



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2013, 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Regular County Council Meeting**

Those in attendance:

County Council Chairman, Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Vice Chairman WJ Frierson (Came in at 6:11 PM)
Councilman, Billy G. Richardson
Councilman, Benton Blakely
Councilman, AC English (Came in at 6:12 PM)
County Administrator, David W. Epperson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Press in attendance: Konstantin Vengerowsky, Clarendon Citizen, Sharron Haley, The Item (Clarendon Bureau)

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Vickie Williams	Nancy Cave
Cynthia Mack	Shirley Black-Oliver	Azalee William Kinard
Sandi Tucker	Fred Tucker	Deepal S. Eliatamby
Patricia Pringle	Beulah Roberts	Frances Richbourg
Tammy Rodvansky	And other citizens of Clarendon County	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. He stated that Vice Chairman Frierson and Councilman English would be coming in later because they were attending a funeral. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting which was held on March 11, 2013.

V. Request for Out-of-Town Travel

Administrator Epperson requested Council's approval for Procurement Director, Ms. Tamika Malone to travel to Orlando, Florida in August.

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval for Ms. Tamika Malone to travel to Orlando, Florida in August.

VI. Request for Fair Housing Month Resolution and Letter of Condition for Phase II.

Ms. Vickie Williams requested Council's approval on Resolution 2013-04, a Resolution declaring April 2013 as Fair Housing Month.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to Resolution 2013-04, a Resolution declaring April 2013 as Fair Housing Month.

Ms. Vickie Williams requested Council's approval on several Certifications, which are required for the Letter of Condition for Phase II of the Rural Water System Project.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval on several Certifications required for the Letter of Condition for Phase II of the Rural Water System Project.

VII. Mutual Aid Agreement with Myrtle Beach, SC

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Mutual Aid Agreement allowing the Temporary Transfer of Law Enforcement Officers to assist the City of Myrtle Beach, SC. when requested.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to the Mutual Aid Agreement between Myrtle Beach, SC and Clarendon County, SC.

VIII. Ordinance 2013-03

Ms. Maria Rose requested Council to consider Ordinance 2013-03, an Ordinance to amend the County's Unified Development Code (UDC) in order to comply with the State of South Carolina building codes. She further stated that Exhibit A (Building Codes) must go into effect on July 1, 2013 and Exhibit B (Flood Damage Prevention) which would put the new flood maps into effect. She continued by stating that those maps would be used to determine the new flood insurance rates for the County. Ms. Rose stated that the minimum to build above flood level is one foot. She concluded by stating that If a property owner builds two or three feet above flood level, their flood insurance would be at a lower rate.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to First Reading of Ordinance 2013-03, an Ordinance to amend the County's Unified Development Code (UDC).

IX. Public Hearing

Chairman Stewart called the Public Hearing to order at 6:19 pm for Ordinance 2013-01.

Administrator Epperson informed everyone that the County has the opportunity to replace 120 to 125 Self-Contained Breathing Apparati for the Fire Department. He stated that the current equipment was purchased about 20 to 25 years ago and now they need to be replaced. He continued by stating that we are asking for a General Obligation Bond in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to cover the cost to purchase these units. He farther stated that USDA committed a \$100,000 grant to the County but could not guarantee that we would have the funds by August so we will have to issue a bond to cover the cost of the equipment. He further stated that he would like to have the equipment purchased before the design changes in August.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments from our Citizens.

- Mr. Fred Tucker asked how are we going to pay the bond off.
- Administrator Epperson responded by stating that there will be a General Obligation Bond with millage added in the upcoming year to pay the bond.
- Councilman English asked would we still be able to get the \$100,000 grant from USDA.
- Administrator Epperson stated that we would still try to seek the grant funding from USDA.

Chairman Stewart closed the Public Hearing at 6:22 pm.

X. Ordinance 2013-01

Consideration of second reading of Ordinance 2013-01, An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of Not Exceeding, in the Aggregate, \$1,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds, in one or more Series, Tax-Exempt or Taxable, to be used to Fund one of more Capital Projects, including the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparati; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Detail for the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of 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 a Grant related to the Capital Projects related to the Bonds; and Other Related Matters.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-01.

XI. Presentation of Proposed FY 2013-2014 Budget

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, requested Council's permission to allow the Elected Officials to present their budget requests.

1. Ms. Patricia Pringle, Auditor, began by thanking Council for approving the Auditor's budget in the past. She stated that there is a 3% decrease in the Auditor's budget for this year.
2. Ms. Beulah Roberts, Clerk of Court, began by asking for an increase in personnel. She continued by requesting that some of the Family Court's personnel be added back to the General Budget instead of the DSS Budget.
3. Ms. Kathy Geddings, Probate Judge, presented council with a request for a part-time clerk to assist in her office.
4. Administrator Epperson stated that Sheriff Garrett was not able to attend.
5. Mr. Matt Evans, Treasurer, stated that the Treasurer's budget is the same as last year.
6. Mr. Hayes Samuels, Coroner, began by thanking everyone for their kindness while he was recuperating from his condition. Mr. Samuels requested Council to add \$2,500 extension to the Coroner's budget to pay the driver of the Van.
7. Ms. Shirley Black-Oliver, Voter's Registration Director, Presented Ms. Nancy Cave, a member of the Election Commission, to present the budget. Ms. Cave began by stating that Legislation was approved to combine the Voter's Registration Board and the Election Commission. She stated that with this change, it would require Voter's Registration to provide Voter's Registration Cards with a photo ID on the card. She continued by stating that with this change, it would require more time and more staff to handle the job. Ms. Cave concluded by stating that because of the Legislative changes, this budget consists of the combined board and commission.
8. Mr. Jack Howle, Third Circuit Public Defender, began by stating that working out of the Court House has given them more space to work and he is requesting \$18,000 to make the part-time secretary's position into a full-time secretary position so that the Public Defender's office can be open all day.
9. Mr. Chip Finney, Solicitor, began by requesting Council to give the Public Defender's request every consideration. He continued by stating that included in his budget is an additional request of \$30,000. Mr. Finney continued by stating that \$20,000 would be to enhance the office staffs benefit packages and the remaining \$10,000 would be to equip the new office with furniture and appliances. He concluded by stating that this office would be utilized by the victims.

Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for presenting their budget to Council and for the public service, that each of them provided to the citizens of Clarendon County.

Mr. Lynden Anthony began by thanking all departments for assisting in the budget process. He continued by stating that we do not have a balanced budget as of yet and we still have a lot of work to do. Mr. Anthony stated that the collection on real property and personal property will not be where we anticipated this fiscal year. He continued by stating that we are expecting a reduction in General Fund Revenue for the coming Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that this year's budget for first reading is requesting a millage increase of 2.07%.

Mr. Anthony further stated that this budget does not allow for an employee cost of living increase for this coming Fiscal year. He continued by stating that we are expecting the Ad Valorem revenue to be flat. Mr. Anthony continued by requesting a 1.5 million dollars tax anticipation note to be approved in the event that it becomes necessary.

Mr. Anthony continued by requesting a \$70,000 transfer from Hospitality Fee Fund and a \$5,000 transfer from the Tax Accommodation Fund to Weldon Auditorium. He concluded by stating that this budget amount does not contain requests from the Public Defender's office or the Solicitor's office.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to First Reading of Ordinance 2013-02. An Ordinance to provide for a Levy of Taxes for County purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014, 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, 2013, and Ending June 30, 2014.

X. Financial Report

Mr. Anthony began his report by stating that the total Expenditures year-to-date was \$14,011,121. He continued by stating that Revenue was not available. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that Water and Sewer had total Revenue of \$553,523, Operating Expenses of \$332,114, and Depreciation Expenses of \$81,333, leaving a net income of \$140,076.

Mr. Anthony stated that as of March 31, 2013, Weldon Auditorium had a deficit of \$28,615. He concluded by stating that the C Fund has available funds of \$1,084,594. Mr. Anthony further stated that the C Fund has an Uncommitted Balance of \$347,166 because \$1,431,761 is committed to some scheduled paving projects.

XI. Administrator's Report

Mr. Epperson started his report by stating that the Court House Renovation is ongoing. He continued by stating that the Recreation Department started the baseball season on April 6, 2013 with 445 participants and 37 teams.

He concluded by stating that we are moving forward with Phase IB and hopes to begin sign-ups for Phase II in the next 30 to 45 days so that we can present our Letter of Conditions to USDA.

He continued by stating that the Muralist was back doing some touch up work. He concluded by stating that we have begun meeting with the property owners around the airport in reference to having the obstructions removed from the airport runway.

XII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that Governor Haley will be back in Clarendon County. He stated that she will be attending the grand opening ceremony of Georgia Pacific on April 10, 2013.

Chairman Stewart concluded that he is the chairman of the search committee of Santee Lynches Regional Council of Government and they are searching for a replacement for Mr. Jim Darby who retired as Executive Director.

He further stated that he and Councilman Richardson will be attending a Riley Institute meeting on April 17, 2013 in Columbia. Chairman Stewart stated that the Striped Bass Festival opening ceremony will be April 26 with the parade and big day on April 27.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted unanimous approval to adjourn the council meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy M. Levy

Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

