



# Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

## Monday, May 8, 2017 - 6:00 PM

### Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC

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#### 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	Jennifer Powell	Frank J. Kelley	Floyd McLeod
Tammi Rodvansky	Hannah Mikell	Albert McLeod	Robert McLeod	Steve McLeod
Betty Phillips	Mary Wilson	Larry Johnson, Jr.	Norma Reardon	John Tindal
Linda Lemon	Mike Jackson	Connie J. Dennis	Laura Fleming	Eliza Reid
Patricia Pringle	Nathaniel Dyson	And other Clarendon County Residents		

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Councilman Richardson 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.

Administrator Epperson stated that they needed to add an Executive Session to the Agenda to discuss a Contractual Matter within the Recreation Department.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to amend and approve the agenda adding an Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter within the Recreation Department.

#### **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 April 10, 2017 with corrections.

#### **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 two employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

- Lynden Anthony                      15 Years                                      Vita McFadden                      5 Years

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

Chairman Stewart, Administrator Epperson, and Director Shelton Hughes presented Senior Correctional Officer Dashaun Pearson with a plaque of appreciation in recognition of the search that was done, in which he

found a handcuff key on a pre-trial detainee who was charged with murder and armed robbery. Because Officer Pearson found the handcuff key, it prevented an escape or an attempt to escape.

### **III. Board Appointment**

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Ms. Mary Jane Howard to the Harvin Clarendon County Library Board representing District 3.

### **IV. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CCTC)**

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC is now in session. The CCTC meeting began at 6:10 pm.

- A. Administrator Epperson stated that we are requesting an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to purchase additional materials needed to finish some needed projects.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson requesting an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to purchase additional materials needed to finish some needed projects.

- B. Administrator Epperson requested approval to use the remainder of C Funds for lift preservation on several roads estimated at \$185,000. He stated that this is a request from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to repair the following roads: Seminole Drive (.25 Miles), Seneca Circle (.20 Miles), Apache Street (.19 Miles) Cherokee Drive (.29 Miles), Mohawk Drive (.11 Miles), Deberry Drive (.22 Miles), and Catawba (.17 Miles).

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson requesting to use the remainder of C Funds for lift preservation on the several roads listed with an estimated cost of \$185,000.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC would now close. The CCTC closed at 6:14 pm.

### **V. Ordinance 2017-01**

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final 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. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2017-02**

For 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.

Administrator Epperson stated that we had an unbalanced budget as of First Reading, but now we have a balanced budget.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open. The Public Hearing opened at 6:16 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there were no comments, the Public Hearing would close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:17 pm.

**VII. Presentation of Proposed Budget**

Mr. Anthony, Chief Financial Officer, began his presentation by stating that Act 388, passed in 2006, capped the amount of increase allowed in millage rates. He stated that the budget that we are submitting for Second Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 1.7% for County operations.

- We have increased revenues by \$27,000 since first reading; result of an extra month’s worth of actual collections and associated impact to our budget model.
- We have maintained a 2% COLA for employees. We have a balanced budget and a Local Option Sales Tax credit to our taxpayers for \$2.5 million.
- Our intra-fund transfers, we are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund reduce its level of operational support to \$50,000 for Weldon Auditorium.
- Total General Fund operational expenditures total \$21,046,150; an increase of about 1.35% over the current year budget.
- For Fire service, the budget contains the same 1.7% increase as the General Fund. We are requesting that the Fire service utilize \$225,000 in available fund balance to be used toward the design and initial construction of a new Wyboo sub-station. With anticipated expenses of \$3,158,967, the Fire service budget is also in balance.
- We would like to request that a \$2 Million TAN be approved in the event it becomes necessary. We are also requesting to borrow an amount not to exceed \$250,000 again this year in the form of a five-year capital lease for the purchase and equipping of new patrol vehicles within the sheriff’s department.
- We have made no changes to our Enterprise fund budgets from first reading; Weldon Auditorium or the Water and Sewer System.
- Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by stating that for purposes of Second reading, he would like to point out the following level of expenses:

General Fund	\$ 21,046,150
General County Debt	948,083
FE Dubose Vocational Technical College	225,000
Fire Operating	3,158,967
Fire Debt	105,163
Administration Complex Debt service	487,915
Courthouse Debt service	<u>262,050</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 26,233,328
Water & Sewer (operational expenses)	529,692
Weldon Auditorium (operational expenses)	104,495

1. **Ms. Terry Booth**, Interim President of Central Carolina/FE Dubose, began her presentation by stating that there were 578 graduates from Central Carolina in 2017 and 73 of those graduates were from Clarendon County. She continued by stating that there were 176 students with dual enrollments and 86 of those students were Seniors. Ms. Booth concluded her presentation by stating that Central Carolina is requesting \$320,000 for their Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and she thanked Council for what they have done in the past.

Chairman Stewart thanked Ms. Booth for all that she does for Central Carolina and the surrounding Areas.

2. **Dr. Rose Wilder**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 1, began her report by stating that District 1 received two grants, one for Math, and one for Science. She concluded her presentation by stating that Clarendon 1 has six students that would be studying abroad.

**Ms. Renee Jeffcoat**, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 1 has a balanced budget with the use of Fund Balance. She continued by stating that Clarendon 1 is proposing a 2% increase to all

district employees making less than \$50,000. Ms. Jeffcoat concluded her presentation by stating that Clarendon 1 is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note but is requesting a millage increase of 1.64%.

Councilman Richardson thanked Dr. Wilder and her staff for the fine job that they are doing for Clarendon School District 1.

3. **Mr. John Tindal**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District Two, began by stating that Clarendon 2 had seven students that were awarded an Associate Degree from Central Carolina Technical College. He said that District 2 athletic field house is almost complete and they were able to renovate the main office at Manning High School. Mr. Tindal stated that they are proposing moving the Alternative Program from Camp Bob Cooper to Alcolu and change the school's name to "The Monarch Academy at Alcolu". Mr. Tindal concluded his presentation by stating that the entrance to Ramsey Stadium has been moved to make it more assessable to everyone with less congestion. He thanked Council County and the Board for giving them authority to improve District 2.

**Ms. Kathy Williams**, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 2 is requesting an operating millage increase from 131.6 to 134.1 mills based on the millage cap increase of 1.87%. She stated that the salary schedule would remain the same as last year's budget, granting employees a salary schedule step increase. Ms. Williams concluded by stating that District 2 budget is balanced with the help of Fund balance and she stated that District 2 is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note for this budget year.

Councilman English stated that he appreciates all that Clarendon 2 does with county dollars.

Vice Chairman Frierson thanked Mr. Tindal, Ms. Williams, and District Two Board Members for their stewardship with our money and our children.

4. **Dr. Connie Dennis**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 3, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 has continued to embrace change and this is the first year of early college with eleven students attending Central Carolina taking college level courses. She stated that Project Based Learning has been studied and implemented in the elementary grades. Two eighth graders were recognized as Junior Scholars. Gold and silver finalists were recognized in the Special Olympics. Four students were successful on National History Day regional and state competitions and would be participating this summer in the National competition at the University of Maryland. She continued by stating that District 3 athletic department is in the running to receive the highest award that you could receive for a 1A school, the Carlisle Cup Award. Dr. Dennis further stated that there are plans to reinstate a third 4-K class next year to meet the needs of the community. She concluded her presentation by stating that District 3 would keep the same student / teacher ratio as they did last year.

**Ms. Laura Fleming**, Financial Director, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 spent \$26,333 less than budgeted. Ms. Fleming continued by stating that Clarendon 3 faculty and staff would be getting a step increase up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> level. She stated that District 3 is asking for an increase in CPI of 1.79%. This year we are anticipating that we would be able to access some of our local option sales tax money to replace the carpet at Walker Gamble Elementary Kindergarten Hall with tile, roof repairs, purchase AC Units, and replace lights in the Gymnasium at East Clarendon. Ms. Fleming concluded her presentation by stating that District 3 would like to have the option for a Tax Anticipation Note in an amount up to \$600,000 but does not think it would be used. Our Fund Balance is 781,327.62 but we need to get it up to 1.3 million to be where we need to be.

Councilman Blakely thanked Dr. Dennis, Clarendon 3, and the Board. He stated that Clarendon 3 does a wonderful job.

Chairman Stewart thanked all three school districts as well as Central Carolina for the work that they are doing.

## **VII. ORDINANCE 2017-02**

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second 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. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2017-03**

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2017-03- an Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Map Parcel 123-00-02-017-00; from General Commercial (GC) to Agriculture II (AGII) and providing an effective date is now open.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:07 pm

Administrator Epperson stated that this parcel of land is off of Hamilton Road and I-95.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there were no comments, the Public Hearing would close. The Public Hearing closed at 7:08 pm.

#### **IX. ORDINANCE 2017-03**

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2017-03 - an Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Map Parcel 123-00-02-017-00; from General Commercial (GC) to Agriculture II (AGII) and providing an effective date.

#### **X. Financial Report**

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,569,334 and Revenue figures were not available as of April 30, 2017.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had Operating Revenue of \$627,036 and Operating Expenses of \$413,481 as of April 30, 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 \$124,860.
- **Weldon Auditorium** total Revenue for the ten months ending April 30, 2017 was \$35,752, and total Expenses of \$210,956. 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 April with a deficit of \$5,204.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of April 2017 had a Cash Balance of \$1,697,666 of which \$771,961 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 \$925,705 as of the end of April 2017.

#### **XI. 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.
- **FEMA** – County Officials are continuing to work with FEMA and State EMD regarding funding for the 2015 flood.
- **Litter Pick-Up** – We had our annual employee litter-pick up day this past Saturday in Summerton. We picked up trash in the area surrounding the Old Scott's Branch High School. We had the largest participation in a while and we thank all County Staff who coordinated and helped with this event.

- **Road Paving** – In regards to recurring C-Funds, we are currently working with our Engineer on designs and anticipate construction/paving beginning this summer. In regards to non-recurring C-Funds, we are working with our local SCDOT office to determine a list of roads/projects to bring before the CTC for approval.
- Councilman Richardson asked Administrator Epperson, “would the County still be using reconstituted asphalt for roads repair?”
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that after the October 2015 flood, crushed concrete provided better coverage on roads.

## **XII. Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he attended the Bridge Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Highway 301. He concluded by stating that he attended Sparkle of Hope Ball which was held on May 5.

## **XIII. Executive Session**

Chairman Stewart stated that he needed a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter within the Recreation Department.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter within the Recreation Department.

The Executive Session began at 7:20 pm.

## **XIV 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 English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

The Executive Session Ended at 8:03 pm

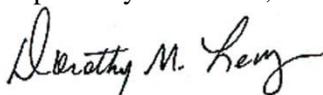
Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received a briefing regarding the Turbeville Recreation Program and no Action would be taken.

## **XV. 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 Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting ended at 8:03 pm.  
Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

