



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2013, 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Regular County Council Meeting**

Those in attendance:

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

Press in attendance: Jack Justice, Clarendon Citizen

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Vickie Williams	Loretta Benbow-Lanard
Nancy Cave	Linda Lemon	Lee Bledsoe
Sandi Tucker	W.R. Ridgeway	Connie Bledsoe
Fred Tucker	Peggy R. Lane	Archie Lemon
Frances Ann Britton	Cynthia Mack	Stephanie Williams
Judith B. Collins	Jim & Jean Sprott	Bob Sternburg
Rev. Robinson	Sarah L. Mack	Patricia Pringle
Roy Fletcher	Marilyn Fletcher	Ned McIntosh
Robert McFadden	Hal Lowder	Sampson Pearson
Alexander & Sandra House	And other citizens of Clarendon County	

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.

IV. 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 January 14, 2013 and the Capital Improvement Plan Meeting which was held on January 25, 2013 with minor changes.

V. Resolution 2013-01

Administrator Epperson gave council a synopsis of Resolution 2013-01, a Resolution authorizing an amendment to the Master Agreement governing the Sumter-Clarendon

Industrial Park.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval of Resolution 2013-01.

VI. Resolution 2013-02

Administrator Epperson gave council a synopsis of Resolution 2013-02, a Resolution to adopt the Clarendon County Employment Guidelines. He stated that the employment guidelines would include changing the Grievance Committee from County Council to three employees of the County. Administrator Epperson continued by stating that one member of the grievance committee would be an exempt employee and the other two members would be non-exempt employees. Administrator Epperson concluded by stating that training would be provided.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval of Resolution 2013-02.

VII. Transportation Committee

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

i. Mr. Epperson presented the Transportation Committee with the proposed paving list for the County Road Projects. He proposed that the parking lot of the DSS Building be re-surfaced. He continued by adding the following areas to the list: Pompey Town Road, William Gibbons Road, J.W. Carter (intersection widening), Hector Walker Road, Rimini Group, and J.W. Carter North End. He concluded by stating that the additional roads on the list are Aztec Subdivision, Homes on the Green Subdivision, Welsh Poppy Circle, Timberline Lane, J.W. Rhames Road, Wyboo Pointe Subdivision, Oak Grove Church Road (from Santee Electric to Raccoon Road), Peggy Lane, Brodgon Road, Wallace Road, and Club House Group. Mr. Epperson stated that some of the roads are scheduled for paving 2014 and 2015.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to the proposed road paving list request for the Transportation Committee.

ii. Mr. Epperson presented the Transportation Committee with a request to purchase road improvement material in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman English, council voted unanimous approval to the request to purchase road improvements material not to exceed \$75,000.

VIII. Requests

i. Administrator Epperson presented council with an out-of-town travel request for Economic Development Director, John Truluck, to travel out of town in March.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to an out-of-town travel request for John Truluck.

ii. Administrator Epperson presented council with an out-of-town travel request for Grants Coordinator, Vickie Williams, to travel out of town in August.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to an out-of-town travel request for Vickie Williams

iii. Administrator Epperson stated that the travel request for the Assessor's Office for Gail McCormack has been withdrawn.

IX. Clarendon County Airport

Administrator Epperson began by stating that the Clarendon County Airport was in existence since 1965. He continued by stating that he had a teleconference with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and was informed that a number of trees at the northern and southern ends of the airport were penetrating the airport's approach and takeoff zones, requiring that the trees be removed or topped. Mr. Epperson continued by stating that the county must obtain either an agreement or easement from the property owners to remove or top the trees. Mr. Epperson continued by recommending that the county elect to remain at a 20:1 approach and begin removing the trees that fall under this approach.

Administrator Epperson further stated that he is recommending the consideration and passage of an Ordinance in the upcoming months that would allow the county to enter the property and remove trees or other obstructions that fall within an established approach/takeoff zone after notification to the landowner. This would allow for future maintenance. He also stated that the authority to pass an ordinance of this type was given to the county in the SC Code of Laws.

Chairman Stewart stated that the county wants the Airport to grow so we will have to comply with FAA. Whether it is cutting down trees or trimming trees.

Mr. Ned McIntosh stated that Ricky's Tree Service cut down 35 trees from his property and he was not compensated for them. He stated that he was told that he would receive 10 to 15 foot trees but he only received 6-foot trees. Mr. McIntosh continued by stating that if the airport moves to Summerton, it would only affect one person.

Ms. Cathy Giles stated that the landowners were told that if the county has the trees removed, the landowners would be compensated for the trees, but if the landowners have the trees removed, it would be at the landowner's expense.

Ms. Sarah Garland stated that Ms. Debbie Wilcox appraised the value of the trees and she wanted to know what happened to that value. She asked if the homeowners do not bring the trees into compliance, would the county bring the trees into compliance.

Administrator Epperson responded by stating that if the Ordinance could be written to require the cost of removal be paid by the county.

Ms. Judy Collins wants to know if the same amount of trees would be cut down as previously stated.

Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the original request was at a ratio of 34:1, but the new ratio is 20:1, so the amount of trees would be less and we would notify the Landowner as to which trees need to be removed.

Ms. Sarah Garland wants to know would the landowners be notified before any trees are removed.

Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the county would notify all landowners before any work is started.

Vice Chairman Frierson stated that the county wants to work with the landowners to come to a happy medium. He continued by stating that he likes the idea of asking landowners versus forcing the decision on landowners.

Administrator Epperson stated that he needed the approval to move forward with removing obstruction from the airport runway at a ratio of 20 to 1.

On Motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to move forward with removing obstructions from the runway of the Airport at a ratio of 20 to 1 at the expense of the County.

X. Financial Report

Mr. Anthony began his report by stating that the total Expenditures as of January 31, 2013 were \$10,675,151. He continued by stating that Revenue was not available. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that Water and Sewer are doing better than expected with Net Utility Income for the first 7 months of the Fiscal Year at \$128,652. Mr. Anthony stated that Weldon Auditorium is improving. He concluded by stating that C Fund Information is one month behind and the total Uncommitted Balance is \$146,100.

XI. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by stating that County Council had a Capital Project Meeting in which we discussed wireless internet at various facilities throughout the county and having council meetings stream live online. He stated that the Animal Shelter took in 73 dogs in January. Fifty-three were brought in by animal control

and the remaining 20 were brought in by the public. He continued by stating that the Animal Shelter has five more pins and a larger space for storage.

Administrator Epperson stated that the Recreation Department would be accepting registration for baseball through February 28. He continued by reiterating the programs that are offered at the Clarendon Community Complex. Administrator Epperson congratulated Paxville and the City of Manning for their water connection ceremony with USDA.

He continued by stating that all offices are scheduled to be out of the courthouse by July 1, 2013 for the renovation. Administrator Epperson concluded by stating that there are the names of 35 employees on the Employee Service Recognition Plaque that is hanging on the wall in the Administration Building.

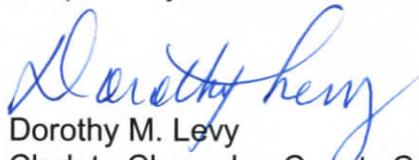
XI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he and Councilman Richardson attended the first meeting of the Riley Institute in Columbia. He continued by stating that he would be presenting a Resolution to Ms. Eileen Fulton declaring February 17, 2013, Eileen Fulton Day in Clarendon County. He concluded by stating that Ms. Fulton played the same role on daytime television for fifty years.

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 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

