



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, April 10, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102**

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**Those in attendance:**

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
Councilman John P. Coker  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W. J. Frierson, Sr.  
Councilman A.C. English  
Administrator David W. Epperson

**Absent:** Deputy Administrator Ted Felder

**Press in attendance:** Ashley Miller, The Item

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	George E. Frierson, III	Chars G. Kennedy	Roger Jowers
Jacqueline Blackwell	Tim Baxley	Robert Pegram	Maggie Robertson
Johnny Wilson	Patricia Pringle	Jake McFadden	Carrie Myers
Maureen Calvo	Angeline Bradley	Mary L. Cooper	Meesha Witherspoon
Jose Calvo	Carly Spivey	Mary Howard	Bea Simon
Clinton Bethume	Glyn Bethume	Peggie J. Sorrell	Edgar R. Donald, Jr.
Sharon Ridgeway	Willie Briggs	Gregory Holliday	John D. Bonaparte
Barbara Ferrell	Rebecca Bryant	Fawn Pedalino	Anne McFadden
And Other Clarendon County Residents			

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm by welcoming all elected officials. Vice Chairman Frierson 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 April 10, 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 March 13, 2023.

**3. Service Awards**

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting Linda Lemon, HR Director, Administrator Epperson, and Chairman Stewart, presented five employees with service awards.

- |                    |          |                |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| • Jeremy Parker    | 5 years  | Shelton Hughes | 25 years |
| • Williams Timmons | 10 years | Robert Felder  | 35 years |
| • Betty Phillips   | 15 years |                |          |

Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for their service.

**4. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)**

- **Mr. George E. Frierson, III** – stated that there is a lot going on in the old Clarendon District Three, we

have a situation going on with our school being relocated and the citizens are opposing it. It looks like our appointed school board wants to do what they want to do. He served for 25 years and never allowed his personal life to interfere with his service and when we have someone in our mist that does not bring honor to the body, then you need to check yourself.

- **Ms. Chars G. Kennedy** – stated that her concerns were about road signs on Walker Gamble road. She stated that she has been requesting road signs for three months and nothing has happened therefore, she is appealing again. Ms. Kennedy continued by stating that other road signs have been replaced but the road sign for Walker Gamble still has not been replaced. She continued by asking Council to please look into the matter.
  - Chairman Stewart – stated that we have lost a lot of signs, people take them for one reason or another.

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

## **5. Proclamation**

Chairman Stewart read the proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimously Approving the Proclamation Declaring the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## **6. Resolution 2023-02**

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2023-02 – A Resolution Declaring April 2023 as Fair Housing Month.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimously Approval Declaring the month of April 2023 as Fair Housing Month.

## **7. Board Appointment**

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Ms. Rhunette Robinson and Ms. Valera Goff to the Harvin Clarendon County Library Board to serve a four-year term representing District 3.

## **8. Department Presentation – Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO**

Mr. Anthony began his presentation by stating that there are five full-time employees in the Finance Department. He stated that the Finance Department handles Payroll, Auditing, Financial Transaction, Quarterly State and Federal Reports, Accounts Payable, Budget Analysis, Preparing the Budget, Analyzing the Budget, Risk Management, Property and Liability management, Manages FEMA Public Assistant Grants, and funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Finance Department administers 22 different funds, 12 Special Revenue Funds, 2 Debt Service Funds, 2 Enterprise Funds, and 5 Custodial Funds. He concluded his presentation by stating that the Finance Department Draft Audit reports and Presents to External Auditors as well as Business Development Corporation Trail Balance.

## **9. Presentation of Proposed FY2023-2023 Budget – Mr. Lynden Anthony**

Mr. Anthony began his presentation by stating that at the request of Council's and under the guidance of Administrator Epperson; we are presenting you with a budget at first reading reflecting zero millage rate growth for the General Fund and Library. The request for no millage growth at First Reading is so that Council can determine the potential tax implications of all requests from department managers, elected officials and agencies. Several of our elected officials will be presenting their requests to you as well. We have incorporated into your

packages the requests from the Sheriff's, Treasurer, Probate and Clerk of Court offices.

The budget before you reflect an across the board 1.6% Step increase in compensation. As a result of both state required health insurance premium increases to employers and increased utilization; we have estimated that our health insurance costs will go up 10.0% effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, we have increased our retirement costs an additional 1% to the state retirement system. We have looked at every departmental line item considered as "discretionary" and reviewed the requests against departmental goals and objectives.

We are continuing to see our collections of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenue increase over what we have received in prior years. We are recommending a further increase of \$400,000 to the Local Option Sales Tax credit given back to our taxpayers; the credit would then become \$4.1 million. This credit actually reduces an individual's property taxes to the County.

At present, we have the following situations at First Reading:

General Fund	Deficit \$174,700
Library	Balanced
Fire Rescue	Deficit \$600,620
Weldon	Balanced
Water System	Surplus \$547,590 (for system expansion)

Historically, we have used the Capital Acquisition Lease as our funding tool for vehicles and other equipment used in our day-to-day operations. Last year we issued this type of debt to meet heavy equipment requirements within our Landfill and Public Works area. This year we have four (4) separate funding requests. The first is a \$350,000 five-year lease to acquire vehicles for our Sheriff's department, Detention center and county-wide administration to close in July.

A second issuance in the 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. We are requesting authorization to enter into a financing arrangement for the purchase of 800 MHz radios for our emergency response entities. We have included an amount not to exceed \$800,000 financed over ten (10) years, if possible, to close in February, 2024. we are continuing to seek various grant opportunities to reduce this need.

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. In two weeks, you have requested a budget workshop so that our proposed budget can be reviewed in more detail.

**Ms. Patricia Pringle**, County Auditor, began her presentation by stating that her budget has increased. She stated that her department needs computer software for boats and motors, and three desktop printers for the front desks. Updated computers for her department. She concluded her presentation by stating that decals are issued every year and changes are made.

**Ms. Jacqueline Blackwell**, Coroner, began her presentation by stating that she is not requesting an increase, but she is asking for a full-time Clerk II position. She stated that someone needs to be in the Coroner's office from 8:30 am to 5 pm every day to assist citizens when they call or stop by.

**Ms. Margaret Sorrell**, Probate Judge, began her presentation by requesting an increase in her budget. She stated that there is a huge increase in the workload for the Probate Office. She continued by stating that the office uses more copy paper, envelopes, and file folders. Judge Sorrell stated that her office needs two more file cabinets and the Probate Judge and Deputy Probate Judge are required to get 18 hours of training yearly, so the training cost will also go up. She concluded by stating that she would like to attend a national conference this year. She stated that the Probate Office serves citizens across the Country not just Clarendon County.

**Ms. Sharmaine Anderson**, Executive Director Voters Registration, began her presentation by stating that Voter's Registration has three full-time employees and she would like to request a title change for one of the employees from Clerk II to Training Coordinator. Ms. Anderson concluded her presentation by

stating that there is an increase of \$7,000 in Office Supplies because they will have six elections this year.

**Mr. Edgar Donald, Jr.**, - Third Circuit Public Defender – began his presentation by stating that there would be a \$3,000 increase in insurance and Clarendon County has the two best Public Defenders in the State of South Carolina and he would like to maintain and retain his office staff. He concluded his presentation by requesting an increase in the appropriation for the Public Defender’s Office from \$125,500 to \$163,500.

## 10. Ordinance 2023-01

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

## 11. Ordinance 2023-02

Administrative Epperson presented Council with 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 \$[] 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. He stated that this Ordinance would allow for financing the repairs on the roof, windows, and drywall for the Weldon Auditorium in an amount from 1.7 to 1.9 million.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First 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 \$[] 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

## 12. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$2,183,313 and Revenue was not available as of March 31, 2023.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$16,320 for the month ending March 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$94,523. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of March, 2023 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$1,017,109 for the month ending March 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$603,273. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending March 31, 2023 with a Net Utility Income of \$1,423,748.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending March 31, 2023, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,494,060 of which \$1,915,467 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 \$4,578,593 as of the end of March, 2023.

### 13. Administrator's Report

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

- **Water/Sewer**
  - ✓ Wyboo Wastewater Treatment Plant Diversion Project – The force main is installed from the Deercreek Pump Station almost to the connection at Oak Grove Church Rd except for directional bores. Pumpstation work if remaining. Completion is expected by December 2023.
- **Facilities:**
  - ✓ Project Clarendon (911/EOC Center, Turbeville Fire Station, Public Works Facility, Fleet Maintenance Facility, and Law Enforcement Annex (animal control): County Procurement is finalizing the Solicitations for the 911/EOC Facility and the 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. We are anticipating due diligence on the tract to begin in the upcoming weeks.
- **Miscellaneous**
  - ✓ Baseball and Softball games started on April 3, 2023 and the first week went well.
  - ✓ All damage that was sustained at JC Britton Park as a result of the high winds on March 26, 2023 is in the process of being repaired. The areas that were damaged have been cleaned up and repaired or sectioned off so games can be played. The lights and fencing that were damaged are scheduled to be repaired in the upcoming weeks.
  - ✓ The recreation department is planning to partner this summer with tennis block to offer tennis/pickle ball lessons and training. If anyone is interested, please contact the Clarendon County Recreation Department.
  - ✓ Clarendon County Recreation Department will host a Pitch, Hit, and Run Competition and Jr. Home Run Derby on May 6, at JC Britton Park.
  - ✓ County Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 25, at 6 pm in the Council Chambers for the purpose of a budget workshop. There will be detailed discussion between Council and Staff regarding the proposed FY 2023/2024 Budget. There will not be a public comment period during the workshop. There will be a public hearing on the proposed FY 2023/2024 Budget Ordinance at the Regular Council Meeting on May 8, 2023.

### 14. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that he did not have anything to add but would like to thank everyone for keeping Clarendon County moving.

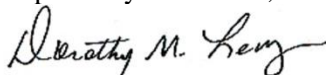
### 15. Adjourn

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 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

