



**Clarendon County Council Special Called Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 24, 2020**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC**

---

**Those in attendance:**

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson  
Councilman Benton Blakely  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

**Absent:** Councilman A.C. English

**Press in attendance:** None

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Meesha Witherspoon	Kathy Williams
Shawn Johnson	Tim Baxley	Danny Graham	Connie Dennis
Kim Johnson	Laura Fleming	Barbara Champagne	Johnny Wilson
And Other Clarendon County Residents			

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Special Called Meeting held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

**2. Presentation of Proposed FY2020-2021 Budget**

Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his presentation by thanking the staff of the Finance department, our department managers, elected officials and members of the community that have assisted in producing the balanced budget.

He stated that this has been a particularly difficult year, but the budget is balanced with General Fund expenditures equal to revenue. The budget that we are submitting for Third Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 1.82% for County operations. At your request, we have adjusted several salaries within law enforcement and have increased our anticipated revenue from the sale of the old DSS building.

Total General Fund revenues and expenses are anticipated to be \$21,778,320; a decrease of \$75,670 as a result of moving millage out of the General Fund and into the Emergency Services Special Tax District. We are recommending that you adopt a Local Option Sales Tax credit back to our taxpayers in the amount of \$2,800,000, an increase of \$200,000.

Mr. Anthony continued by requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund continue its level of operational support for Weldon of \$60,000; as well as a \$10,000 transfer to the General Fund again this year. For Fire service; the budget submission reflects the same 1.82% millage increase as requested in the General Fund. He stated that we are requesting that the Fire service utilize \$100,000 in available fund balance to be used toward the integration of EMS services into the Fire Rescue Service.

Mr. Anthony further stated that a \$2,000,000 TAN be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. He stated that nominal changes have been made to our Enterprise fund budgets from the last reading; that would be Weldon Auditorium or the Water and Sewer System.

He 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 patrol vehicles within the sheriff department.

Mr. Anthony stated that we have the following expenses contained within the FY2020 Budget:

General Fund	\$ 21,778,320
General County Debt	1,432,004
FE Dubose VoTec	244,000
Fire Rescue	4,782,850
Fire Debt	105,163
Emergency Services	1,667,080
Admin Complex Debt svc	492,115
Courthouse Debt svc	<u>261,300</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 30,762,832
Water & Sewer (op ex)	\$ 558,711
Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	\$ 122,650

### Clarendon School District One

- Mrs. Barbara Ragin-Champagne, Superintendent, presented Council with an update on Clarendon One's progress. She stated that Summerton Early Childhood has 163 students, St. Paul Elementary has 146, Scott's Branch Middle has 168 students, and Scott's Branch High has 206 students in which 46 are graduates. Mrs. Champagne continued by stating that 14 seniors received a life scholarship, 3 seniors graduated early, and a total of 2.4 million dollars were received in scholarships. She concluded by stating that Clarendon One is preparing for the 2021 consolidation with Clarendon District Three.
- Mr. Russel Zimmerman, Interim Finance Director, stated that Clarendon is working on reducing debt by 2 million dollars by April 2021. He concluded by stating that Clarendon One is requesting a 2.6 mil increase for the 2020/2021 budget year for a total of 145.2 mils.
- Councilman Richardson thanked Mrs. Champagne and Mr. Zimmerman for a job well done. He stated that we are proud of what you have done.
- Chairman Stewart stated that Clarendon One is doing a great job.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council Voted Unanimous Approval to Clarendon One's request for a 2.6 mil increase for a total millage rate of 145.2.

### Clarendon School District Two

- Dr. Shawn Johnson, Superintendent, began his presentation by recognizing Mrs. Kathy Williams, Ms. Kim Johnson, and Mr. Larry Graham. He continued by giving Council an update on Clarendon Two's progress. He stated that Clarendon Two has 415 employees, 39 vacancies, and 21 new hires. Dr. Johnson continued by stating that Clarendon Two remodeled the restrooms and the STEM initiative is at all schools K-12.
- Mrs. Kathy Williams, Finance Director, presented Council with a Continuing Budget Resolution whereas the approved millage rate is 140.17.
- Vice Chairman Frierson stated that Clarendon School District Two have the Best School District and Staff in the State of South Carolina. He continued by stating that we are very proud of the way that you all are operating despite the Pandemic. He stated that whatever we can do to assist the school district we will do it.

On Motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council Voted Unanimous Approval to Clarendon Two's Continuing Budget Resolution for a total millage rate of 140.17.

### **Clarendon School District Three**

- Dr. Connie Dennis, Superintendent, began by presenting Ms. Laura Fleming.
- Ms. Laura Fleming, Finance Director, presented Council with a Continuing Budget Resolution whereas the approved millage rate is 306.5 mills.
- Councilman Blakely stated that Clarendon Three is doing a great job. He stated that we are lucky to be living in Clarendon County and he hopes this consolidation will work out good for everyone's future.

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council Voted Unanimous Approval to Clarendon Three's Continuing Budget Resolution for a total millage rate of 306.5.

### **3. Ordinance 2020-06**

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2020-06- An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021, 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, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021.

### **4. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council the following updates:

- **COVID-19** - we have 64 active cases and 42 deaths.
- **Modified work Schedule** – we will begin a modified work schedule on June 22, 2020, all facilities will be open to the public with limited staff.
- **Council Meetings**- I would like to request that all Council meetings for July, August, and September be held to the Weldon Auditorium for social distancing.

On Motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council Voted Unanimous Approval to move all Council Meetings for July, August, and September to the Weldon Auditorium for social distancing.

- **Weldon Auditorium** – all events scheduled for July has been cancelled until later in the year.
- Councilman Richardson asked are people being monitored at the Administration Building
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that 20 people are allowed in the building at one time plus each department has limits.
- Vice Chairman Frierson stated that there have been two functions in the Silver Community with no social distancing and we need to do the right thing.
- Administrator Epperson stated that this falls under the Governor's guidelines.
- Sheriff Baxley stated that he contacted the Department of Commerce and the promoter has a waiver. He also said that he spoke with the owner and discuss what must be done.
- Councilman Blakely asked what is the status on paving.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that the contract has been issued.
- Councilman Richardson asked when will paving begin.

- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that paving will begin soon.
- Councilman Richardson asked is Taw Caw Park open.
- Administrator Epperson replied by stating that the Boat Ramp is the only thing open.

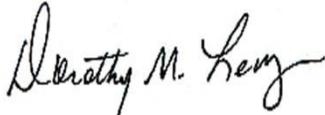
## 5. Adjourn

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

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council Voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Special Called Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 11am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

