



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting Monday, January 13, 2014, 6:00 PM Clarendon County Council Chambers

Those in attendance:

County Council Chairman, Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman, Billy G. Richardson
Councilman, Benton Blakely
Councilman, AC English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Absent:

County Council Vice Chairman, William J. Frierson, Sr.

Press in attendance: Sandi Tucker, The Manning Times Extra, Sharron Haley, Clarendon Citizen

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Lee & Connie Bledsoe	Michael Kozlarek
Fred Tucker	Tammy Rodvansky	Sonya Mellerson
Roy Fletcher	Charlotte Johnston	Moses Mitchell
Archie Lemon	Linda Lemon	Marilyn Fletcher
Kay Kirkpatrick	John Truluck	Yana Mathis
And other citizens of Clarendon County		

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He informed everyone that Vice Chairman Frierson was ill and would not be attending tonight's meeting. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

I. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting which was held on December 9, 2013.

II. Mutual Aid Agreement

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Mutual Aid Agreement between Lee County Sheriff's Office and Clarendon County Sheriff's Office.

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Mutual Aid Agreement between Lee County Sheriff's Office and Clarendon County Sheriff's Office.

III. Requests

i. Administrator Epperson presented Council with the Annual Budget Schedule for FY2014/2015.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the FY2014/2015 Budget Schedule.

ii. Development Board Appointments

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint Mr. Linzy Washington, Mr. William Buyck, and Mr. G.G. Cutter to the Clarendon County Development Board to serve another three-year term.

IV. Presentation of 2013 Audit

Ms. Lori Salley, CPA, with C.C. McGregor & Company, LLP presented council with a presentation of the audit report from fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. She stated that as of June 30, 2013, Clarendon County's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$24.1 million (net position). She further stated that there was a change in Fund Balance of a negative \$416,105. Ms. Salley further stated that there was a change in net positions for both Weldon and Water and Sewer.

Ms. Salley continued her report by stating that the audit found a material weakness in the report of internal control in accordance with Governmental Auditing Standards. The material weakness was a correction that needed to be made to the Capital Assets of the Governmental Activities, which was an oversight, by the Finance Department.

Ms. Salley continued by stating that a golf cart was purchased without using the Procurement process and no bids were obtained. She further stated that the Clerk of Court's Office prepared some of the remittances to the State incorrectly, which resulted in \$27,085.48 not being sent to the State in a timely matter. Ms. Salley concluded her report by stating that the Magistrates are to report any overages in their accounts over \$100 on an annual basis to the Court Administration. Currently the Magistrates had a total of \$1,751.

Chairman Stewart thanked Ms. Salley for the audit report.

Administrator Epperson thanked Ms. Salley, the Finance Department, and the County Employees for the hard work that they did putting the audit together. He stated that the Revenue did not come in as expected and ad valorem and tax collections were down. Administrator Epperson stated that all departments were watching what was being spent and he thanked them for that.

Administrator Epperson further stated that the Clerk of Court's office was going through a personnel change and training for the new employee. He stated that we would work with the Magistrates to clarify that the overages cannot exceed \$100.00 annually. Mr. Epperson concluded by stating that he would address the Golf Cart that was purchased with Procurement to ensure that this does not happen again.

V. Clarendon County Transportation Committee

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee meeting was now in session.

- i. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to purchase Reconstituted Asphalt for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to purchase reconstituted asphalt for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to amend the State Road Paving Projects for 2014 with three items.

- a. Administrator Epperson stated that the pipe project on Highway 15 would cost more than anticipated. He continued by requesting an increase of \$50,000 to complete that project.
- b. Administrator Epperson also requested that the drainage work on Church Street be delayed and removed from the 2014 projects list.

- c. He concluded by requesting to add the resurfacing of Peggy Lane to the paving list for 2014 and authorization to spend an amount not to exceed \$140,000 to complete the work.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to amend the State Road Paving Projects for 2014 as stated above.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee Meeting was now closed.

VI. Resolutions

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2014-01 – A Resolution confirming the properties located in Clarendon County, by tax map number, that are included in a multi-county industrial park.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous approval to Resolution 2014-01.

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2014-02 – A Resolution confirming the inclusion of certain real property located in Clarendon County and in the Sumter-Clarendon County Industrial Park.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to Resolution 2014-02.

VII. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2013-06

Chairman Stewart opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2013-06 at 6:45 pm.

Administration Epperson stated that this ordinance is a General Obligation Bond not to exceed 3.5 Million dollars. He stated that this bond would be used to construct a building for Department of Social Services and to renovate the existing DSS building for the Coroner's Office and Probation and Parole's Office. Administrator Epperson continued by stating that the existing DSS building is an old building that was built in 1956. He further stated that this bond would provide three facilities that are needed. Administrator Epperson stated that this would be a 25-year bond. He further stated that there would be a millage increase of 2 mils for the first two years and 2.5 mils going forward. Administrator Epperson stated that this would equate to a \$10.00 tax increase on a \$100,000 home.

- Ms. Yana Mathis – Asked why are we building a new building when the taxes on a 2nd home is three times as much with no school or hospital credit.
- Chairman Stewart responded by stating that the County is trying to make a Contingency Plan. He stated that the County is happy to have a Coroner that has a funeral home. He further stated that in the future, our Coroner might not have a funeral home so County Council has to prepare for long term. Chairman Stewart stated that the County is using a building behind the hospital for a morgue and that is not a good situation.
- Mrs. Connie Bledsoe – Asked could the property tax increase more.
- Mr. Lynden Anthony responded by stating that the tax increase figure is a rough estimation on residential property without exemptions.
- Mrs. Marilyn Fletcher – Asked if the Coroner requested a stand-alone building.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the County needs a facility because if someone else was elected for Coroner that does not have a funeral home, what would the County do for a facility.
- Mrs. Marilyn Fletcher – Asked how many times has the County used the Coroner's services.

- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that he does not have the exact numbers.
- Mrs. Marilyn Fletcher - Asked why couldn't the second floor of the Sherriff's Office be used instead of renovating the existing DSS building.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the second floor of the Sheriff's Office is for future expansion for the Sheriff's Office
- Ms. Kay Kirkpatrick – stated that she sees all kind of benefits for the citizens of Clarendon County. She continued by stating that the existing DSS building is not very energy efficient and she appreciates the support of County Council.
- Chairman Stewart stated that County Council did not rush into this decision. He stated that this decision was based on long range planning.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there were no other comments, the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 7:03 pm.

VIII. Ordinance 2013-06

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-06, an Ordinance providing for the issuance of a General Obligation Bond not to exceed 3.5 million dollars.

IX. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2013-07

Chairman Stewart opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2013-07 at 7:04 pm.

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance is to offer a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and Incentive Agreement to Project Outspoken. Project Outspoken is a company that would like to start a business in Clarendon County.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments on this Ordinance. Hearing none, he said that the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 7:08 pm

X. Ordinance 2013-07

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-07, An Ordinance authoring the execution and delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and Incentive Agreement to provide a Negotiated fee and credit incentives to Project Outspoken.

XI. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his report by stating that the General Fund had Revenue of \$8,098,046 and spent \$9,225,509 as of December 31, 2013. He stated that the County spent 48% of the budget appropriation year to date.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Revenue of \$326,472 and total Operating Expenses of \$222,605 for the month ending December 31, 2013. He further stated that Depreciation and Interest Expenses were a total of \$80,117 leaving a Net Income of \$23,751.

Mr. Anthony stated that the Weldon Auditorium had Revenue of \$55,640 and Operating Expenses of \$152,523. He continued by stating that the Weldon Auditorium's Revenue was less than anticipated. He further stated that after transfers, the Weldon Auditorium ended December 31, 2013 with a surplus of \$18,117.

Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that the C Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$290,663 as of November 30, 2013.

XII. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by stating that Mashburn's Construction of Columbia, SC won the bid for the Renovation of Clarendon County Courthouse.

Administrator Epperson gave County Council an update on the water projects:

- Phase 1B - should be completed by the summer months.
- Phase 1C – being surveyed now for an end of year completion.
- Phase 2 – USDA has provided additional funds and we are looking forward to gaining additional customers.

Administrator Epperson further stated that he would be attending the Annual Chamber's Retreat in Charleston, SC.

Councilman Blakely asked if Clarendon County has any Emergency Shelters with a backup generator.

Administrator Epperson responded by stating that Anthony Mack has access to generators if needed, and Clarendon Community Center is an Emergency Shelter that has a generator.

XIII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he attended a meeting with Central Alliance and the Development Board. He stated that the meeting was in reference to obtaining new businesses in Clarendon County.

VIII. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to receive a Legal Briefing.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to receive a Legal Briefing. The Executive Session began at 7:26 pm.

IX. Open Session

On motion by Councilman Blakely 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 8:20 pm.

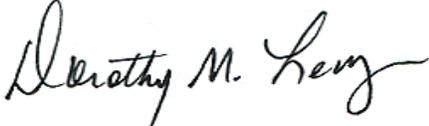
Chairman Stewart stated that Council received a Legal Briefing in reference to the Magistrates' Office and no action would be taken.

XV. Adjournment

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

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the council meeting. The Council Meeting ended at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

