



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting Monday, April 10, 2017 - 6:00 PM Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC

Those in attendance:

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

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman Benton Blakely
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: Jim Hilley – The Item, Robert J. Baker – The Manning Times

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Joe Witt	Susie McDowell	Jennifer Powell	Pat Goodwin
Nance Cave	Albert McLeod	Gregory Holliday	Floyd McLeod	Shirley Black-Oliver
Robert McLeod	Marilyn Fletcher	Roy Fletcher	Sue Avin	Marilyn Wilson
Cynthia Henry	Cedric Mallett	Patricia Pringle	Linda Taylor	Tammi Rodvansky
Betty Phillips	Joye Morris	Sharon Ridgeway	Maggie Robinson	E. Finney III
Larry Johnson	Mary Cooper	Linda Lemon	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 Amendment and Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to amend and approve the agenda. He stated that on Item 11 he wants to move Mr. Gregory Holliday to the top of the list for presenting this budget. He stated that the Voters Registration/Election Commission, Mr. Holliday, has another appointment and he needs to leave after his presentation.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to amend the agenda moving Mr. Gregory Holliday to the top of the list to present his budget to County Council and to approve the agenda for April 10, 2017

II. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson 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 13, 2017.

III. Service Awards Recognition

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting, Chairman Stewart, Administrator Epperson, and Linda Lemon, Director of Human Resources, presented seven employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

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|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • Judge Marcia Frye | 5 Years | Cynthia Henry | 20 Years |
| • Judge Elease Fulton | 5 Years | Cedric Mallett | 30 Years |
| • James Gipson | 10 Years | Linda J. Taylor | 31 Years – Retirement |
| • James Braxton | 10 Years | | |

Mrs. Lemon thanked Mrs. Taylor for her years of dedication and service to the Human Resources Department.

Chairman Stewart and Administrator Epperson thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

III. Request to amend Ordinance 2017-01

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to amend Ordinance 2017-01. He stated that the additional work needed came in more than originally stated. Administrator Epperson stated that he is requesting to change the General Obligation Bond from \$650,000 to an amount not to exceed \$750,000.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson to change the General Obligation Bond from \$650,000 to an amount not to exceed \$750,000.

IV. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2017-01

Administrator Epperson stated that the County is in the process of renovating the Althea Gibson Center in which the County purchased for a Department of Social Service Building, a Coroner's Office, and a Probation and Parole Office. He continued by stating that due to unforeseen cost, the amount has changed from \$650,000 to \$750,000.

Chairman Stewart stated that the public hearing for Ordinance 2017-01 is now open. The public hearing began at 6:11 pm.

- Mr. Joe Witt stated that the business is out of order. He asked who is doing the engineering and architectural designs?
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that Turner and Thompson out of Sumter is doing the engineering and architectural designs.
- Mr. Witt – Have we used them before?
- Administrator Epperson – Yes to build our spec building in the Industrial Park.
- Mr. Witt – Why did you not know how much it would cost to renovate before we started the work?
- Chairman Stewart – When you are renovating a building not designed by the County, you run into thing unknown.
- Mr. Witt – that is a fairly new building, you should have known what it would cost to renovate it. I feel that we are not handling other people's money correctly.
- Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Witt for his comments and asked if there were any other comments.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there were no other comments, the Public Hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 6:20 pm.

V. Ordinance 2017-01

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2017-01, an Ordinance authorizing a General Obligation Bond not to exceed \$750,000 to be used to fund one or more Capital Projects, including the Construction of a Department of Social Services Building.

VI. Presentation – Central SC Alliance (CSCA)

Mr. Mike Briggs presented Council with an update for the Central South Carolina Alliance. He stated that the Central SC Alliance is a 501(C)(3). Mr. Briggs continued by stating that Central SC Alliance has recruited over \$12 billion in capital investment and 65,500 new jobs since 1994.

Mr. Briggs continued by stating that Clarendon County joined CSCA in 2004 and since that time, announced \$498,775,000 in Capital Investment and 1,177 new jobs. He further stated that since 2016, Clarendon County has two present announcements: Adger Solar and ProBrass with capital investment of \$240,000,000 and 75 new jobs. Mr. Briggs further stated that currently, Clarendon County has nine active projects, \$1,091,000,000 in capital investment, and 2,992 jobs creation potential.

Mr. Briggs concluded his presentation by stating that in 2010, Clarendon County's unemployment rate was 15.1%, 2015 the rate was 7.8%, and in February 2017, the rate was 6.1%. He further stated that in 2016, CSCA traveled over 150,000 miles and visited eight countries marketing South Carolina.

VII. Presentation of Proposed Budget

Mr. Anthony, Chief Financial Officer, began his presentation by thanking the staff of the Finance department, departmental managers and elected officials that have participated in the budget process thus far.

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;
- 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; and,
- We monitor our on-going results for any changes or modifications, if needed.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating 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 1.7% for County operations, which is a little more than \$168,000 in ad valorem revenue growth. He continued by stating that Council approved a Local Option Sales Tax Credit of \$2,500,000 to our taxpayers. He stated that we are anticipating revenues of \$21,019,135 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 for General Fund operations.

Mr. Anthony further stated that in the last several years, increases in our Health insurance premiums have far outpaced our ability to increase taxes, resulting in reduced service delivery throughout the county. Recently though, we were informed that our average utilization of health services (claims experience) has come down significantly. The state is increasing employer premiums by 2.5% on January 1, 2018; we will actually see a rather large reduction in our employer and employee health insurance premiums because of this reduced claims utilization. Because of the reduced expense to the General Fund, we are able to recommend a 2% cost of living increase for employees effective July 1, 2017.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by stating that we would also like to request a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. While we certainly hope that it will not be needed, we like to have the authorization to act quickly. Additionally, we are requesting to borrow an amount not to exceed \$250,000 again this year in the form of a five-year Capital lease primarily for the purchase and equipping of new patrol vehicles within the sheriff department.

1. **Mr. Gregory Holliday**, Chairman of Clarendon County Voters Registration, and Election Board, thanked Council for providing lunch for poll workers at the last election and he just wanted to remind everyone that every vote matters and every vote counts. He stated that this year, they were able to reduce their training and travel. Mr. Holliday continued by stating that the election board is trying to get better places for voting. He concluded by stating that they are trying to get more churches, (in the same area) to allow them to use their facilities for voting.
2. **Patricia Pringle**, Auditor, began by thanking Council for what they have done. She stated that there is a decrease

in the Auditor's budget of 4.6%. She continued by requesting an increase in salary for the Deputy Auditor and an Imaging Interface to interface with scanners.

3. **Judge Nannette Frye**, Magistrate, stated that the Magistrate's Office needs a recording system for Bond Court, chairs for small courtroom, and a desk. She said that the Magistrate's Office is trying to get a grant to cover some of the cost of the complete recording system. She concluded by stating that the judges are required to go to meeting, training, and a large portion of this expense is paid by the judges. They are not being reimbursed for overnight lodging, traveling back and forth, or meals.
4. **Coroner Hayes Samuels**, began his presentation by thanking Council for moving forward with the morgue. He stated that it is drastically needed. Mr. Samuels stated that the Coroner's Office handled 247 cases last year; 181 natural death, 29 accidental death, 1 homicide, 2 suicides, 1 fetal death, 78 cremation permits were issued and 42 autopsies were performed. He continued by thanking Ms. Beth Wilkes for writing a letter in reference to getting 2-3 drawer coolers for the Coroner office. He continued by thanking Ms. Lanette Cooper for taking it upon herself to attend the Pee Dee Health Meeting in Florence in which we received the information needed in obtaining the coolers. He concluded his presentation for thanking Council for the stipend that the clerk to the Coroner is receiving.
5. **Sheriff's Tim Baxley**, began by stating that this budget year is new to him since he came in the middle of the fiscal year. He stated that the Sheriff's Department has 67 vehicles, 36 of those vehicles have over 150,000 miles and 28 have over 200,000 miles. Sheriff Baxley continued by stating that the Sheriff's Department needs vehicles and he's requesting an increase in his gas allowance, equipment and repairs, radios and equipment, Housing of Juveniles, extradition costs, and membership and dues. He concluded by stating that the sheriff's department needs a surplus to establish a contingency plan in case of an emergency, flood or storm. The Sheriff's Department has to have some place to buy gas when needed.
6. **Treasurer's Office**, Mr. Evans, Treasurer, stated that his office work efficiently with his appropriation but he is requesting an increase of \$2,500 for equipment and repairs.
7. **Mr. Chip Finney**, Solicitor, began by stating that the Solicitor's Office is requesting an increase of \$16,000 in this year's budget. He said that the salary for the attorneys and victim advocate need to be increase. Solicitor Finney stated that the Solicitor's office does not have a vehicles assigned to his office, the employees have to use their personal vehicles. He continued by asking for a new computer system so that they can put old case files on the computer. Solicitor Finney concluded his presentation by asking Council to give him an opportunity to sit with them and discuss the office space in the Court House.

Chairman Stewart stated that County Council will do the very best that they can do in reference to the requests that were made.

VII. ORDINANCE 2017-02 – (TITLE ONLY)

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2017-02, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A LEVY OF TAXES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES OF CLARENDON COUNTY, SC., FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018, 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, 2017, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

VIII. ORDINANCE 2017-03

Administrator Epperson resented Council with Ordinance 2017-03 – An Ordinance to amend parcel 123-00-02-017-00 from General Commercial to Agriculture II. He stated that this parcel is off Hamilton road and is owned by Robert McCloud, during business as Lake Side Pullers, he wants to rezone that parcel for a truck and tractor pull.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous

Approval to the first reading of Ordinance 2017-03 -AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CLARENDON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO AMEND THE COUNTY'S OFFICIAL ZONING MAP DESIGNATION FOR TAX MAP PARCEL 123-00-02-017-00; FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) TO AGRICULTURE II (AGII) AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VI. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating that the General Fund had Expenditures of \$1,454,735 and Revenue figures of \$1,048,236 as of March 31, 2017.

Mr. Anthony further stated that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Revenue of \$566,657 and Operating Expenses of \$384,089 as of March 31, 2017. He stated that after depreciation, Bond interest expense, transfers, interest income, and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility income of \$93,804.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Weldon Auditorium total Revenue for the nine months ending March 31, 2017 was \$40,503, and total Expenses of \$200,583. He stated that after transfers from the General Fund, Hospitality Tax and Accommodations Fund in the amount of \$170,000, the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of March with a net surplus of \$9,920.

Mr. Anthony further stated that the C-Fund Program for the month of March 2017 had a Cash Balance of \$1,612,635 of which \$784,251 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds. He concluded his report by stating that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$828,383 as of the end of March 2017.

VII. Administrator's Report

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

- **USDA Phase II** –right of way acquisition is continuing.
- **DSS - Administration Complex** – Renovations on the existing facility is continuing. Working with the city of Manning's Planning Commission on a couple questions in reference to the facility's site plan.
- **FEMA** – met with FEMA and State EMD last week regarding funding for the 2015 flood, waiting to hear from them.
- **Wyboo Fire Station** – we received approval from Santee Cooper for a gratis lease. We are working with Santee Cooper on the terms of the lease.
- **Recreation** – the new dugouts, picnic shelter, and bathroom renovations have been completed. Thanks go out to the Clarendon County Junior Chambers for providing a grant for the renovation.

VIII. Chairman's Report

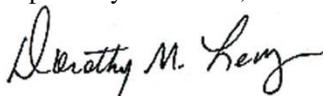
Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he attended a meeting with students at the Weldon Auditorium in reference to Prom. He continued by stating the he would be attending the Central South Carolina Alliance Meeting on April 20th and the Council of Government Finance meeting on April 24th.

IX. Adjournment

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and if there are no objections, we are adjourned.

The Council Meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

