



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022
6:00 PM
Clarendon School District Four, Turbeville, SC

Those in attendance:

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

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman Benton Blakely

Absent: Councilman A.C. English

Press in attendance: None

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Patricia Pringle	Jacqueline Blackwell	Robert Pegram
Robert McFadden, Sr.	George Frierson	Mary Cooper	Chars Kennedy	Carrie Myers
Katie McFadden	Marsha Evans	Reggie Dozier	Kathryn Turbeville	Laura Fleming
Connie Gibbons	Michael A. Johnson	Robert Ridgeway	Jason Dennis	Theo Lane

And Other Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilman Blakely 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 March 14, 2022.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council meeting, which was held on February 14, 2022 and the Special Council Meeting, which was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

3. Proclamations

Chairman Stewart and Councilman Blakely presented a Proclamation to Talaysia Cooper, an East Clarendon High School Basketball Standout. The proclamation was received by Talaysia's grandmother, who thanked County Council for what they did, Talaysia was unable to attend the Council meeting.

Chairman Stewart read a proclamation from Governor Henry McMaster declaring the month of March as Procurement Month in South Carolina.

4. Presentations

1. Ms. Tameka Malone, Procurement Director, gave Council an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Procurement Department. She stated that the Procurement Department is trying to be as transparent as possible. She continued by giving Council a list of the items that were purchased through the Procurement Department.

Ms. Malone continued by stating that the Procurement Department was involved in the New Wyboo Fire Station, purchasing laptops for the Correction Department, and working with the Worker's Compensation Audit. She concluded her presentation by stating that her department is working on the new Fire Station for Station #10 in Davis Station.

- Chairman Stewart thanked Ms. Malone and the Procurement Department.
- Councilman Blakely stated that Procurement can make or break an Organization.

2. Mr. Theo Lane, Duke Energy, presented a check to Clarendon County Fire Rescue in the amount of \$10,000. He stated that Duke Energy is very active in South Carolina and would be donating half million dollars in South Carolina for Emergency Personnel for equipment, training, and what ever needs they may have. He continued by stating that Duke donates 30 million per year to Counties in several states.

- Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Lane and Duke Energy for the continuous support to Clarendon County.
- Councilman Blakely also thanked Mr. Lane and Duke Energy.

5. Resolution

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Resolution to appoint the County's Members of the 2022 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Commission. He stated that Clarendon County would like to appoint the following members to the Commission: Mr. Lannes C. "Pro" Prothro, Ms. Kathleen Gibson, and Mr. Allen D. Kirby.

Administrator Epperson continued by stating that the City of Manning will be appointing two members to the Commission and the two appointed members would appoint one member from another Municipality to make up the 2022 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Commission.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution to appoint Mr. Lannes C. "Pro" Prothro, Ms. Kathleen Gibson, and Mr. Allen D. Kirby to the 2022 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Commission.

6. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2022-01

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is open for Ordinance 2022-01 – An Ordinance To Amend the Official Zoning Map for Parcel #s 126-00-00-118-00, 126-00-00-119-00, 126-00-00-120-00, and 126-00-00-121-00; from Single Family Residential (SFR) to General Commercial (GC) And Providing and Effective Date.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open. The Public Hearing open at 6:34 pm.

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance is for a Zone Change from Single Family Residential to General Commercial and he presented Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director to give more details.

Ms. Hanna began by stating that this parcel of land is owned by Mr. Ward, and he is requesting this zoning amendment to the Official Zoning Map from Single Family Residential to General Commercial in order to permit the placement of a commercial child education center on the subject parcel. She concluded by stating that the total parcel area is approximately 4.56 acres and is located at the corner of Winters Hill Road and Highway 261.

Chairman Stewart asked are there any comments. Hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:40 pm.

7. Ordinance 2022-01

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-01 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County’s Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel # 126-00-00-118-00, 126-00-00-119-00, 126-00-00-120-00, 126-00-00-121-0; Rom Single Family Residential (SFR) to General Commercial (GC) and Providing an Effective Date.

8. Ordinance 2022-02

Consideration was given to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-02 – An Ordinance Authorizing a 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. Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance will put a question on the ballot in December for a 4-single member district with a Chairman at Large. Administrator Epperson continued by stating we had a favorable first reading.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-02 – An Ordinance Authorizing a Referendum According to South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-9-10 to Determine Whether the County should maintain or change its present County Election Districts and Composition; and Providing for Related Matters.

9. Ordinance 2022-03

Administrator Epperson stated that Ordinance 2022-03 – An Ordinance To Levy and Impose a One Percent Sales and Use Tax, Subject to a Referendum in Clarendon County Pursuant to the CPST Act, South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-10-300, ET SEQ.; To Define the Specific Purposes and Designate the Projects for which the Proceeds of the Tax May be used; To Provide the Maximum Time for the Imposition and Collection of the Tax; To Provide for a County-Wide Referendum and to Prescribe the Contents of the Ballot Question in the Referendum; To Provide conditions Precedent to the Imposition of the Tax and Conditions or Restrictions on the use of the Tax Revenue; To Establish the Priority in which the Net Proceeds of the Tax are to be Expended for the Purposes and Projects stated; To Provide for the Conduct of the Referendum by the Clarendon County Board of Voter Registration and Elections; To Provide for the Payment of the Tax; To Provide for the Issuance of Bonds, In Exceed the Aggregate of \$[]; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Pledge of Revenues Related to the Bonds; Providing Otherwise for the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for Borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing for the Disposition of Property Related to the Bonds; and to Provide for Related Matters.

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance received a favorable 1st Reading and will place a question on the ballot for a penny sales tax for Capital Projects to be paid over an 8-year period, which would yield 32 to 33 million dollars and we want the voters to decide.

- Vice Chairman Frierson asked what are the major benefits for a penny sales tax.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that the penny sales tax would fund projects for the County and the Municipalities that we are not able to do and it would be paid back by visitors and people traveling through the County.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Ordinance 2022-03 - An Ordinance To Levy and Impose a One Percent Sales and Use Tax, Subject to a Referendum in Clarendon County Pursuant to the CPST Act, South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-10-300,

ET SEQ.; To Define the Specific Purposes and Designate the Projects for which the Proceeds of the Tax May be used; To Provide the Maximum Time for the Imposition and Collection of the Tax; To Provide for a County-Wide Referendum and to Prescribe the Contents of the Ballot Question in the Referendum; To Provide conditions Precedent to the Imposition of the Tax and Conditions or Restrictions on the use of the Tax Revenue; To Establish the Priority in which the Net Proceeds of the Tax are to be Expended for the Purposes and Projects stated; To Provide for the Conduct of the Referendum by the Clarendon County Board of Voter Registration and Elections; To Provide for the Payment of the Tax; To Provide for the Issuance of Bonds, In Exceed the Aggregate of \$[]; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Pledge of Revenues Related to the Bonds; Providing Otherwise for the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for Borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing for the Disposition of Property Related to the Bonds; and to Provide for Related Matters.

10. Ordinance 2022-04

Administrator Epperson stated that Ordinance 2022-04 – An Ordinance Providing Authorization for the County of enter a Lease-Purchase or Other Similar Agreement, and Other Related Matters. He stated that every July the County look at purchasing-leasing vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department. The vehicles area available now at a reasonable price so we would like to go ahead and purchase 6 law enforcement vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department and 1 transport van for the Coroner’s Office.

Administrator Epperson stated that Ordinance will authorize purchasing vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office and a transport van for the Coroner’s Office. He stated that this is normally done in July, but the pricing is good now, so we would like to go ahead and purchase the vehicles now instead of waiting until July.

- Councilman Richardson asked whether the vehicles and van be purchased at the same time.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating yes, but from different vendors.
- Councilman Blakely asked will we be replacing vehicles or adding vehicles.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that we will be replacing older vehicles.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-04 – An Ordinance Providing Authorization for the County to Enter a Lease-Purchase or Other Similar Agreement; And Other Related Matters.

11. Ordinance 2022-05

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Ordinance 2022-05 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Repeal the 2011-05 Unified Development Code Ordinance, Subsequent Amendments 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 Requirements of Sections 6-29 et. Seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina; Providing for Severability and an Effective Date.

- Ms. Maria Rose, Deputy Planning Director, stated that the Comprehensive Plan must be updated every ten years and the Unified Development Code (UDC) is used to enforce the laws. She continued by stating that the items that were added are: An Emergency Placement of RVs and Campers.
- Ms. Rose stated that waterfront mobile homes must be under pinned and replaced every 5 years and the 2nd row mobile homes must be replaced every ten years.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2022-05 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Repeal the 2011-05 Unified Development Code Ordinance, Subsequent Amendments 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 Requirements of Sections 6-29 et. Seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina; Providing for Severability and an Effective Date.

12. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$15,917,379 and Revenue figures were not available as of February 28, 2022.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$10,132 for the month ending February 2022 and total Expenses were \$133,446. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of February 28, 2022 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$63,314.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$880,751 for the month ending February 28, 2022 and total Expenses were \$518,557. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and USDA Phase II, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending February 28, 2022 with a Net Utility Income of \$23,958.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending February 28, 2022, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$3,876,527 of which \$3,195,627 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 \$680,900 as of the end of February 2022.

13. Administrator's Report

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

Water / Sewer

- **Phase II Water Expansion** – Project is moving along. Project completion date has been extended slightly due to an extended delivery time for materials.
- HWY 260 Sewer Expansion – design is nearing completion. Bidding should be started in the upcoming weeks. (ARPA Funds)

Capital

- **Equipment** – County recently ordered a new fire engine for Clarendon County Fire Rescue (CCFR). Once funding has been approved, we will proceed to order the new patrol vehicles in the Sheriff's Office and a transport van for the Coroner's Office. After July 1, We plan to order a new brush truck for CCFR and a compactor for the landfill.
- **Solid Waste** – Our solid waste efforts have been tremendous since this department was established last year. We have been able to update our solid waste centers by installing new signage (hours of operation, what is accepted and where, etc.) improving lighting and making facility repairs. We sat down with Waste Management regarding our site attendants' duties and responsibilities which has improved the recycling center experience for our citizens.
- Also, Our Solid Waste Coordinator, Mary Ava Baker, has been working with various solid waste entities in the state to establish the Community Education/Involvement and Litter Control/Prevention aspects of the County's Solid Waste Program. She has educational programs that she will be introducing to schools and community organizations as well as programs to help address the litter problem we have in our community.

COVID-19 – as of March 11 2022

- Active Cases (from the last 14 days) – 19
- Total Deaths - 157

Public Outreach Efforts

- We continue to push out information regarding the ways the public can protect itself and their families and encourage our 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.
- All county facilities remain open to the public during normal operating hours.

Miscellaneous

Recreation –Baseball/Softball practices have begun, with games scheduled to begin around April 1.

- **County Holiday** – County Offices will be closed in Observance of Good Friday, On April 15, 2022.

Turbeville Fire Station – The County has entered into a contract to purchase real property in the Town of Turbeville for a new County Fire Station. It will be located on HWY 378 right past the Children's Home.

- Mr. Robert McFadden asked what are the application requirements for trash pickup, bags and pick up equipment.
- Administration Epperson replied by stating that the only thing an Entity has to do is to contact the Recycling Coordinator or the Deputy Administrator and we will supply the bags, grabbers, and gloves to that Entity.
- Chairman Stewart – how are we coming along in the process to relocate sites.
- Administrator Epperson replied that we did a comprehensive review of all of our sites and there are a couple of areas that stands out and one of them is Barrineau and has been there for numerous years. We are moving forward with expanding that sight to better serve the people in that area.
- Councilman Blakely – The Barrineau Site has been a problem for many years. The trash is all over the roads in that area we need to get grabbers and bags and pick up trash. If all of us work together, we can clean up the county.
- Citizen – What ever happen to the trash problem that we are paying \$60 for?
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the \$60 Waste Disposal Fee is to offset the high cost of disposing of the solid waste.
- Citizen – I think I was misled on that, and I think a lot of other people were misled as well, now you want us to go and pick up trash, then I want my \$60 back.
- Robert McFadden – I agree with him and most of the trash on the side of the roads are household trash that falls from someone's vehicle, and some people do not wait until they get to the dumpster, they just throw it on the side of the road.
- Citizen – if our law enforcement would make one or two fines, then it will stop.
- Chairman Stewart stated that we are a disposal society, and we dispose of a lot of trash. When we picked up trash for a mile, it looks good for two weeks and people throw trash out again.
- Mr. George Frierson - Do we have a litter control officer and when debris falls off of trucks, who has authority over businesses when their trucks leave debris in our neighborhoods.
- Administrator Epperson – the law requires them to have their loads covered and if debris falls off of the trucks, then it's a law enforcement matter.
- Mr. George Frierson – we have shallow wells and these water systems that people have, will it affect our shallow wells.
- Councilman Richardson stated that he was concerns because of all of the duck ponds and pivot systems in the area that he lives. He called Triple A (Well Drilling Company in Columbia) and was told that the pivot systems are from 800 to 1000 feet deep, and the residential well are up to 100 feet deep and the pivot systems or duck ponds will not affect residential wells.

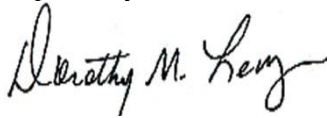
- Coroner Jackie Blackwell – We use to have litter control officers that would oppose a fine when they find a name on trash that were picked up on the side of the road. I would like to make a suggestion, that the litter control officers write tickets to people that litter, I think the littering will slow down tremendously. There is a USA grant that would reimburse a portion of the litter control officer’s salary and we should look into that.
- Administration Epperson stated that there is a tremendous expense for disposing of solid waste. The county picks up the cost of disposing of trash from the Town of Turbeville, the City of Manning, and the Town of Summerton and this is a large expensive process.

14. Adjourn

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he declared the meeting adjourn.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

