

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2023
6:00 PM

Clarendon School Board Room, 1177 Atkinson St, Turbeville, SC

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman John P. Coker
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	Ted Felder	George E. Frierson, III	Chars G. Kennedy
Jacqueline Blackwell	Tim Baxley	Julius Adger	Alex Craven
Johnny Wilson	Patricia Pringle	Kay Frierson	Margaret Walker
Maureen Calvo	Terry Streath	Mary Cooper	Meesha Witherspoon
Daisy Witherspoon	And Other Clarendon County Residents		

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for March 13, 2023.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting which was held on February 13, 2023.

3. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

- **Ms. Chars G. Kennedy** – stated that her concerns were about road signs on Walker Gamble road. She stated that she is 82 years old and if there is an emergency, she does not want people having trouble finding her. She also stated that there is a school on Walker Gamble road that service over four hundred people.
 - Councilman Coker – responded by stating that the signs have been ordered and we are waiting for them to come in so that they can be installed.
 - Chairman Stewart – stated that we have lost a lot of signs, people take them.
- **Mr. George E. Frierson, III** – asked about the library in the town of Turbeville, he stated that if taxpayers' money will be used to build the library, then no one person name should be on that building.
- **Ms. Maureen Calvo** – (Ms. Terry Streath handed out a packet to Council) -stated that their concern is about a proposed bill introduced by Senator Kevin Johnson (District 36) and Senator Brad Hutto (District 40) for a toll on I-95 between Clarendon County and Orangeburg County. She stated that there are several questions that have to be answered:
 1. How would funds be generated?
 2. Will the State Department do the work?
 3. What level of burden would this put on the citizens?

4. How would this deter tourism?

Ms. Calvo continued by stating that she reached out to Senator Johnson and have not received a response from him.

- Chairman Stewart stated that some of the questions have already been asked and we will keep monitoring this and this is still in the preliminary stages.
- Administrator Epperson stated we will send this information to Senator Johnson.

Chairman Stewart stated that this is the end of the public comments.

4. Presentation – Ms. Tamika Malone, Procurement Director

Ms. Malone began her presentation by stating that the Procurement Department is fully staffed and busy with training. She continued by stating that Procurement is involved in everything from office supplies to a new ambulance or a new fire truck. Ms. Malone concluded her presentation by stating that Procurement is involved with the new 911 Center and the new Fire Rescue Station as well as a lot of department activities.

5. Requests

- a. Ms. Jenna Windham – began her request by stating that the Puddin Swamp Festival is a tradition and not a festival. She stated that they have grown over the years and the expenses have grown. She concluded her request by requesting \$2500 to assist with the 2023 Puddin Swamp Festival.

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request by Ms. Windham in the amount of \$2500 to assist with the 2023 Puddin Swamp Festival.

- b. Councilman Billy Richardson made a request on behalf of Clarendon County Branch NAACP requesting \$2500 to help with sponsorship to defray the cost of the 2023 Briggs vs Elliott Cultural Annual Festivities which would be held on May 20-21, 2023 in Summerton, South Carolina.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request for the Clarendon County NAACP for \$2500 to help with sponsorship to defray the cost of the 2023 Briggs vs Elliott Cultural Annual Festivities.

- c. Mr. Ted Felder, Deputy Administrator – presented Council with a request to authorize a Weldon Auditorium Study Committee to take a look at the Weldon. He stated that on May 26, 2022, Get Weldon going changed its name to Friends of the Weldon. He continued by stating that Friends of the Weldon is a 501C(3). Mr. Felder continued by stating that there are a wide range of opinions, ranging from leaving things as is or sell it. He stated that we have the gym and a backup 911 unit, so, what do we do. He stated that first the Weldon must be repaired. Mr. Felder stated that we need a group of citizens to study the future of the Weldon. He continued by stating that Mr. Chris Rolland agreed to be the chairperson of the committee. He continued by stating that he will work with the committee as well as a group of people of his choosing.
- Chairman Stewart stated that he and a group of people started the Back Porch Players and its especially important for the community to have that and we need someone to push it and it is far better to have the Weldon than to get rid of it.
 - Councilman English stated that the Weldon is a real asset to the county.
 - Vice Chairman Frierson stated that the study is well over due and we have to have venues that would attract people and it would be a great asset if we have the right people running it. What can we do to make it more inviting for everyone and this should be a part of the direction of the county.
 - Councilman Richardson asked when the committee start.
 - Mr. Felder responded by stating that if Council approves the committee, it can start tonight.

- Councilman Richardson stated that all of the members for the committee must come from all Districts and all Municipalities.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to form a Committee of citizens that represents all Districts and Municipalities to study the future of Weldon Auditorium.

6. Resolution 2023-01

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Resolution Authorizing Compensation Modifications, the Implementation of Classification Schedules (Step Table) and the Amendment of the Clarendon County Employee Guidelines as Related to Elected Officials of Clarendon County, South Carolina.

Administrator Epperson stated that back in January, Sheriff Tim Baxley made a presentation for Council to look into the Elected Officials Salaries and compare those salaries to other Counties. He continued by stating that he would like to recommend a Step Table for Elected Officials.

- Chairman Stewart asked how we would provide that information to the public.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the public would have to request it under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- Vice Chairman Frierson stated that a Step Table is necessary to get good candidates and to keep the county moving forward. He stated that to be an elected official, you only need to be popular to get the majority votes.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Resolution 2023-01 – A Resolution Authorizing Compensation Modifications, the Implementation of Classification Schedules (Step Table) and the Amendment of the Clarendon County Employee Guidelines as Related to Elected Officials of Clarendon County, South Carolina.

7. Agreement

Administrator Epperson presented Council with an request to enter into an Agreement with the Contractor Craig, Gauden, and Davis, Inc., from Greenville, SC to construct the Library in Turbeville. He stated that \$750,000 was awarded by the state and \$750,000 was awarded by the Bruce and Lee Foundation to build a library in Turbeville. Administrator Epperson stated that we will be meeting with the Architect to get drawings, layout, and price. There would be a \$35,000 architectural service. He concluded by requesting permission to move forward with the Drawing and Price of the project.

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to enter into an Agreement with Craig, Gauden, and Davis. Inc., from Greenville, SC to construct the Library in Turbeville.

8. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Revenue of \$1,646,618 and Expenditures of \$1,899,783 as of February 28, 2023.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$11,796 for the month ending February 28, 2023 and total Expenses were \$81,862. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of February, 2023 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$903,212 for the month ending February 28, 2023 and total Expenses were \$539,538. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending February 28, 2023 with a Net Utility Income of \$984,836.

- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending February 28, 2023, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,367,331 of which \$1,935,035 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 \$4,432,296 as of the end of February, 2023.

9. Administrator's Report

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

- **Water/Sewer**
 - ✓ Wyboo Wastewater Diversion Project – Construction is continuing and moving forward as planned.
- **Facilities:**
 - ✓ Project Clarendon (911/EOC Center, Turbeville Fire Station, Public Works Facility, Fleet Maintenance Facility and Law Enforcement Annex (animal control):
 - Solicitations will be going out soon for an Architect (911/EOC) and Design Build Contractor (Turbeville Fire Station). We have identified a location for the Public Works, Fleet Maintenance and Animal Control Facilities and are corresponding with the owners regarding a potential purchase.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - ✓ Baseball and Softball practices have started, and Opening Day is scheduled for April 1, 2023.
 - ✓ County Offices will be closed on April 7, 2023, in observance of Good Friday.
 - ✓ With support from Clarendon County, Farmers Telephone has been able to apply for and accept awards of \$1,167,150.10 in broadband grant funding from the State of SC to install broadband internet service in Clarendon County. This funding has allowed FTC to install 44.043 miles of fiber and pass 454 structures.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that Clarendon County is in the middle of Counties that are growing, and we need to grow as well. He stated that we will continue to monitor the growth and make sure that Clarendon County moves forward as positive as possible.

- Vice Chairman complimented the Sheriff and other members of Law Enforcement on how they handled the situation that occurred on Spigner Road.

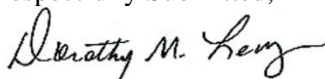
11. Adjourn

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

