



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting Monday, April 11, 2016, 6:00 PM Council Chambers

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman, Billy G. Richardson
Councilman Benton Blakely
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman, W.J. Frierson
Councilman, AC English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: Brianna Bradham, The Manning Times

Others in attendance included:

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|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Lynden Anthony | Charlotte Johnston | Jack Howle, Jr | Carly Spivey | Charles H. Jackson |
| King Cutter | Kathy L Geddings | Patricia Pringle | Betsy Watson | Beulah G. Roberts |
| Mary Alice Ipock | Ernest Finney | Joyce Patterson | Gregory Holliday | Donald L. Bethune |
| Tammy Rodvansky | Cynthia Beaufort-Cubit | Shirley L. Black-Oliver | | Lanette Samuels-Cooper |

And other Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

I. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stewart asked for an approval of the agenda.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Council Meeting Agenda for April 11, 2016.

II. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on March 14, 2016 with minor corrections.

III. Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement

Administrator Epperson presented Council with an agreement between the City of Myrtle Beach and the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office. He stated that the terms of the agreement are the same, as the previous agreement and it must be signed every year.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement between the City of Myrtle Beach and the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office.

IV. Board Appointments

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Ms. Sylvia Ivey and Ms. Arlene H. Ham to the Harvin Clarendon County Library Board to serve another 4-year term.

V. Resolution Declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month in Clarendon County

Chairman Stewart presented Council with a Resolution Declaring the Month of April as Fair Housing Month in Clarendon County.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month in Clarendon County.

VI. Road Request

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to accept ownership of various roads within Pine Knoll Subdivision and add those roads to the County Maintenance List.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to accept ownership of various roads within Pine Knoll Subdivision and to add those roads to the County Maintenance List.

VII. Ordinance 2016-01

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2016-01, An ordinance to direct the expenditures of funds as a Supplemental Budget in addition to that budget previously approved for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015 and Ending June 30, 2016.

VIII. Ordinance 2016-02

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his presentation by explaining the budgeting process. He stated that Budgeting is an ongoing and dynamic process that is typically broken down into clear phases:

- County Council, other elected officials and administration estimate available resources, perform an assessment of needs and then set priorities;
- These priorities are then reflected in a budget through an allocation of resources so that expectations are established and certain performance measurements created;
- Council, through these deliberations and in communication with our citizens, approve a budget;
- Elected officials and administration then implement these priorities through service delivery and project development; lastly,
- We monitor our on-going results for any changes or modifications, if needed.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating the following: You will recall that Act 388 has capped the amount of increase allowed in millage rates at the local level. The budget that we are submitting for First Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 0.12% for County operations

- We have built into our budget model a millage increase of “only” 0.12% for General County operations. This amount is a little more than \$12,000. We have seen our actual collections increase over last year and factored this into next year’s budget. Additionally, a small growth factor in assessed values has been used.
- We are recommending that Council approve a Local Option Sales Tax credit of \$2,500,000 to our taxpayers; however, we are only anticipating receiving \$2,400,000 – the difference to come from the LOST Reserve Fund Balance.
- The House approved version of the budget, has elected to keep the State-in-Aid/Local Government Fund flat with no growth for the fourth consecutive year.
- We are requesting a \$20 increase in the annual Road User Fee, to be used (as required by ordinance) for a greatly expanded road repairs and maintenance program.
- we are anticipating revenues of \$20,957,227 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 for General Fund operations; of which, \$100,000 will come from the LOST Reserve Fund Balance.
- Outside of our control was the 37% increase to our health insurance premiums that went into effect January 1, 2016.
- The budget includes a 2% Cost Of Living Allowance for employees.
- We have maintained General Fund support for Weldon Auditorium at \$15,000 in the upcoming FY.
- Total General Fund operational expenditures at this point total \$21,508,656; a decrease of about 4.7% over the current year’s Supplemental Budget. This figure results in a deficit of \$551,429.
- With regards to the Fire service, we have requested a 1-mill increase in the budget in keeping with our long-range plan to bring the average age of our rolling equipment down. This increase will allow the Fire service to acquire necessary equipment annually to reduce the average age of our response fleet considerably over the next 10 years.

- We would also like to request a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note in the event it becomes necessary in the fall for cash flow purposes.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation of the First Reading of the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget by stating that we are looking at a preliminary budget that is out of balance by \$551,429, bringing it into balance would not be easy.

1. **Ms. Patricia Pringle**, Auditor, began by thanking Council for what they have done. She stated that there is a decrease in the Auditor's budget for Office Supplies for this year. She continued by requesting an increase in salary for the Deputy Auditor. Ms. Pringle concluded her presentation by requesting to increase her computer system.
2. **Ms. Beulah Roberts**, Clerk of Court, began by asking Council to increase the amount of stipend paid to Jurors. She continued by requesting that The Scheduling Court is put back under the County Family Court Budget. She concluded her presentation by thanking Council for all that they did to get the Clerk of Court Office back in the Courthouse.
3. **Ms. Lanette Samuels-Cooper**, Secretary to the Coroner, began by informing Council that Coroner Hayes was in the hospital but doing well. She thanked Council for the Coroner's van and she stated that they still need a driver. She continued by stating that the current Morgue is unacceptable. The door does not work and it is embarrassing to take a family to the morgue.

Mr. Charles Jackson, Stated that you couldn't leave a body in the Emergency Room. The freezer Unit is outdated and the bodies have to be transported to the EMS Bay.
4. **Ms. Kathy Geddings**, Probate Judge, began by thanking Council for everything that they have done for the Probate Office. She continued by informing Council that she did not make any changes to her budget.
5. **Sheriff's Office**, Administrator Epperson stated that Sheriff Garrett is requesting four patrol vehicles and a salary increase for some positions.
6. **Treasurer's Office**, Administrator Epperson stated that Mr. Evans is not requesting any changes.
7. **Mr. Gregory Holliday**, Chairman of Clarendon County Voters Registration, and Election Board, stated that the Election Board is requesting a temporary employee to help with absentee voting and the Board is requesting funds to buy lunch for poll workers on election day.
8. **Mr. Chip Finney**, Solicitor, began by stating that this was a good year. He stated that the Solicitor's Office is requesting an increase in this year's budget. Mr. Finney stated that he is requesting a raise for the attorneys and the Office Staff.
9. **Mr. Jack Howle**, Third Circuit Public Defender, stated that his office received one increase of \$15,000 in 8 years. He stated that he would like to have a full-time Public Defender in both counties as well as a part-time Public Defender. He concluded his presentation by thanking Council for providing a facility for his office when the County Courthouse was being renovated. He's requesting \$50,000 increase to provide an additional Public Defender.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the first reading of Ordinance 2016-02, An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017, 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, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017.

IX. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating that the General Fund had Expenditures of \$2,277,769 and Revenue figures were not available for the month of March.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Weldon Auditorium total Revenue for the month of March was \$43,692, and

total Expenses of \$157,499. He stated that after transfers from the General Fund, Accommodation taxes and Hospitality Taxes in the amount of \$113,807, the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of March with a zero balance.

Mr. Anthony further stated that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Revenue of \$533,566 and Operating Expenses of \$313,205 as of March 31, 2016. He stated that after depreciation, transfers, interest income, and Grant Revenue totaling \$262,791, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility income of \$483,154.

Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that the C-Fund Program had a Cash Balance of \$4,230,130 of which \$4,421,967 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds.

X. Administrator's Report

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

- USDA Phase 1B – Project is progressing.
- USDA Phase 1C – Project has resumed after standing water issue in the area.
- USDA Phase II - Currently working toward beginning surveying and acquiring waterline right-of-way.
- Long Term Assistance – The group continuing to meet and identify resources so assistance can be provided to the residents of the tri-county area.
- Work on heavily damaged roads throughout the county is nearing completion by Private Contractors.
- Road Paving –Work has begun on all roads scheduled for paving through the County's portion of C-Funding for 2015/2016.
- Wyboo Fire Station – We are currently working with Santee Cooper on the use of a 3.5-acre parcel on Highway 260 as the location for our new Wyboo Fire Station.
- Althea Gibson Governmental Services Center – the project has been solicited and responses are due within the upcoming weeks.
- Local Government Fund – It appears that the legislature will keep the local government fund at the same amount as last year.
- Morgue – Will contact the Interim CEO at Clarendon Memorial Hospital to check on a room for the Morgue.

XI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he attended the Ceremony for Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 5. He continues by stating that he presented a Proclamation from Clarendon County.

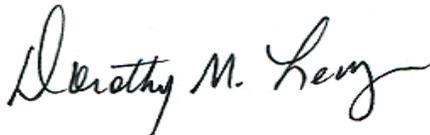
- Mr. Herbert Hilton had concerns about back taxes on property he purchased at the County's tax sale.
- Mr. William Epps had concerns about the penalty, back taxes, and rent on property that he owns.

XII. Adjournment

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

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous approval to adjourn the Council meeting. The Council Meeting ended at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

