



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 12, 2019
6:00 PM
Clarendon County Council**

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 A.C. English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: The Manning Times, Johnny Weeks

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Sharron Haley	Robert Pegram	Joshua Jordan
Charlotte Johnston	Jennifer Powell	Jason Dennis	Tim Baxley
Tanya Cox	F.B. Jones	Shelley Jones	Mary Howard
Willie Briggs	Joe Witt	Cindy Riser	Tammy Rodvansky
Michael A. Johnson	Patricia Pringle	Terri Ridgeway	Sabrina Mellerson

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.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the agenda for August 12, 2019.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019.

3. Service Awards Recognition

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting, Chairman Stewart, Administrator Epperson, and Terri Ridgeway, Senior Secretary, presented six employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| • Sabrina Mellerson | 5 Years | Tanya Cox | 10 Years |
| • Dashaun Pearson | 5 Years | Mary Sue McDowell | 20 Years |
| • Frank B. Jones | 10 Years | Annett Smith | 25 Years |

4. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CCTC)

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee is now open. The CCTC opened at 6:08 pm.

Administrator Epperson presented the Clarendon County Transportation Committee with a request to purchase road signs, with the names already printed on them to match E-911 list of roads, in an amount not to

exceed \$30,000.

- **Councilman Blakely** - would these signs be for replacements only.
- **Administrator Epperson** - they would be for replacements and new signs
- **Councilman Richardson** - does the County purchase the stop signs at the end of dirt roads.
- **Administrator Epperson** - yes the County purchased stop signs in order to meet DOT standards.
- **Councilman Blakely** - would it be expensive to replace the names on the signs with a street number.
- **Administrator Epperson** - the street names on the signs are for 911 purposes.
- **Vice Chairman Frierson** - we make our own signs, would it be cheaper to order them.
- **Administrator Epperson** - I believes there would be a slight saving and we would be able to utilize the time used for making signs for other purposes.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request presented by Administrator Epperson to purchase road signs in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee would now close. The CCTC closed at 6:16 pm.

5. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2019-05

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance would be to Create and Establish a Special Tax District known as the Clarendon County Emergency Services Special Tax District. He continued by stating that this would move the Emergency Medical Service under the Clarendon County Fire Department which would not go into effect until July 1, 2020.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2019-05 is now open. The Public Hearing opened at 6:23 pm.

- **Willie Briggs** – asked if EMS was already in the budget and would the County have to purchase more EMS vehicles and build facilities and where would they be located.
- **Administrator Epperson** – We will use the existing equipment because EMS has High Tech Equipment which is very expensive and we are looking at some of the facilities that McLeod Health Clarendon has now. He stated that we are not looking at building any new buildings or buying any facilities. He concluded that we are looking at coverage area in order to be able to provide the best service.
- **Willie Briggs** – what part of the county is service lacking in.
- **Administrator Epperson** – We are evaluating that now. We are also evaluating to see what existing equipment we can utilize but we will have to purchase an ambulance this year.
- **Councilman English** – the millage that goes to McLeod now, would it be going to EMS Service.
- **Patricia Pringle, Auditor** - Would EMS have a Special Tax District or would it be under the Fire Department Special Tax District.
- **Administrator Epperson** – EMS would have its own Special Tax District.
- **Patricia Pringle, Auditor**- What happened to the Special Tax District from before.
- **Lyndon Anthony, CFO** – It was changed back in 01/02 under GASB. All line items were consolidated into the General Fund.
- **Administrator Epperson** – with the new Special Tax District, we would have a better response time.
- **Councilman Blakely** – Clarendon County has the best EMS, Fire Fighters, and Police Officers.
- **Visitor** – Will there be any millage increase in the future for citizens.
- **Administrator Epperson** - We hope there would not be a millage increase in the future but the equipment is expensive. If we have to set a millage increase, we will set a millage that the citizens could handle.
- **Councilman Blakely** – the sale of the hospital should be a saving.
- **Administrator Epperson** – the debt was separate, there was a master lease and McLeod paid off the

debt which saved the tax payers. McLeod is also in agreement with the Special Tax District.

- **Willie Briggs** – If we are going to build a new building, please build it on the other side of Summerton on the other side of the County so when someone calls 911 the response time will be faster.
- **Chairman Stewart** – We placed a new fire engine in Summerton so we are trying to expand the coverage area.
- **Administrator Epperson** – with the merger of EMS and the Fire Department, we will cross train all of our employees to do both jobs.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will now close. The Public Hearing Closed at 6:45 pm.

6. Ordinance 2019-05

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-05 – An Ordinance To Create and Establish a Special Tax District in Clarendon County, South Carolina, to be Known as Clarendon County Emergency Services Special Tax District; to Define the District's Area and Boundaries; to Authorize the Annual Levy and Collection of Taxes and the Imposition and Collections of Fees and the District's Operation and Maintenance and Repayment of any Bonds; To Authorize the Issuance and Delivery of General Obligation Bonds by Clarendon County, South Carolina, or Revenue Bonds Payable from the Imposition of Collection of Fees Related to the District, the Proceeds of Which will be used to Purchase Equipment and Facilities for the District; and Other Related Matters.

7. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2019-06

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance will Execute and Deliver a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Tax and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement between Clarendon County and Bonefish Solar, LLC.

- George Kosinski, Development Board Director, stated that the Development Board was working on this project for six months and the location would be announced at a later date.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2019-06 is now open. The Public Hearing opened at 6:48 pm.

- **Patricia Pringle, Auditor-** asked would any fees be given to the School Districts.
- **Administrator Epperson** – replied by stating that County Council could direct fees to the School District through the Budgeting Process.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will now close. The Public Hearing Closed at 6:50 pm.

8. Ordinance 2019-06

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-06- An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Tax and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and Bonefish Solar, LLC to Provide for Payment of a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes; Authorizing the Inclusion of a Project Site in a Multi-County Business Park; Authorizing Certain Special Source Revenue Credits; and Other Related Matters.

9. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$2,009,215 and Revenue figures were not available as of July 31, 2019.

- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$250 for the month ending July 31, 2019 and total Expenses were \$13,410. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of July 2019 after transfers with a Surplus of \$36,840.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had Revenue of \$77,082 for the month ending July 31, 2019 and total Expenses were \$89,921. He stated that after depreciation, Bond interest expense, and Interest Income, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility Loss of \$58,938.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of July 2019 had a Cash Balance of \$2,110,985 of which \$865,558 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 \$1,245,427 as of the end of July 2019.

10. Administrator's Report

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

- **USDA Phase II** – Work is continuing as planned. Customers are continuing to be brought on line as sections are completed and testing is approved by DHEC.
- **Phase III Water Project** – Well has been installed and final tests are being performed. Water lines are also continuing to be installed. (This will connect the Eagle Point Subdivision and Wyboo Point Subdivision water systems and other properties in between).
- **County Council Fire Department-(Wyboo Station)** – Work is continuing as planned. The old pier on site has been demolished. Construction is planned to be completed by November. We have also been in contact with Santee Cooper on the progress of the project and they have been in contact with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) on its progress since they manage the terms of the gratuitous lease we have on the property with Santee Cooper.
- **Road Paving**
 - ✓ All projects for 2018-2019 have been completed.
 - ✓ 2019-2020 projects, local (75%) and state (25%), have been preliminary designed and are being finalized. I anticipate the Panola Road project and Gerald Ave projects (state 25%) to be finalized and bid within the next 30-60 days.
- **Capital Projects** – Projects have been prioritized and are in the process of being procured.
 - ✓ Demolition work has begun at Walker Gamble Park in New Zion.
 - ✓ New basketball goals and pricing has been procured for the re-surfacing of the basketball and tennis courts at JC Britton Park.
 - ✓ Discussions are being held regarding security measures at JC Britton Park due to incidents that have occurred around the basketball courts during this year. Once these are decided on, work to refurbish the basketball courts, tennis courts and walking trail would begin.
- **Recycling Centers**
 - ✓ We have been experiencing a large volume of yard debris at the recycling centers. In an effort to allow each resident an opportunity to utilize the recycling centers for the depositing of yard debris, we have placed signs allowing residents to dump yard debris one (1) time per day. Any other trips to dump yard debris should be made at the Clarendon County Landfill.
 - ✓ We are currently working with Waste Management to determine if there are other resources available for us to be able to allow for residents to dump more than one (1) load of yard debris per day and to deal with the volume of other goods we receive (cardboard, brown goods, etc.).
- **Misc.**
 - ✓ Congratulations to Chairman Stewart on being elected President of the SC Association of Counties for the 2019-2020 year. This is an important and distinguished position that would allow Chairman Stewart to highlight our County and to promote all of SC's 46 Counties at the Local, State, and Federal Levels.
 - ✓ The County Offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2019 in observance of Labor Day.
 - ✓ Sign-ups are currently underway for our recreation programs (Football, Flag Football, Volleyball, Soccer, and Women's Kickball). Please contact the CC Recreation Department for details.

Vice Chairman Frierson stated that he has been receiving a lot of calls in reference to the County repairing private roads. He stated that the law will not allow the County to repair roads on Private Property and he asked Administrator Epperson would he look into it to see what the County can or cannot do.

11. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by thanking Patricia Pringle and Administrator Epperson for recognizing him as the President of the South Carolina Association of Counties. He stated that he is looking forward to serving as President of the Association this coming calendar year. Chairman Stewart concluded his presentation by stating that the last person from Clarendon County who served as President of the SC Association of Counties was Betty Roper in which there is a luncheon at the Conference named in her honor.

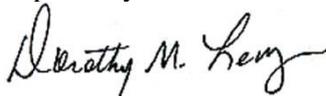
12. Adjournment

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 adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

