

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2024
6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman A.C. English
Interim Administrator Lynden Anthony

Vice Chairman W. J. Frierson, Sr.
Councilman John P. Coker
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Anderson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Press in attendance: Ashley Miller, The Item

Others in attendance included:

Kathleen Gibson	Annie Robinson	Elaine Wood	Jay Johnson	Jennifer Johnson
Maureen Calvo	Jose Calvo	Eddie Donald	Russell A. Miller	Tim Harris
Larry Johnson, Jr.	Carly Spivey	Angie Jordan	Yana K. Mathis	Willie Briggs
Chris Harvin	Gregory Holliday	Patricia Pringle	Barbara Miller	Johnny Wilson
Emma Thomas	Jacqueline Blackwell	George Frierson	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 Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Regular scheduled Council Meeting for April 8, 2024.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting, which was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

3. Public Comments

- **Mr. Joe Oliver** stated that 4 Wheelers and Dirt Bikes are always in his neighborhood. He stated that the Sheriff's department is doing a good job. He stated that he needs an Ordinance or something to keep the 4 wheelers and dirt bikes out of the neighborhood. Mr. Oliver continued by stating that there was a drive-by and he would do whatever he could to protect him and his family whether it a gun fight or a shoot-out. He continued by stating that he would go to jail to protect his family.
- Chairman Stewart asked Interim Administrator Anthony to get with Sheriff Baxley to see if there is something that the County can do.

4. Presentation – Ms. Vicki Williams

Ms. Vicki Williams, Grants Administrator, presented Council with a Resolution declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Resolution declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month.

5. Board Appointment

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint Ms. Katherine Coffey to serve another term on the Harvin Clarendon County Library Board.

6. Request

Mr. Lynden Anthony presented Council with a Request from the Summerton Community Action Group in the amount of \$43,059 for the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Landmark Case Brown vs Board of Education.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to donate \$8,500 to the Summerton Community Action Group for the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Landmark Case Brown vs Board of Education.

7. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC) Mr. Lynden Anthony, Interim Administrator

Chairman Stewart stated that the CTC is now open. The CTC began at 6:13 pm.

Interim Administrator Anthony presented the Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC) with a request, requesting authorization for sidewalk repairs in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

- Chairman Stewart asked Interim Administrator Anthony to explain where the money comes from for the CTC.
- Interim Administrator Anthony responded by stating that C Fund money comes from taxes on fuel purchased for vehicles. He stated that 25% can be used to fix state-maintained roads and the other 75% can be used to fix County maintained roads.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for sidewalk repairs.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CTC will now close. The CTC closed at 6:36 pm.

8. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2024-02

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open for Ordinance 2024-02 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #170-00-03-050-00 (PR); From General Commercial (GC) to Residential Multifamily (RMF) and Providing an Effective Date.

The Public Hearing began at 6:16 pm.

Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, stated that Mr. Whitener of Weldon Point is requesting this zoning amendment to the Official Zoning Map to permit the placement of a 48-unit multifamily Apartment on the parcel. She stated that this parcel will have a 48-unit multifamily apartment building that sits on 5.6 acres.

- Councilman Coker asked if any of the neighbors have any complaints.
- Ms. Hanna responded by stating that she has not received any complaints from anyone.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments, hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The public hearing closed at 6:22 pm.

9. Ordinance 2024-02

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-02 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County’s Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #170-00-03-050-00 (PR); From General Commercial (GF) to Residential Multifamily (RMF) and Proving an Effective Date.

10. Presentation of the FY2024-2025 Budget – Mr. Lynden Anthony

Mr. Anthony began his presentation by stating that at Council’s request; 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 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 this evening. We have incorporated into your packages the requests from the Sheriff, Treasurer, Probate and Clerk of Court offices. This first reading of the budget represents a “starting point” that includes all requests, the bulk of which have not been reviewed in detail by Council. This is a working document that will change over the next couple of months as we bring it into balance.

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 11.8% effective January first (it is my understanding that employee premiums will not change). 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 \$100,000 to the Local Option Sales Tax credit given back to our taxpayers; the credit would then become \$4.4 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 \$1,026,340
Library	Balanced
Fire Rescue (2 mil+)	Deficit \$1,120,387
Weldon	Slight \$3,765 deficit
Water System	Deficit \$35,550 (one time closure costs)

Historically, we have used the Capital Acquisition Lease as our funding tool for vehicles and other equipment used in our day-to-day operations. This year we have two (2) separate funding requests, both of which are within the Fire Rescue/EMS categories.

- The first is a \$400,000 five-year lease to acquire a new ambulance to close in January, 2025.

- Second lease purchase issuance in June of 2025 would be in the amount of \$700,000 to acquire a new fire engine/pumper; also, a five (5) year instrument.

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 2025.

In two weeks, you have requested a budget workshop so that our proposed budget can be reviewed in significantly more detail than we have time for this evening: I would like to yield the podium to our elected officials and guests so that they can present their specific requests to you.

Ms. Patricia Pringle, County Auditor, began her presentation by stating that she is not asking for a Budget Increase. She continued by stating that she is asking for a Title Change from Deputy Auditor to Sr. Deputy Auditor and a Salary Increase. She concluded her presentation by giving Council a rundown of the duties to the Auditor's office.

Ms. Jacqueline Blackwell, Coroner, began her presentation by stating that the Deputy Coroner has completed all requirements required by the State for the Coroner's Office and she continued by stating the Coroner's office needs a full-time Receptionist Clerk/Administrative Assistant so that the Coroner's office will have coverage from 8:30 am to 5 pm to answer questions and greet visitors of the Coroner's office. She concluded her presentation by stating that the Coroner's office needs a new refrigerated transport van because the one that they are using is 14 years old.

- Councilman Coker asked Ms. Blackwell, what is the price of the refrigerated transport van.
- Ms. Blackwell responded by stating \$60,000
- Councilman Coker asked what is the mileage on the current van.
- Ms. Blackwell stated that she will email that information to him.

Mr. Matt Evans, Treasurer, began his presentation by stating that his budget has a decrease of \$21,000. He stated that there is an increase in several of line items to include training. He concluded by thanking Council for their support.

Mrs. Christine Harvin, Executive Director Voters Registration, began her presentation by stating that since December, Voter's Registration has two full-time employees and a part-time clerk and this year we will have the biggest elections in June and November. She stated that last year, we trained over 120 poll workers, and we are asking for an additional \$3,000 for poll workers training and an additional \$5,000 for board members training, certifications, and conferences. Mrs. Harvin concluded her presentation by thanking her staff and the members of the Election Board for their support and hard work.

Mr. Edgar Donnal, Jr., - Third Circuit Public Defender – began his presentation by asking for an increase of \$13,000 to cover health insurance and a minimal cost of living adjustment at 3% for salary.

Mr. Chip Finney, Jr., Third Circuit Solicitor – began his presentation by thanking Councilman English for all that he has done for Clarendon County and for welcoming Councilman Coker. He continued by stating that the Solicitor's office has two lawyers and two clerks. He continued by stating that his office needs a full-time investigator with an annual salary of \$35,000 plus benefits for a total package of \$48,000. Mr. Finney concluded his presentation by stating that he is asking for a 7% salary increase for his employees.

11. Ordinance 2024-03

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-03 – An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025, 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, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025.

12. Ordinance 2024-04

Interim Administrator Anthony presented Council with Ordinance 2024-04 – An Ordinance to Authorize the Granting of an Easement Across Property Owned by Clarendon County, South Carolina and Identified as Clarendon County Tax map Parcel Number 187-02-04-020-00. He stated that they want to add a retention pond to the facility and improve the drainage system.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-04 - An Ordinance to Authorize the Granting of an Easement Across Property Owned by Clarendon County, South Carolina and Identified as Clarendon County Tax map Parcel Number 187-02-04-020-00.

13. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$21,967,104 and Revenue was not available as of March 31, 2024.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$34,920 for the month ending March 31, 2024 and total Expenses were \$115,578. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of March, 2024 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$1,071,321 for the month ending March 31, 2024 and total Expenses were \$776,647. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month of March 31, 2024, with a Net Utility Income of \$606,661.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending March 31, 2024, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,642,630 of which \$5,693,214 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 \$949,416 as of the end of March 2024.

14. Administrator's Report

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

✓ **Water System**

Wyboo Wastewater Treatment Plant Diversion Project: Project is 98% complete and we have started flow to Manning Treatment plant.

Facilities:

EOC/Communication Center: Contract has been awarded to the architectural firm of Rosenblum Coe. The contract has been signed and we had our kick-off meeting last week.

Turbeville Fire Station: Contract for design/build services has been awarded to Hawkins and Kolb. We expect work to start within a couple of weeks after the site plan has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal control: We closed on the property and are scheduled to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for design/build services soon.

SCIIP Grant: We have executed our contract for engineering /design services and work has begun designing both the well and storage tank, We will soon contract for the drilling or our associated test well on the site when the permit has been approved by DHEC.

Weldon Auditorium Renovations: No change from last month on Weldon Auditorium renovations: currently expect that design and specifications will be completed and bid packages ready in early May.

Other:

Palmetto Trails Foundation: Work continues on the Lake Marion Trailhead project at the foot of the old SR301 bridge. The fishing pier is complete and looks fantastic.

Turbeville Library: I have been told that we have our commitments for funding and expect to receive hard copies soon.

North Shore Summerton Development Project: Potential sites for the lift station have been identified and we hope to close soon so that engineering design and site work can begin. I am hopeful that we do not have to take more aggressive action in obtaining property for this station.
Law Enforcement Joint Training Facility: We are finishing up developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Manning, Sheriff Department, and the County to build and operate the facility.

✓ **Recreation:**

- Baseball and softball season starts tonight.
- Thursday night pickleball has been a great success so far.
- Our developmental golf program has begun as well with nine (9) youth signed up..

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- We will be hosting a blood drive here in our Administration parking lot this Wednesday, April 10th from 10 am – 3 pm.
- We will be having a Special Called Council Meeting on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 6 pm for a budget workshop. Like last year, we will use this time to go through the budget(s) in more detail, as we get ready for Public hearing and Second Reading in May.

15. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated he did not have anything to add.

16. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the Continuation of the hiring process for County Administrator.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session for the Continuation of the hiring process for County Administrator.

The Executive Session began at 7:24 pm.

17. Open Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session and back into 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 8:06 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council made a decision to hire one of the eight candidates for County Administrator. He stated all of the eight candidates were good and Council have decided to offer the position to one of them. He asked what the will of Council was.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted to offer the position of County Administrator to Interim County Administrator Lynden Anthony. Vice Chairman Frierson, Councilman Richardson and Councilman English voted Yes and Councilman Coker voted No. Therefore, Lynden Anthony was offered the position of County Administrator with a vote of 3 to 1. Chairman Stewart did not have to vote.

18. Adjourn

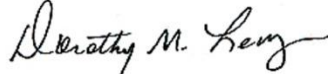
Chairman Stewart stated that we had exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular

Council Meeting.

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC