



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023
6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

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, Tyler Fedor, Post and Courier/PeeDee

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	George E. Frierson, III	Jane Powell	Moye Graham
Patricia Pringle	Brad Reynolds	Robbie Giddens	W.M. McGoldrick
Terrey Streath	Mike Streath	Claire Wood	Johnny Wilson
Chris Rowland	Kate Weschler	Michael A. Johnson	Ronnie Rhodes
Mary Jo McCutchen	Ronnie Rhones	Lucian McCutchen	Lindsey G. Hughes
Brandon Hughes	Diane Georgia	Jose Calvo	Maureen Calvo
Patricia Pringle	Jacqueline Blackwell	Robert McFadden	Azalee W. Kinard

And Other Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. 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 the Regular scheduled Council Meeting for August 14, 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 July 10, 2023.

3. Service Awards

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

- Brandon Baxley 10 years Terri Ridgeway 10 years

Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for their service.

4. Proclamation – Ms. Vickie Williams and Judge Amy Land

Ms. Williams began by giving Council some information on the County’s Opioid Recovery Fund Team. South Carolina received settlement funds through the South Carolina Opioid Litigation Proceedings. The team decided on targeting 3 of the core strategies for the funds and we were awarded funds to:

- Increase the distribution of Narcan or other FDA approved drug to those whose insurance did not pay for the medication.
- Provide intensive training to Health Care Providers, First Responders, Law Enforcement, Legal and Court Room staff.

- Provide a full-time treatment and recovery interventionist accessible to the County at large.

Ms. Williams concluded by stating that because the Opioid crisis has had such a debilitating and horrific impact on individuals and families, August 31, 2023 worldwide has been deemed “National Overdose Awareness Day”.

- Judge Amy Land stated that Clarendon Behavioral Health and Ms. Natalie Gray does a great job with Overdose Awareness.
- Chairman Stewart thanked Ms. Williams and Judge Land for bringing the Opioid Crisis to Council’s Attention.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Proclamation proclaiming August 31, 2023 as Overdose Awareness Day in Clarendon County.

5. Presentations

- **SCDOT** – Mr. Brad Reynolds, Project Manager, began his presentation by giving Council an update on the I-95 Bridge Replacement over Lake Marion. He stated that the purpose of the project is to maintain connectivity and a safe interstate facility for the traveling public along I-95 over Lake Marion. Mr. Reynolds stated that the I-95 bridge (over Lake Marion), is deteriorating, it has narrow shoulders, and it requires a long detour, about 60 miles, if there is an accident on the bridge over Lake Marion.

Mr. Reynolds continued by stating that with the replacement of the I-95 bridge, there would be two 12-foot travel lanes in both the southbound and northbound directions. He stated that the bridge deck widths would be large enough to accommodate an additional 12—foot travel lane in the future. The bridge will also contain a separated 14-foot pedestrians and bicyclists’ path on the southbound side only.

Mr. Reynolds continued his presentation by stating that the total construction cost is estimated at \$350 million. He stated that SCDOT is working on Funding for the I-95 bridge replacement and after all the designs work, contract awarded and finalizing the designs, the construction will be from 2026 through 2029.

Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Reynolds for his presentation for SCDOT.

- **Clarendon County Cultural Complex Committee**, Mr. Chris Rowland, Chairman, began his presentation by thanking County Council for giving him and the committee the opportunity to serve on this board. He stated that since the process began, they heard a wide range of opinions from the committee as well as the public about what to do with the complex.

Mr. Rowland continued by stating that these are the suggestions in reference to the Weldon Complex:

- Provide increased resources to the complex, Increase staffing
- Professional Consulting as related to specific projects or technical support.
- Lift County alcohol Ordinance to expand opportunities for event and income
- Form a permanent community based advisory board to assist with grant opportunity
- Partner with local high schools to offer internship (social media, event management)
- Implement an additional full-time position that would collaborate with the advisory board
- Director of Operations to oversee repairs and routine care of complex
 - Prepare and manage technical logistics for shows
 - Maintain records of events (historian)
- Events Coordinator – to develop calendar of events, communicate with stakeholders, track business, budget, and commission.

- Expand stage, replace existing lights with LEDs, Landscaping, and explore eating option (spacing)
- Implement annual maintenance contract for upkeep of building
- Update Rental Price list
- Update concession items
- Avoid free tickets for events hosted by the Weldon
- Track profit and loss
- Consider exploring the following:
 - Food truck Fridays
 - Comedians, Theater, Duos, Magic Show, Speakers, Conventions, Season Passes, Summer movies and concert, Expositions, clinics, workshops, seminars
- Make request to Congressman Jim Clyburn and other local/state representatives, businesses, and organizations for additional funds for repairs.
- Contract a part-time grant writer.

Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Chris Rowland and the Clarendon County Cultural Complex Committee for their recommendations on the Weldon Complex.

6. Requests

- Administrator Epperson presented Council with an Intergovernmental Agreement between Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Clarendon County, Orangeburg County, and South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) regarding public safety response on the Palmetto Trail Highway 301 Pedestrian Bridge. He stated that this request is to bring the bridge up to specification for pedestrian traffic.

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Clarendon County, Orangeburg County, and SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) regarding public safety response on the Palmetto Trail Highway 301 Pedestrian Bridge.

- Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Memorandum of Agreement between the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) and Clarendon County relating to the provision of secure detention services with the SCDJJ Detention Center. He stated that the Clarendon County Detention Center is not set up to housed Juveniles.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Memorandum of Agreement between the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) and Clarendon County relating to the provision of secure detention services with the SCDJJ Detention Center.

- Administrator Epperson presented Council with an Intergovernmental Agreement between Clarendon County, South Carolina, a governmental entity organized and existing under the law of the State of South Carolina, its successors and/or assigns (hereinafter “County”) and The City of Summerton, a municipality of the State of South Carolina, its successors and/or assigns (hereinafter “City”). He stated that this agreement would allow builders to build in Summerton and the County would inspect the building and issue a Certificate of Occupancy.
- On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to an Intergovernmental Agreement between Clarendon County, South Carolina, a governmental entity organized and existing under the law of the State of South Carolina, its successors and/or assigns (hereinafter “County”) and The City of Summerton, a municipality of the State of South Carolina, its successors and/or assigns (hereinafter “City”).

7. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-04

Ordinance 2023-04. An Ordinance to Authorize the Transfer of Real Property, with Improvements, Owned by Clarendon County, South Carolina as identified as Clarendon County Tax Map Parcel Nos.:078-10-03-029-00 and 078-10-03-030-00.

Chairman Stewart stated that the public hearing is now open. The public hearing opened at 6:48 pm.

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance is for the New Park in Summerton that is opened to the public. The citizens are enjoying the park now. Now that the park is constructed, the County has to transfer the property and the maintenance to the Town of Summerton and the park will be renamed after the late Kathy Harvin.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing for Ordinance 2023-04 will close. The public hearing closed at 6:50 pm.

8. Ordinance 2023-04

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-04 - An Ordinance to Authorize the Transfer of Real Property, with Improvements, Owned by Clarendon County, South Carolina as identified as Clarendon County Tax Map Parcel Nos.:078-10-03-029-00 and 078-10-03-030-00.

9. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-05

Ordinance 2023-05 -An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel Nos.; 217-00-00-008-00 and 216-00-05-048-00 from Performance Zone (PZ) to Agriculture II (AGII) and Providing an Effective Date.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open. The public hearing opened at 6:51 pm.

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance is for a Rezoning Request.

Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, stated that Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hughes are requesting a zoning amendment to the Official Zoning map to permit the placement of a Motocross track used for dirt bike riding, coaching, and racing on the parcel. She continued by stating that the parcel area is approximately 30.14 acres located at 1749 Driggers Road, Manning, SC. She concluded by stating that this zoning change will not be in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan.

- Councilman English asked do any of the neighbors oppose.
- Ms. Hanna responded by stating that no, no one opposes.
- Citizen – will the county be held responsible for any accidents.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that this is private property, and the owners will be responsible for any accidents.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:57pm.

10. Ordinance 2023-05

On Motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading to Ordinance 2023-05 - An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel Nos.; 217-00-00-008-00 and 216-00-05-048-00 from Performance Zone (PZ) to Agriculture II (AGII) and Providing an Effective Date.

11. Ordinance 2023-06

Consideration was given to the First reading of Ordinance 2023-06 – An Ordinance Authorizing, Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, The Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and a Company Identified for the time Being as Project Hailstorm, Acting for itself, One or More current or future Affiliates and Other Project Companies (Collectively, “Company”); Providing for a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive; Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; Modifying a Joint County Industrial and Business Park of Clarendon and Sumter Counties so as to Enlarge the Park; Acknowledging an Economic Development Grant; and Other Related Matters.

Mr. George Kosinski, Development Board Director, stated that we have been working on this project for eight months. It will invest \$30,000,000 into the County and create 200 jobs that pays \$25 per hour. Mr. Kosinski continued by stating that the Company’s name will be announced in September.

- Councilman English asked what kind of company it is.
- Mr. Kosinski responded by stating that this is a metal fabrication company.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2023-06 - An Ordinance Authorizing, Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, The Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and a Company Identified for the time Being as Project Hailstorm, Acting for itself, One or More current or future Affiliates and Other Project Companies (Collectively, “Company”); Providing for a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive; Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; Modifying a Joint County Industrial and Business Park of Clarendon and Sumter Counties so as to Enlarge the Park; Acknowledging an Economic Development Grant; and Other Related Matters.

12. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$2,655,408 and Revenue was not available as of July 31, 2023.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$3,150 for the month ending July 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$10,585. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of July, 2023 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$115,753 for the month ending July 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$115,538. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending July 31, 2023 with a Net Utility loss of \$14,677.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending July 31, 2023, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,316,554 of which \$4,888,501 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 \$1,428,053 as of the end of July, 2023.

13. Administrator’s Report

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

✓ **Water and Sewer**

Wyboo Wastewater Treatment Plant Diversion Project – Directional Bores and Line Installation are done. Lines are currently being pressurized. Pumpstation work is continuing. Completion is expected by December 2023. We are excited about the growth potential this will bring to the HWY 260 corridor.

Northshore Sewer Project – As you have heard, the County recently received an appropriation from the State of South Carolina in the amount of \$700,000.00 for the construction of sewer infrastructure for the Northshore economic development project. This infrastructure once built, will be turned over to the Town of Summerton for operation. I would like to thank our

Legislative Delegation for supporting this request and making it happen. I would also like to thank the Town of Summerton for working with the County to provide the needed sewer and water services to make this project happen.

✓ **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 as well as E911/EECO and Turbeville Fire Station sites are nearing completion. Solicitations for Architects are being finalized and should be advertised soon.

Turbeville Library – design work is continuing, and site work should begin soon. We anticipate having detailed site plans and cost estimates near the end of summer/early fall so plans can be finalized.

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

The Recreation Department's Fall Sports Registration is open and will continue until the end of August. Individuals can sign up in person at JC Britton Park in Manning or Smith Field in Turbeville or online. We are anticipating a fun and exciting fall season!

The Recreation Department is continuing to offer pickleball at the Clarendon Community Center (Gym) behind Weldon Auditorium. If anyone is interested in our activities or facility rentals, please contact the Clarendon County Recreation Department for more information.

The County Offices – will be closed on September 4, 2023, for Labor Day.

14. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that he does not have anything to add.

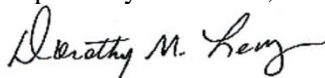
15. Adjourn

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

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC