



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 10, 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 AC English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: The Manning Times, Johnny Weeks

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Brad Gerfin	Evans Taylor	Pat Goodwin
Betty Phillips	Nate Dyson	Michael A. Johnson	Ericka S. Floyd
Tiffany Myers	Willie Griggs	Joe Witt	Robert Pegram
Patricia Pringle	Linda Lemon	Tammy Rodvansky	Nelson Walker

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 Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the agenda for June 10, 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 May 13, 2019.

3. 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 three employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

- Timothy Hilliard 30 Years
- Thomasenia McBride 30 Years
- Willie Moses Parker 40 Years

4. Memorandum of Agreement

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Memorandum of Agreement between Clarendon County and Central Carolina Technical College. He stated that this initiative was started by Dr. Tim Hardee, Former President of Central Carolina, and this agreement would fund the program through Fiscal Year 2024. Administrator Epperson continued by stating that this agreement is for a five year period at \$20,000 annually.

Administrator Epperson stated that he realized that we can only commit to funding for this fiscal year and each additional year would have to be funded during the budget process. He stated that Central Carolina Technical College would provide full tuition scholarships for up to six consecutive semesters for all graduates of each high school upon graduation under the following conditions:

- Students must graduate from a high school in Clarendon County in 2020-2024 with an academic diploma and a minimum GPA of 2.0;
- Students must test ready for college level coursework (not requiring any developmental coursework), and
- Students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Memorandum of Agreement between Clarendon County and Central Carolina Technical College.

5. Presentation – Central SC Alliance Update

Mr. Mike Briggs presented Council with an update on Central SC Alliance. He stated that Central SC Alliance is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Organization that Specializes in Project Management, Marketing, Research, and Consulting. Mr. Briggs stated that there were twenty-nine project submissions since January 2018, forty-eight projects worked, and seven active projects. He continued by stating that as of April 2019, the Labor Force was 12,845 with an unemployment rate of 3.9%.

Mr. Briggs stated that the Clarendon County Executive Summary launched in 2018, this publication is part of a region wide set of county/city overviews and this publication is available in hard copy, as well as digitally. Mr. Briggs concluded his presentation by stating that Companies from around the world are flourishing in Clarendon County, South Carolina thanks to unparalleled logistics access and overall business value. Home to affiliates representing China, Spain and Canada, Clarendon touches the corners of the globe while maintaining an economic climate that makes them feel right at home.

Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Briggs for his update on SC Central Alliance.

6. Presentation – Duke Energy Progress

Mr. Evans Taylor, Product & Service Manager, gave Council an overview of the Neighborhood Energy Saver Program (NES) which will kick-off on June 20, 2019 at Manning High School. He stated that the NES Program is an income-qualified energy efficiency program for Duke's customers. He stated that this program provides each resident with a Home energy assessment, installation of several energy conservation measures, and education that will enable the residents to make behavioral changes to reduce and control energy usage.

Mr. Taylor stated that a professional would install up to 16 Free energy efficiency measures based on each home's assessment. They would provide each Duke customer with a walk-through of their homes to help identify areas where energy is being wasted. He said that eligible neighborhoods are where approximately 50% of the households have income equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level. He concluded his presentation by stating that they would recommend things like energy efficient light bulbs (LED), insulation for water heaters, and energy efficient faucet.

7. Clarendon County Accommodations Tax Fund – “Tourism Fund” Mr. Lynden Anthony

1. Request to authorize funding to the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce for its tourism promotion initiatives in the amount of \$52,000 for FY2020.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding to the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce for its tourism promotion initiatives in the amount of \$52,000.

2. Request to authorize funding in the amount of \$5,000 to Santee Cooper Country for out-of-area promotional activities

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding to Santee Cooper Country for out-of-area promotional activities in the amount of \$5,000.

3. Request to authorize funding in the amount of \$46,500 under County control for the operation and maintenance of the I-95 Exit 119 Beautification Project

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding under County Control for the operation and maintenance of the I-95 Exit 119 Beautification Project in the amount of \$46,500.

4. Request to authorize funding in the amount of \$10,000 to Summerton Revitalization Committee for promotional activities associated with 2019 Duck Fest.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding to Summerton Revitalization Committee for promotional activities associated with 2019 Duck Fest in the amount of \$10,000.

5. Request to authorize funding in the amount of \$2,000 to the Turbeville Business & Professional Assn. for out-of-area- marketing and promotion for 2020 Puddin Swamp Festival.

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding to the Turbeville Business and Professional Assn. for out-of-area-marketing and promotion for 2020 Puddin Swamp Festival in the amount of \$2,000.

8. Clarendon County Accommodations Tax Fund – “Promotion Fund”

Ms. Tiffany Myers, Clarendon County Director of Tourism, began her presentation by thanking Council for allowing the Tourism Department to make their presentation. She stated that the Tourism Department is requesting \$43,500 from Promotional Fund for the 2019-2020 budget year. Ms. Myers continued by stating that without the funds the tourism department would not be possible, nor would the marketing and promotional initiatives that are generated. She continued by stating that the tourism department promotes our wonderful county to tourists and visitors with the help from funding allocated from the promotional funds.

Ms. Myers concluded her presentation by stating that the Tourism Department also have Print Media, Relocation Guides, Visitors Guides, Golf Brochures, Lake Side Magazine, Festival Promotions items, and post News Paper ads.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding from the Promotion Fund to the Clarendon County Tourism Department in the amount of \$43,500.

9. Clarendon County Hospitality Tax Fund

Mr. Nelson Walker, Chamber of Commerce Committee Member, began his presentation

by requesting funding in the amount of \$75,000 to the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce for sponsorship fees associated with 2020 Bass Master Elite fishing tournament on Lake Marion. He stated that the Bass Master Tournament was organized in 1967 for Elite Fishing. Mr. Nelson continued by stating that Clarendon County has one of the top 5 lakes in the Country.

- Vice Chairman Frierson asked does the tournament move around.
- Mr. Walker replied by stating that the tournament goes where it is hot and they may come back 2 or 3 years before moving to another location.
- Chairman Stewart asked Mr. Lynden Anthony to give an overview of where does the Hospitality Fund get money and the use restrictions.
- Mr. Anthony stated that all food and beverages sold in Clarendon County are taxed an additional 1% which goes to the Hospitality Fund monthly. He stated that the Hospitality Fund collects \$300,000 annually and some of that money is used for Debt Service on The Weldon Auditorium. He continued by stating that Hospitality Funds could be used for out of state promotions and operational aspect for Tourism.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding in the amount of \$75,000 to the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce for sponsorship fees associated with the 2020 Bass Master Elite Fishing Tournament on Lake Marion.

10. Presentation of Proposed FY2019-2020 Budget

Mr. Anthony began his presentation by thanking the staff of the Finance Department, Department Managers, Elected Officials, and members of the community that have assisted in producing the balanced budget. The budget is balanced with General Fund expenditures equal to revenue.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the budget we are submitting for Third Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 2.44% for County Operations and we have maintained a 2% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for all employees. He stated that we have reduced the appropriation to the Solicitor's office and the COG from what was requested, to slightly more than the same levels as the current year. Also, the General Assembly has provided a credit to be applied towards our retirement expense in the upcoming fiscal year in the same dollar amount as the one we received this year.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the total General Fund revenues and expenses are anticipated to be \$21,853,990 an increase of \$565,451 which is 2.66% above the current year budget. He stated that we are recommending that Council adopt a Local Option Sales Tax Credit back to our taxpayers in the amount of \$2,600,000. Mr. Anthony further stated that we continue the Intra-fund transfers to the Hospitality Fee Fund to the Weldon in the amount of \$60,000. WE are also requesting that the Fire service utilize \$150,000 in available fund balance be used toward the completion of the new Wyboo sub-station.

Mr. Anthony further continued that we would like to include for Third Reading a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. He continued by stating that we would like to borrow an amount not to exceed \$500,000 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, Public Works, and equipment to be used at the Landfill.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by stating that the following expenses would be budgeted within the FY2020 Budget:

General Fund	\$ 21,853,990
General County Debt	1,156,992
FE Debose Vocational Technical College	240,000
Fire Operating	3,568,550
Fire Debt	105,163
Administration Complex Debt Service	489,216
Courthouse Debt Service	<u>261,800</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 27,675,711
Water & Sewer (op ex)	\$ 591,400
Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	\$ 134,000

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2019-02, An Ordinance to provide for a Levy of Taxes for County purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020, 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, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020.

11. Consideration of School District Budgetary Requests

1. Clarendon School District One

We have not received specifics from Clarendon One therefore; we will table this until we get the specifics from District One.

2. Clarendon School District Two

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Clarendon School District Two, which was a millage rate of 140.27 and a Capital Improvement Request to improve the HVAC System, Parking lot, Roof, and Re-key doors.

3. Clarendon School District Three

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Clarendon School District Three, which was a millage rate of 306.8, an increase of 7.3 over last year and a Capital Improvement Request to improve the HVAC, Roof, Flooring, and Paint work.

12. Ordinance 2019-03

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2019-03, An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No. 2010-09 (Previously Amended by Ordinance 2014-02), The Clarendon County Water and Sewer Department Code of Regulations and Other Matters Related Thereto.

13. Public Hearing

Ordinance 2019-04 -An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of Not Exceeding, in the Aggregate, \$1,800,000 in General Obligation Bonds, in One or More Series, Tax-Exempt or Taxable to be used to Fund

One or More Capital Projects; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing of the Acceptance of any Grants and Other Funds Related to the Capital Projects Related to the Bonds; and Other Related Matters. Mr. Anthony concluded by stating that one Capital Project would include Landfill roof replacement. The Public Hearing opened at 7:29 pm

Mr. Lynden Anthony stated that this General Obligation Bond will be used for Facilities Improvements, Replace several roofs, Parks and Recreation Improvements, and to Re-surface the parking lot at the Administration Building.

Chairman Stewart stated that the public hearing was now open. He asked if there were any questions, hearing none, He stated that the Public Hearing was now closed. The Public Hearing closed at 7:30 pm.

14. Ordinance 2019-04

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-04 –An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of Not Exceeding, in the Aggregate, \$1,800,000 in General Obligation Bonds, in One or More Series, Tax-Exempt or Taxable to be used to Fund One or More Capital Projects; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing for the Acceptance of any Grants and Other Funds Related to the Capital Projects Related to the Bonds; and Other Related Matters.

15. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,702,908 and Revenue figures were not available as of May 31, 2019.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had Revenue of \$676,714 for the month ending May 31, 2019 and total Expenses were \$464,400. He stated that after depreciation, Bond interest expense, Interest Income, and Net Transfers, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility Loss of \$161,465.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$19,924 for the month ending May 31, 2019 and total Expenses were \$110,608. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of May 2019 after transfers with a deficit of \$40,684.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of May 2019 had a Cash Balance of \$2,341,852 of which \$1,131,912 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 \$1,209,940 as of the end of May 2019.

16. 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 is currently being installed and tested. Water lines are also being installed. This will connect the Eagle Point Subdivision and Wyboo Point Subdivision water systems and other properties in between.
- **County Fire Department-(Wyboo Station)** – Work is continuing as planned. Framing and other necessary construction items have started.
- **Road Paving**
 1. 75% C-Funds (County Portion) –Bethlehem Group paving should begin very soon. We are waiting on NOI permit from DHEC to begin

Misc:

1. Our annual employee picnic was held on June 6, 2019. We had a good turn out and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. A special thanks to all that assisted in making the lunch happen.
2. We are beginning an energy savings program that will allow us to replace existing fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures in many of our buildings and receive rebates from our energy provider. The updates in fixtures coupled with the rebates will allow us to substantially save in our energy cost over the upcoming years.

17. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that this week was a bitter/sweet week for him. He attended the retirement celebration for two people that made a tremendous impact on Clarendon County and its Citizens. He concluded by stating that Chief Frances Richbourg retired from the Clarendon County Fire Department after providing years of service to the county and John Tindal retired after serving as School Superintendent for Clarendon School District II for numerous years.

18. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss an Economic Development Project, Project Bone Fish.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss an Economic Development Project, Project Bone Fish. The Executive Session began at 7:39 pm.

19. 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 Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 7:59 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received a briefing on Project Bone Fish and no action would be taken.

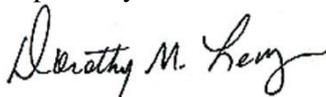
20. Adjournment

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

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

