



that the Animal Control Ordinance was approved in 2010 and the County has never had any complaints about the Animal Control Ordinance.

- **Chairman Stewart** – asked Administrator Epperson to follow up with that.
- **Mr. Wolf** – stated that he would like to make some recommendation to the Ordinance, he stated that the language should be changed to match DNR language and the language in the Ordinance should be changed in reference to notifying animal owners instead of mailing out notifications in regular mail, he stated that the notifications should be sent first class mail.
  
- **Ms. Chars G. Kennedy** – stated that her concerns were about road signs on Walker Gamble road. She stated that the signs will not stay up for one reason or another. She continued by stating that the sign that was placed on Walker Gamble Road, the letterings are too small. She stated they need signs large enough to read.
  - **Councilman Coker** – stated that the signs that were placed on Walker Gamble road are temporary signs, he continued by stating that the other signs are still on order and as soon as we get them in the temporary signs will be replaced.
  - **Administrator Epperson** stated that this past weekend there was a yard sale and some of the County’s signs were for sale at the yard sale and a Deputy had to go and confiscate the signs.
  
- **Mr. George E. Frierson, III** – stated that the General Assembly is investigating the School District and he asked Council to make sure that the budget benefits everyone in the Educational Arena.
  
- **Mrs. Mary Cooper** – asked about the \$21,000,000 Infrastructural Grant, and will senior citizens still have to pay the \$60 solid waste fee. She continued by asking how much money was generated last year with the solid waste fee.
  - **Administrator Epperson** stated that the Infrastructural Grant has nothing to do with the solid waste fee. He stated that the Infrastructural Grant is a grant for the water project.
  - **Mr. Lyndon Anthony**, CFO, stated that he estimated about \$912,000 was generated last year from solid waste fee and that will not cover the cost of disposing of solid waste.
  - **Mrs. Cooper** asked will the solid waste fee go up.
  - **Administrator Epperson** replied by stating that we are not recommending an increase to the solid waste fee.
  
- **Mr. Jose Calvo** – stated that he sees money going out from the Hospitality Tax Fund and is there any accountability for the people that get assigned that money, any tracking and if there are funds left over, will it be refunded back to the County.
  - **Administrator Epperson** replied by stating that the Organization that requests Hospitality Tax Fund submit a detailed list of what the money will be used for. We do not check to see if they spent the money on what it was requested for, but state law requires that the money can only be spent on certain items, and we feel confident that they used the money for what it was requested for.
  
- Chairman Stewart stated that this is the end of the public comments.

## 5. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC) – Mr. Ted Felder

Chairman Stewart called the Clarendon County Transportation Committee to Order at 6:26 pm.

Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator, began by requesting \$75,000 to purchase road signs for the upcoming fiscal year.

- **Administrator Epperson** stated that the road signs are not cheap, they are very expensive.
- **Vice Chairman Frierson** stated that we should find a way to allow people to purchase the signs instead of stealing them.
- **Mr. Felder** stated that other counties are taking that stance.
- **Vice Chairman Frierson** asked why did we stopped purchasing the materials to make the signs.

- **Administrator Epperson** replied by stating that it is more cost efficient to order the signs than to make them.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request for \$75,000 from the Clarendon County Transportation Committee to purchase Road Signs.

## **6. Presentation of Proposed FY2023-2024 Budget – Mr. Lynden Anthony**

Mr. Anthony began his presentation by thanking Chairman Stewart and the members of County Council. He stated that in the two weeks since our Budget Workshop, you have had an opportunity to review the proposed budget and have asked a lot of questions as to its details. In light of that, I would like to just touch on a few of the highlights and changes resulting from that workshop.

### **General Fund:**

After consulting with you and under your instructions; Administrator Epperson has requested that the following changes be made to the General Fund budget presented this evening:

We have removed the request from the Santee Wateree RTA, reduced the supplemental appropriation to both the Solicitor's office and the office of the Public Defender to a 5% increase over the current year. The requested changes in personnel for the Coroner, the Auditor and the Election Commission offices have been removed. Lastly, an estimated amount associated with out-of-state travel for both the Probate and Treasurer's offices have been deleted.

We have removed two items from Capital purchases: the large format printer for our Engineering department and upgrades to our battery back-up systems within IT.

There have been a couple of increases since the workshop: we have updated our health insurance costs at the departmental level based upon current staffing and coverage. Our equipment and repairs line at the Airport has been increased to reflect required maintenance on our fuel system. And, the current State budget includes verbiage requiring that we increase the salaries paid to Magistrate Judges. After these changes, and modifications to anticipated revenue sources, our current General Fund deficit is \$94,680 and this does not include any increase in General Fund property taxes. As I stated earlier, we are recommending an increase to the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Credit of an additional \$400,000.

The Library fund is balanced, also with no tax increase. Both the Weldon Auditorium and Water System budgets are balanced as well.

Our Fire Rescue fund though is still reflecting a deficit of \$545,560 in a "no tax" increase environment.

This year we have four (4) separate borrowing requests:

- The first is a \$350,000 five (5) year lease to acquire vehicles for our Sheriff department, Detention Center and county-wide administration to close in July.
- A second issuance early spring would be in the amount of \$590,000 to acquire a new fire engine, anticipated to be delivered in March 2024; also, a five (5) year installment.
- Additionally, we are requesting authorization to enter into a financing arrangement for the purchase of radios for our emergency response entities. For budgeting purposes, we have included an amount not to exceed \$800,000 financed over ten (10) years, if possible, to close in February, 2024.
- Lastly, we have the General Obligation issuance associated with the debt service requirements on the Courthouse and 2022 Facilities Corp IPRB projects, to also close in February of 2024.

We are looking at a preliminary General Fund budget that is out of balance by \$94,680, bringing it into balance

will be somewhat problematic. Just as we still have a deficit in our Fire Rescue operating budget to address.

## **7. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-01**

Ordinance 2023-01 – An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, to direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and other Funds for Clarendon County, and to provide for other matters related thereto including the Administrative Accountability procedures to be followed during implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-01 is now open. The Public Hearing Opened at 6:43 pm.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments on Ordinance 2023-01. Hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:44 pm.

## **8. Ordinance 2023-01**

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-01 – An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, to direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and other Funds for Clarendon County, and to provide for other matters related thereto including the Administrative Accountability procedures to be followed during implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024.

## **9. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-02**

**Ordinance 2023-02** - An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2008-09, as Amended by Ordinance 2009-14, and Ordinance 2010-05, to Authorize the County to Enter into an Enterprise Financing Agreement and/or Issue Revenue Bonds, in One or More Series, Taxable or Tax-Exempt, In an Aggregate Amount not to Exceed \$5,000,000 to be Paid from and Secured by a Pledge of an Enterprise Charge and/or Hospitality Fees Collected by the County; Approving the Form and Terms of Certain Documents in Connection with the same; Authorizing the County Administrator to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Financing; Providing for the Payment of the Financing and the Disposition of the Financing's Proceeds; and Providing for other Related Matters

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-02 is now open. The Public Hearing Opened at 6:45 pm.

Administrator Epperson stated that the Weldon Auditorium needs repairs, and it has an estimated cost of almost \$2,000,000. We are proposing that we are allowed to refinance the original Hospitality Bond on the Weldon Auditorium and draw the funds out to pay for the repairs. We are looking to refinance in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 which would cover the cost of paying off the original bond and well as cover the cost of the repairs to the Weldon. This would be a 20-year note with an estimated debt service of \$340,000 per year. Currently, we are averaging about \$410,000 to \$415,000 per year in Hospitality Fees, which would be enough to cover the note as well as other projects as requests by Council.

- Citizen – so we are going from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for the repairs.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that we will have up to \$2,000,000 for the repairs.
- Citizen – are we considering the what ifs. When you start digging, you do not know what you will find.
- Mrs. Terry Streath – Is there a cap on the money spent on repairs.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that we are going by the estimate, and we feel confident that the estimate will cover the cost of the repairs and no, we have not discussed a cap. Yes, there is a possibility of finding something else that needs to be repaired but if there are additional funds needed for the repairs, we will have to come back to Council.

- Mrs. Terry Streath – What would happen to money that are left over after the repairs.
- Mr. Anthony stated that the \$2,000,000 is an estimate and not a dollar amount. The range is around 1.6 to 2 million dollars, and it is not administered at the local lever it is administered by a third-party Bond Trustee. If any money is left over after the project is completed, the remaining money will go to pay off the remaining bond.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-02 will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:58 pm.

## 10. Ordinance 2023-02

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-02 - An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2008-09, as Amended by Ordinance 2009-14, and Ordinance 2010-05, to Authorize the County to Enter into an Enterprise Financing Agreement and/or Issue Revenue Bonds, in One or More Series, Taxable or Tax-Exempt, In an Aggregate Amount not to Exceed \$5,000,000 to be Paid from and Secured by a Pledge of an Enterprise Charge and/or Hospitality Fees Collected by the County; Approving the Form and Terms of Certain Documents in Connection with the same; Authorizing the County Administrator to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Financing; Providing for the Payment of the Financing and the Disposition of the Financing's Proceeds; and Providing for other Related Matters

## 11. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,940,305 and Revenue was not available as of April 30, 2023.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$22,005 for the month ending April 30, 2023 and total Expenses were \$124,220. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of April, 2023 after transfers with a deficit of \$7,215.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$1,128,199 for the month ending April 30, 2023 and total Expenses were \$663,512. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending April 30, 2023 with a Net Utility Income of \$1,443,378.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending April 30, 2023, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,486,543 of which \$1,748,933 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 \$4,737,610 as of the end of April, 2023.

## 12. Administrator's Report

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

- **Water/Sewer:**
  - ✓ Wyboo Wastewater Treatment Plant Diversion Project – Work on the projects continues. Most of the force main is installed from the Deer Creek Pump Station to the connection at Oak Grove Church Rd. Directional Bores and Pump Station work is remaining. Completion is expected by December 2023.
  - ✓ SCIIP (SC Infrastructure Investment Program) – Clarendon County was recently awarded \$10 million for its Phase Five (V) water project. This will include regional water system connections as well as the installation of a new well and tank. The areas covered will be South and West of Davis Station, not already covered by Clarendon County Water System.
- **Facilities:**
  - ✓ Project Clarendon (911/EOC Center, Turbeville Fire Station, Public Works Facility, Fleet Maintenance Facility, and Law Enforcement Annex (animal control): Due diligence work on the Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, and Animal Control Facilities tract is anticipated to begin soon. Site work design and engineering has begun on the E911/EOC and Turbeville Fire Station sites.

- ✓ Turbeville Library – Our architect and site engineer are currently working on the project. We anticipate having detailed site plans and cost estimates this summer so plans can be finalized.
- **Miscellaneous:**
  - ✓ The Recreation Department’s Baseball and Softball games are in full swing after a time off for spring break. Games are played during the week at JC Britton Park in Manning and Smith Field in Turbeville. Please come out and support our teams and our recreation program.
  - ✓ The Recreation Department is currently offering pickleball at the Clarendon Community Center (Gym) behind Weldon Auditorium. It will also be offering volleyball and other activities during the Summer. If anyone is interested in our activities or facility rentals, please contact the Clarendon County Recreation Department for more information.
  - ✓ County Council offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, for Memorial Day.

**13. Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Development Board’s Annual Industry Appreciation Event will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2023. He continued by stating that Council received a letter of thanks from Mayor Tony Junious, the Mayor of the town of Summerton.

**14. Executive Session**

Chairman Stewart stated that he needed a motion to go into Executive Session for a Personnel Issue related to Elected Officials.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session for a Personnel Issue related to Elected Officials.

The Executive Session began at 7:12 pm

**15. Open Session**

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 8:01 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received information in reference to a Personnel Issue related to Elected Officials and no action would be taken.

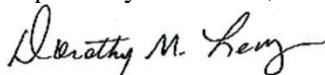
**16. Adjourn**

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

