

**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022
6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, 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: The Item, Kareem Wilson

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Patricia Pringle	Jacqueline Blackwell	Robert Pegram
Robert McFadden, Sr.	James Bethune, Jr.	George Frierson	Glyn Bethune	Harry Pringle
Connie J. Dennis	Katie R. McFadden	Carrie D. Myers	Larry Johnson, Sr.	Mable Miller
James King	Marsha Evans	Diane Georgia	Mary Cooper	Barbara Ferrell
Johnny Wilson	Robert Bowman	Charlotte Johnston	And Other Clarendon County Residents	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked everyone to keep Councilman English in your prayers. 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 Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for February 14, 2022.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Special Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, January 10, 2022.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, January 18, 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 four employees with service awards.

- Kenneth Canty 5 Years Judge Marcia Frye 10 Years
- Carla Canty 5 Years Cynthia Henry 25 Years

4. Presentation – to Dr. Connie Dennis

Chairman Stewart presented a Proclamation in Recognition of Achievement to Dr. Connie J. Dennis. He thanked her for a job well done.

Councilman Blakely also read a document outlining some of Dr. Dennis’s achievements.

Dr. Dennis thanked everyone for everything that they have done.

5. Board Appointments

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Larry Johnson, Sr., to the Clarendon County Planning Commission to serve a three-year term.

6. Clarendon County Hospitality Fund – Ted Felder

Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator, presented Council with a request to authorize funding in the amount of \$5,000 to the Palmetto Trails Group for improvements to the trail in the Lake Marion Passage through Hickory Top Landing.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request Authoring Funding from the Hospitality Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to the Palmetto Trails Group to improve the trail in the Lake Marion Passage through Hickory Top Landing.

7. Resolution – Project Crossroads

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Resolution to finalize the package for Project Crossroad to include the Property where Project Crossroads would be located.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution to finalize the package for Project Crossroad to include the Property where Project Crossroads would be located.

8. Ordinance 2021-10

Chairman Stewart asked what is the consideration of the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-10.

- Mr. Robert McFadden, Jr. stated that he objected to the Third and Final Reading of this Ordinance. He stated that Council totally disrespected the people of Clarendon County. He stated that all you hear is so move and second and no questions are ever asked.
- Administrator Epperson stated that Council presented the proposed map, and we provided a draft map for your approval. He stated that this Ordinance needs to be approved so that we can forward it on to the Voters Registration Office.
- Mr. McFadden stated that you will be submitting this with 2 Councilmen in District Two, and we asked you to do a seven-member district and you shut it down.
- Administrator Epperson stated that we had the public hearing on this, and everyone understands what we are doing. We had agreements from the Democratic Party, Republican Party, and the NAACP.

On motion by Councilman Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-10 – An Ordinance Providing for the Creation and Establishment of Election Districts for the Election of a Governing Body of Clarendon County as Provided for in South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-9-90 Based on the 2020 Decennial Census.

9. Ordinance 2022-01

Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, presented Council with Ordinance 2022-01 – An Ordinance To Amend the Official Zoning Map for Parcel #s 126-00-00-118-0, 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. She stated that this is a 4.56 acres property, and Mr. Ward, Property Owner, wants to be able to allow the property to be used for a childcare education center.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First 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, 126-00-00-120-0, 126-00-00-121-0; Rom Single Family Residential (SFR) to General Commercial (GC) and Providing an Effective Date.

10. Ordinance 2022-02

Administrator Epperson presented Council with 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. He 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 that the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, and the NAACP all met and agreed on the map. He concluded by stating that the only way to make this change would be with a Referendum.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First 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.

11. Ordinance 2022-03

Administrator Epperson presented Council with 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 will place a question on the ballot for a one cent sales tax for Capital Projects to be paid over an 8-year period and we want the voters to decide.

On motion by Councilman Richardson 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.

12. Resolution

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Resolution to Create the 2022 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Commission: and Providing for Related Matters. He stated that this is a part of the stature and Clarendon County can have total of 3 members, The City of Manning can have 2 members and the Summerton, Turbeville, and Paxville areas can have one member.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution Creating the 2022 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Commission: And Providing for Related Matters.

13. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$13,731,146 and Revenue figures were not available as of January 31, 2022.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$9,129 for the month ending January 2022 and total Expenses were \$122,079. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of January 31, 2022 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$52,950.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$657,001 for the month ending January 31, 2022 and total Expenses were \$416,519. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and USDA Phase II, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending January 31, 2022 with a Net Utility Loss of \$46,679.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending January 31, 2022, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$3,736,263 of which \$2,895,627 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 \$840,636 as of the end of January 2022.

13. Administrator's Report

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

Water / Sewer

- **Phase II Water Expansion** – Work has begun, and pipes are being laid. The project is proceeding as planned.
- HWY 260 Sewer Expansion – design is ongoing . (ARPA Funds)

Capital

- **Fire Rescue** – County is in the process of working to purchase a new fire engine and a brush truck for Clarendon County Fire Rescue.
- **Sheriff's Office** - County is in the process of purchase new patrol vehicles.
- **Landfill** – County is in the process of purchasing a compactor. Based on the lead time needed to place an order for each piece of equipment, we are having to order the equipment earlier than normal.

COVID-19 – as of February 14, 2022

- Active Cases (from the last 14 days) – 166
- Total Deaths - 149

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.
- Masks are not required to be worn in County Facilities by the public but are strongly recommended.
- All county facilities remain open to the public during normal operating hours.

Miscellaneous

Recreation – Basketball games are ending this week. Baseball/Softball registration ends on this Friday (2/19/22). Registration is available online or in-person at the Clarendon County Recreation Department offices in Manning (JC Britton Park) or Turbeville (Smith Field).

- **County Holiday** – County Offices will be closed in Observance of Presidents Day on February 21, 2022

14. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by reminding everyone that County Council will be having a winter retreat in February and the purpose for the retreat is to make some long-term decisions for the County. He concluded his report by stating that County Council have not had a retreat in a long time as we are looking forward to this winter retreat.

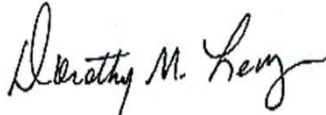
15. Adjourn

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

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Council meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

