA). We should hear from these soon.
- **Summerton Park** – Work on the park is very close to completion. Only minor items remain to be finished so a Certificate of Occupancy can be issued.
- **Barrineau Recycling Center** – The septic tank system and attendant building has been installed. The site has also been graded with rock and the concrete pad has been poured for the compactor. It's my understanding that the site is scheduled to be fenced in this week. We hope to have this site open to the public soon.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - ✓ Basketball signups are continuing, and practices should begin around the 1st of December. Games will be played in Summerton, Manning and Turbeville.
 - ✓ I would also like to announce the retirement of our longtime Director of Recreation, Lebron Joye. Mr. Joye has been with Clarendon County for over 20 years and has been in recreation over 40 years. His last day with Clarendon County will be December 31st. I want to thank Lebron for his years of service to Clarendon County and its youth and wish him a happy retirement.
 - ✓ County Offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving.

20. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that he did not have anything to add.

21. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss two Legal Briefings.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss two Legal Briefings. The Executive Session began at 7:59 pm.

22. Open Session

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

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 8:25 pm.

1. Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received information on a Legal Briefing and Contractual Discussion relating to Parks and Recreation Department about leasing property from Santee Cooper. Palmetto Trails wants to utilize the property on the old 301 bridge. They want to add shelters, parking spaces, picnic benches, walking areas, lights, and restroom facilities. They would like to authorize a lease agreement for Clarendon County with Santee Cooper and Palmetto Trails for \$1.00 per year.

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing a lease agreement for Clarendon County with Santee Cooper and Palmetto Trails for \$1.00 per year.

2. Legal Briefing – Resolution 2022-10 – Agreement to Settle

23. Resolution 2022-10

Administrator Epperson stated that the Legal Briefing is the Litigation with Farmers Telephone (FTC), Broadband, and TV services. He stated that this is a loss of Tax Revenue because all Telecommunications will be exempted from taxation. The settlement is an agreement with FTC will continue provide service.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous Approval to the agreement to settle with FTC.

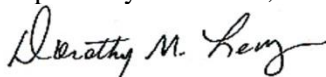
24. Adjourn

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

