



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2013, 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Regular County Council Meeting

Those in attendance:

County Council Chairman, Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Vice Chairman WJ 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: Konstantin Vengerowsky, Clarendon Citizen, Sharron Haley, The Item (Clarendon Bureau)

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Vickie Williams	Nancy Cave
Cynthia B. Mack	Lee Bledsoe	Connie Bledsoe
Sandi Tucker	Fred Tucker	Deepal S. Eliatamby
Patricia Pringle	Beulah Roberts	Charlotte Johnston
Robert Sullivan	Anne Little	Carol Summers
George Summers	Tim Hardee	Wes Lockard
Rose H. Wilder	John Thames	Sandra Bagnol
Robert McFadden, Sr.	John Tindal	Cathy Williams
Maria Rose	Tammy Rodvansky	Ronald Cunningham

And other citizens of Clarendon County

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Vice-Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting which was held on May 13, 2013 with minor corrections.

V. Proclamations

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely,

council voted unanimous approval to a proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2013, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted unanimous approval to a proclamation proclaiming May 18-24, 2013, as National Safe Boating Week.

VI. Out-of-Town Travel Requests

Administrator Epperson requested Council's approval for Voter's Registration Director, Shirley Black-Oliver to travel to Louisville, Kentucky from June 26 through July 3, 2013 and for two firefighters to travel to Tampa, Florida from September 10 through September 14, 2013.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous approval for Shirley Black-Oliver and two firefighters to travel out for state.

VII. Action Item

Administrator Epperson requested Council's approval to temporarily close the Clarendon County Courthouse to the public immediately until the forthcoming renovations are completed.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted unanimous approval to close the Clarendon County Courthouse to the general public immediately until the renovations are completed.

VIII. Ordinance 2013-01

Consideration was given to third and final 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 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 Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted unanimous approval to the third and final reading of Ordinance 2013-01.

IX. Public Hearing on Ordinance 2013-03

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing at 6:17 pm for Ordinance 2013-03, an Ordinance to amend the County's Unified Development Code (UDC).

Maria Rose, Planning Director, stated that the amendment to this Ordinance was mandated by The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in which the mandate states that new flood zones must be established.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any public comments on this Ordinance.

Chairman Stewart stated that since there were no public comments, the public hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:20 pm.

X. Ordinance 2013-03

Consideration was given to second reading of Ordinance 2013-03, An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon, South Carolina to amend the County's Unified Development Code (UDC).

On Motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to the second reading of Ordinance 2013-03.

XI. Presentation of Proposed FY2013-2014 Budget

Mr. Lynden Anthony, County Controller, gave Council an update on the elements that would affect the county's upcoming budget. He continued by stating that there are difficult challenges that we will try to maintain through the budgeting process. Mr. Anthony stated that with the State permitted millage increase of 2.07 percent, we are not projecting any growth in Revenue. He stated that this budget is based on the House of Representative's version of the Local Government Fund and not the Senate Finance Committee's version.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Expenses for this budget year is anticipated to be higher than last year's budget because of Insurance premiums, Worker's Compensation Claim, Property and Liability Coverage, and our current payroll.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that this year's Community Grants Committee decided the contributions that would be awarded to the following Organizations operating within the county:

American Red Cross	\$5,000	Clarendon County First Steps	\$4,000
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Central Carolina Tech.	\$121,600	CCTC Adult Ed	\$25,000
Behavioral Services	\$17,500	Council on Aging	\$7,000
Disabilities & Special Needs	\$4,500	Clarendon Soil & Water Cons.	\$30,000
Clemson Extension	\$28,900	Paxville Community Dev.	\$4,000
Santee-Wateree RTA	\$2,500		

Mr. Anthony further stated that there are some staffing requests within this budget: He stated that a request was made for a part-time person for the Probate Office, two deputies for the Sheriff's office, three firefighters for the Fire Department, and three dispatchers for the E911 Communication Center. He continued by stating that at this point, the budget is out of balance \$231,219. Mr. Anthony concluded by requesting a \$70,000 transfer from the Hospitality Tax Fund to the Weldon Auditorium and a Tax Anticipation Note in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Dr. Tim Hardee, President of CCTC, began by informing Council that Central Carolina had a total of 4,500 students enrolled this year. He stated that 500 of those students are from Clarendon County and CCTC had 580 graduates in 2013. He concluded by stating that he realized that Council has a difficult decision when working with a budget and he's disappointed with the decrease of \$79,000 to Central Carolina which is a substantial amount to the college.

Councilman English thanked Dr. Hardee for the work that he had done toward the growth of the College.

Chairman Stewart thanked Dr. Hardee for his work and informed him that Council can only do what Legislation allows, and we hope that they do not cut the Local Government Fund anymore.

Dr. Rose Wilder, Superintendent of Clarendon School District One, began by stating that Clarendon District One budget is balanced this year. She continued by informing Council that District One students are performing very well and are striving to get better.

Mr. John Thames, Interim Director of Finance CSDI, began by requesting a millage increase of 2.50. He continued by stating that there is a 1-year step increase which was mandated by the State. He concluded by stating that the district is requesting the utilization of a Tax Anticipation Note in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000.

Mr. John Tindal, Superintendent of Clarendon School District Two, began by stating that Clarendon School District Two had three schools received an A on their report cards, Manning Early Childhood Center, Manning Primary School, and Manning Jr. High. He continued by stating that Manning Early Childhood Center has received an excellent rating for twelve consecutive years and we are very proud of our schools.

Mrs. Cathy Williams, Finance Director of CSDII, began by presented Council with a proposed balanced budget of \$17,343,617. She stated that this proposed budget includes a step increase as mandated by the state. Mrs. Williams continued by requesting a millage increased from 124.8 to 127.4 based on the millage cap increase of 2.07%. She

concluded by thanking Council for the support that had been given to Clarendon District Two in the past.

Dr. Connie Dennis, Superintendent of Clarendon School District Three, began by thanking County Council for the opportunity to present their budget. She continued by stating that District III appreciates the bond that they have with District I, District II, and Central Carolina. Dr. Dennis stated that she is very pleased that the school districts and Central Carolina work well together for the betterment of the students. Dr. Dennis stated that Walker Gamble has been the recipient of the Palmetto Silver Award for the last nine years. She further stated that the Middle/High School has moved from Average in 2008 to Excellent in 2012 as well as the recipient of the Palmetto Gold Award. Dr. Dennis concluded by stating that Mr. Kelvin Lemon, Principal of the Middle/High School, was awarded the secondary principal of the year award.

Ms. Sandra Bagnol, Finance Director of CSDIII, began her report by stating that District III is not asking for a millage increase above the 2.07 allowed by the State. She stated that this budget includes step increases for everyone that is eligible for the step increase. Ms. Bagnol concluded that the district is not requesting any new positions for this coming year nor a Tax Anticipation Note.

Councilman Blakely thanked Superintendent Dennis and Finance Director Bagnol for all that they do for Clarendon District III. He stated that he feels that there should be a Resource Officer in every school and he feels like there should be a way to fund having a Resource Officer in every school in the state

XII. Public Hearing on Ordinance 2013-02

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing at 7:08 pm for 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.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any public comments on this Ordinance.

- Mr. Robert McFadden stated that Council would be adding two firefighters to the budget and he wants to know can Council add a clause to the budget to recruit African Americans for the Clarendon County Fire Department.
- Chairman Stewart stated that there are several committed African American volunteers on the County Fire Department. He stated that everyone is welcome to apply for the positions. Chairman Stewart concluded by stating that if anyone has

the name of a qualified person or anyone who wants to become qualified for the Fire Department, please give the name to Chief Frances Richbourg.

- Mr. Robert Sullivan, Historic Society Committee Member, asked for clarification on the grants appropriation for the Historic Society.

Mr. Anthony stated that last year the Community Grants appropriation for the year was \$334,000, but this year that amount is \$250,000, it was decreased by 25%.

- Mr. Sullivan asked if all of the grants were funded, how much would the amount have been.

Mr. Anthony responded by stating that 16 Organizations requested grants totaling \$960,000 and out of the 16 requests, four requests were not funded.

- Mr. Sullivan asked if the County Revenue improved, would Council consider reconvening mid-year to review the grant application for additional funding for the Museum.

Chairman Stewart responded by stating that Council appreciates what the Historic Society does and we would take the recommendation under advisement.

- Mr. Robert McFadden asked would there be an expansion to the Library System because the present Library is overcrowded and some of the space is being utilized for the Mobile Library. He continued by asking would there be Library Centers over the county?

Chairman Stewart stated that the County does not have the funds to put a Library in each school district.

Mr. Anthony responded by stating that a Library Expansion is a recommendation by the Library Board to County Council.

Ms. Charlotte Johnston, Librarian, stated that the Library Board is taking steps to address the housing and the Mobile Library. She concluded by stating that the Mobile Library is now open on Saturdays in Summerton to accommodate more citizens.

- Ms. Ann Little, President of the Board of Directors for the Second Chance Animal Shelter, began by requesting additional funds to help increase their level of service to the county. She continued by stating that the Shelter implemented a low cost spay and neuter program. Ms. Little continued by stating that the program has been very successful. She continued by stating that there is a Veterinarian that comes from Lexington twice a month. Ms. Little further stated

that year-to-date; the center has spayed or neutered 336 Cats and Dogs. She concluded by requesting that if funds becomes available, could the center be considered for additional funds.

Chairman Stewart thanked Ms. Little and asked if there were any additional comments on the budget ordinance. He stated that if there were no more comments, the public hearing will close. The public hearing closed at 7:28 pm.

XIII. Ordinance 2013-02

Consideration was given to second 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.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted unanimous approval to the second reading of Ordinance 2013-02.

IVX. Financial Report

Mr. Anthony began his report by stating that the total Revenue year-to-date was \$15,760,000. He continued by stating that Expenditures year-to-date was \$15,500,000. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that by the end of this fiscal year, we anticipate spending less than what was appropriated. Mr. Anthony further stated that Water and Sewer had total Revenue of \$609,525, Operating Expenses of \$370,809, and Depreciation Expenses of \$101,798, leaving a net income of \$136,918.

Mr. Anthony stated that as of April 30, 2013, Weldon Auditorium had Revenue totaling \$73,870 and a Deficit of \$37,663. He concluded by stating that the C Fund has a negative balance because of the road paving project already scheduled and this negative balance should clear up by the time the project is completed.

XI. Administrator's Report

Mr. Epperson started his report by stating that the Court House Renovation is on schedule and should be completed in 18 to 24 months.

He continued by stating that the first approved road for paving is Pompey Town Road and the paving should begin in a week to ten days.

Mr. Epperson continued by stating that the county hired Mr. Billy Timmons as the County Engineer, Mr. Richard Byrd as the Water and Sewer Director, and Mr. Bill Jenkinson as the Animal Control and Code Enforcement Officer.

He continued by stating that Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties Administrators met and gave input on the candidates that have applied for the position of Executive Director for Santee Lynches Regional Council of Government.

Mr. Epperson continued by congratulating the Organizers of the Puddin Swamp Festival, the Striped Bass Festival, and the Taste of Clarendon. He stated that these functions were well organized and the participation was great.

He continued by stating that there were 19 dogs brought in by the public to the Animal Shelter and three of those dogs were adopted.

Mr. Epperson concluded by giving an update on Phase IB and Phase II of the water project which are moving well and the areas are being finalized.

XII. Chairman's Report

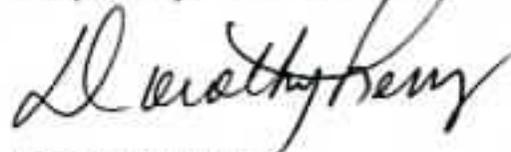
Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he was fortunate to ride with the Law Enforcement Officers in an effort to raise money for fallen Law Enforcement Officers.

He concluded by stating that trying to find a replacement for Mr. Jim Darby has been a very difficult task.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson and Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to adjourn the council meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

