

**Clarendon County Special Called Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**  
**9:30 AM**  
**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

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	Jacqueline Blackwell	Johnny Wilson
Robert McFadden, Sr.	George Frierson	Linda Lemon	Willie Briggs
Terrance Tindal	Samson Pearson	And Other Clarendon County Residents	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**1. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC)**

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee is now in session. The CTC began at 9:33 am.

Administrator Epperson stated that the County received a letter from the City of Manning about the road in front of Laurence Manning Academy (LMA) (Old Georgetown Road). He stated that the amount of traffic is causing a problem with picking up and dropping off students and causing a safety issue. He stated that the City is requesting funds for the purposes of an engineering traffic study for intersections improvements at Old Georgetown road and Laurence Manning Academy. Administrator Epperson concluded by stating that the City of Manning is requesting an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the State funding portion of the C-Fund program because this is a state road.

- Councilman Blakely asked is there any funding coming down to fix other roads in the county.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that there would be funding coming down in the budget but our hands may be tied as to what we can use the funding for.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request from the City of Manning for an Engineering Traffic Study for intersections improvements at Old Georgetown road and Laurence Manning Academy.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee will close. The CTC closed at 9:40 am.

**2. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2022-04**

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open for Ordinance 2022-04 – An Ordinance Providing

Authorization for the County to Enter a Lease-Purchase or other Similar Agreement; and Other Related Matters.

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance is needed in order to purchase Vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and a transport vehicle for the Coroner's office in the amount of \$350,000. He stated that we would be purchasing seven cars of the Sheriff's Office and one transport van for the Coroner's Office.

Chairman Stewart stated that the public hearing is now open. The public hearing opened at 9:40 am.

- Mr. Robert McFadden asked what is the stature for notices to the public on public hearing.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that we are in the requirements, we are required to give 14 days notice, and the public hearing notice ran in The Sumter Item on March 4, 2022.
- Mr. Willie Briggs stated that the citizens want to know why is the public hearing held at 9:30 am instead of 6:00 pm when more people can come.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that there is a timeline as to when some decisions have to be made and this is one of those that has a timeline in order to be approved within that timeline.
- Mr. Robert McFadden stated that other counties have a board that list all meetings in the County, why Clarendon County does not have a meeting board, we need one.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments in reference to Ordinance 2022-04. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The public hearing closed at 9:50 am.

### **3. Ordinance 2022-04**

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

### **4. Resolution 2022-01**

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2022-01 – A Resolution to Amend the Clarendon County Employee Guidelines Manual. He stated that this amendment would increase the amount of carry-over hours of employee earned vacation time to Three Hundred Sixty (360) hours per calendar year. He concluded by stating that we need to increase our benefits in order to retain our employees.

Administrator Epperson stated that for class 2 members, your vacation carryover will increase your service credit when you retire.

- Councilman Blakely stated that this would be great for our employees, and it will help keep them in the County.
- Administrator Epperson stated that we are working on a salary study in this year's budget process.
- Councilman Blakely stated that with the price of Gas, we should allow some of our employees to work a 4-day week to help them with gas prices.
- Administrator Epperson stated that we have discussed this, and technology have made it possible to be able to do this. He stated that we are also looking at this with our salary study. Administrator Epperson continued by stating that some positions can be modified and moved to a remote environment, but we will not be able to compete with the private sector with salary, but we can with benefits. He said that working remotely part-time or full-time, all of our employees are doing a good job. He concluded by stating that we will have to determine do we buy computers and pay for internet. Administrator Epperson stated that all security must be in place if we are going to remote working, hybrid, or pilot program.
- Councilman Blakely stated that we should hire within the county
- Administrator Epperson stated that some positions required a license and we may have to go outside the county to get the qualified people that we need.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Resolution 2022-01 – a Resolution to Amend the Clarendon County Employee Guidelines Manual to increase the amount of carry-over hours of employee earned vacation time to Three Hundred Sixty (360) hours per calendar year.

## 7. Requests

1. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to authorize funding from the Hospitality Tax Funds relating to a sponsorship opportunity for the 2022 Clarendon County Stripped Bass Festival in the amount of \$1,000. He stated that the Striped Bass Festival will be held April 29 – April 30, 2022.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson to authorize funding from the Hospitality Tax Funds relating to a sponsorship opportunity for the 2022 Clarendon County Striped Bass Festival in the amount of \$1,000.

2. Ms. Jacqueline Blackwell, Coroner of Clarendon County, began her request by stating that since the deputy coroner resigned; the coroner’s office is being ran by one person. She continued by stating that she needs to staff the Coroner’s office, but the salary is too low to get qualified people. She continued by stating that she needs help right now but can’t find qualified people when they are making more at their current job than Clarendon County is offering. Ms. Blackwell continued by stating that she can not do it all by herself and she cannot wait until July, she needs her office staffed now but the salary is too low.

Ms. Blackwell continued by stating that all of the previous Coroners had a funeral home that was fully staffed, but the Clarendon County Coroner’s Office did not have a staff, it has to be staffed.

- Councilman Richardson asked her has she considered offering the job to Terrance Tindal, a deputy coroner.
- Ms. Blackwell replied by stating that she has spoken to Mr. Tindal, but he has other businesses, and he is doing an outstanding job assisting the Coroner’s office.
- Ms. Blackwell stated that the Coroner’s office needs the following personnel to operate sufficient:
  - Transportation Person
  - Deputy Coroner
  - Records Clerk

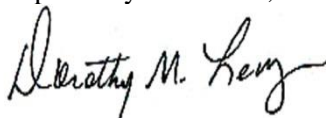
Chairman Stewart stated that Clarendon County appreciates what the Coroner’s office is doing and he thanked Ms. Blackwell.

## 8. Adjourn

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 10:26 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

