



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2018

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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: Manning Times, Laura Stone

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Pat Goodwin	Tim Baxley	Jack Justice
Gregory Holliday	Bobby Ridgeway	Tammy Rodvansky	Michael A. Johnson
Shirley Black-Oliver	Billy Ward	Matt Evans	Larry Johnson, Sr.

And other Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

I Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the agenda for April 9, 2018.

II. 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 March 12, 2018.

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 six employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| • Shateka Holliday | 5 Years | Sharon Yomtob | 10 Years |
| • William Timmons | 5 Years | Christine Edwards | 15 Years |
| • Betty Phillips | 10 Years | Robert Felder | 30 Years |

IV. Board Appointments

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous Approval to appoint Ms. Lillian Stukes Douglas to the Clarendon County Behavioral Health Services Board to serve a term of four years.

V. Ordinance 2018-02

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2018-02 an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Tax Agreement by and Between Clarendon County, South Carolina and Project Merriment to Provide for Payment of a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes; Authorizing certain infrastructure Credits; and other related matters.

VI. 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 2.13% for County operations, which is a little more than \$246,000 in ad valorem revenue growth. He continued by recommending that Council approve a Local Option Sales Tax Credit of \$2,600,000 to our taxpayers.

Mr. Anthony further stated that we have been informed that our Health insurance premiums will increase by 7% effective January 1, 2019. We are including a state mandated increase in employer retirement expense of 1%; needed to support the State's retirement system. We are also including a 1% cost of living increase for all employees. In addition to the above, we have included DHEC's requirement that we begin required improvement at our Class II landfill. Lastly, we have received appropriation request increased from Central Carolina Technical College (CCTC) in the amount of \$208,000, Santee Wateree RTA of \$5,000 and the Clarendon County Library of \$5,000 which are all included.

Mr. Anthony continued 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. General Fund operational expenditures at this point total \$21,893,801; We are requesting a millage increase for Fire Service, we are requesting to draw down on available Fund Balance in the amount of \$660,000 for capital acquisition and design/construction work associates with the new Wyboo sub-station.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by requesting to borrow an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in the form of a five-year Capital lease primarily for the purchase and equipping of new public safety vehicles within the Sheriff's Department and Coroner's office. For first reading the General Fund budget is out of balance by \$647,924.

1. **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 3,000. She continued by requesting a review of her office staff salaries.
2. **Charles "Bucky" Mock**, Coroner, began by stating that this is his first budget whereas fuel and oil are the biggest increases. He continued by stating that equipment, repairs, travel, training, contractual service, and expenses for the Coroner and Deputy Coroner are increasing as well and his goal is to keep everything under budget.
3. **Judge Nannette Frye**, Magistrate, stated that the Magistrate's Office is asking for \$48,000 less this year than they did last year. She stated that mistakes are very costly. Judge Frye continued by stating that the Magistrate's office has dedicated staff members and next year they will be losing another long-term employee to retirement.

4. **Judge Margaret Sorrell**, Probate Judge, began her presentation by requesting a salary increase for Deputy Probate Judge Rebecca Massey. She stated that the Deputy Probate Judge is invaluable and can run the probate office single-handedly. She continued by stating that Ms. Massey has a Master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania. Judge Sorrell continued by stating that she is requesting a \$6,000 increase in the salary for the Deputy Probate Judge because her office cannot afford to lose Ms. Massey. She continued by stating that the number of copies that the probate office makes exceed what is allotted with leasing a copier. She stated that travel and training need an increase because there are 15 hours per calendar year of Continuing Legal education dictated by the SC Supreme Court for both the Probate and Deputy Probate Judges. Judge Sorrell concluded her presentation by requesting \$9,918 to be added to the Probate Judge's budget.
5. **Sheriff's Tim Baxley**, began his presentation by requesting a part-time clerk for the front office at a salary of \$13,000. He continued by stating that he has 13 uncertified officers and it takes a year to get into the academy. He stated that he is requesting a 7% salary increase for all certified officers and he bought used vehicles for all SROs. Sheriff Baxley stated that the City of Manning sergeants make \$4,000 more than Clarendon County sergeants. He further stated that his department expenses are \$50,000 under budget. Sherriff Baxley concluded his presentation by stating that his department sold items in 2017 totaling \$73,412.50.
6. **Treasurer's Office**, Mr. Evans, Treasurer, stated that after the combining of the Tax and Treasurer offices, the transition is working well. Tax payers are glad that they can take care of different businesses in the same office.
7. **Mr. Gregory Holliday**, Chairman of Clarendon County Voters Registration and Election Board, began his presentation by stating that the Voters' Registration Director has over 30 years experience and we should compensate her for her 30 years' experience in which we should have done back in 2013 when the two boards were combined. He concluded his presentation by stating that over \$20,000 of his budget is reimbursed by the State.

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

VII. Presentation – Community Paramedics -Mr. Steven Demby

- Mr. Brad Gerfin began his presentation by stating that McLeod Health Clarendon is proud to announce that the county has the first community paramedic program which addresses the healthcare needs of rural communities at no cost to the citizens of Clarendon County.
- Representative Ridgeway stated that this program is very important to him and Clarendon County and being a medical physical, he supports it.
- Mr. Steven Demby stated that their goal is to bridge the gap in healthcare services currently available. He stated that the program has one fulltime paramedic and one part-time paramedic. He continued by stating that they obtained a 3-year grant to fund the program which started in January. Mr. Demby concluded his presentation by stating that people use the emergency room as a primary care physician and they are not aware of this free program.

VIII. Ordinance 2018

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2018-03- An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, and Ending June 30, 2019, 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, 2018, and Ending June 30, 2019.

IX. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,498,808 and Revenue figures were not available.

- **Water and Sewer Department** had Operating Revenue of \$ 569,930 and Operating Expenses of \$371,512 as of March 31, 2018. He stated that after depreciation, Bond interest expense, and interest income the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility Loss of \$59,185.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had total Revenue for the month ending March 31, 2018 was \$10,029, and total Expenses were \$88,133. He stated that after a transfer from the Hospitality Tax Fund, the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of March 2018 with a deficit of \$28,104.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of March 2018 had a Cash Balance of \$1,964,506 of which \$1,279,303 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 \$685,203 as of the end of March 2018.

X. Administrator's Report

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

- **USDA Phase IB** – Testing has been completed and recommended repairs and additions have been made. Anticipate having the system online within weeks.
- **USDA Phase II** – Design work has been completed and permits are in hand from DHEC. Awaiting approval from USDA to go out to bid.
- **USDA Phase IIA** - Construction and testing have been completed. Permits to place online and operate have been submitted to DHEC and received. We anticipate having it online soon.
- **Wyboo Fire Station** – Site work has been completed. Design work is being finalized with bidding to follow.
- **Misc**
 - a. The Puddin Swamp Festival in Turbeville is this weekend (4/12-4/15) and the Striped Bass Festival will be next weekend (4/19-4/22) in Manning.
 - b. Annual E-Waste recycling day is scheduled for June 9, 2018, 9a-1p, CC Administration Building Parking lot.
 - c. Baseball and Softball opening season jamborees went well. The regular season is also underway and going well.
- Councilman Blakely asked would there be any water lines installed in the Turbeville Area.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that he did not know what the town of Turbeville is doing. He stated that we want the municipalities to extend their water lines beyond the town limit.

XI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by recognizing a letter to Council from the Summerton Community Action Group requesting \$5,700.

- Administrator Epperson stated that the request has to be presented to the Accommodation Board and upon the recommendation from the Accommodation Board, then the request must come before Council for a Hospitality Tax disbursement.

XII. Adjournment

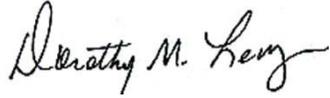
Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for motion to adjourn the Council Meeting.

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 8:10 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorothy M. Levy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC