



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, October 14, 2013, 6:00 PM  
Clarendon School District One Board Room  
Regular County Council Meeting**

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**Those in attendance:**

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

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

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	Dr. Rose Wilder	Lee & Connie Bledsoe
Fred Tucker	Robert McFadden	John D.R. Jones
Nancy Cave	Maria Rose	Jay Brewer & His daughter
Nathaniel Briggs	The Johnsons	Loretta Pollard
Gregory Holliday	Archie Lemon	Linda Lemon
Gary Smith	Mike Burkhold	And other Clarendon County Citizens

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He asked everyone to remember Bridgette Epperson who was recovering from surgery. 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 Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting which was held on September 9, 2013 with minor corrections.

**II. Requests**

**i. Board Appointments**

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Alfred Kelley to the Planning Commission Board representing District One.

On Motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. John Tindal to the Clarendon County Development Board representing District Two.

**ii. Water Service Agreement**

Administrator Epperson gave Council a synopsis of the Water Service Area Agreement between the Town of Summerton and Clarendon County. He stated that this agreement would allow the Town of Summerton to

provide water services outside of their service areas. He continued by stating that the water services must begin within 10 years.

Mayor Bruner stated that this agreement would allow the Town of Summerton to extend water services to the following areas: Scott's Branch High School to Rambay, Rev. J.W. Carter Road to I-95, and Clarendon Heights Subdivision to Jack Touchberry Road.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to allow the Town of Summerton to extend its water services to the areas stated above.

### **iii. Millage Sheet**

Administrator Epperson presented Council with the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Millage Sheet for approval.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Millage Sheet.

### **III. Presentation from South Carolina Manchester State Forestry**

Mr. Harvey Belser, South Carolina Forestry Commission, presented Clarendon County Council with a check for \$10,039.00. He stated that this amount represents Clarendon County's Portion of the total revenues from the sale of timber and the recreation permits sold by Manchester State Forest. He concluded by stating that \$700,000 was given back to 13 different counties this year.

Chairman Stewart stated that he needed a motion to accept the check and divide the amount evenly between the three school districts.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted Unanimous Approval to accept the check and divide the amount evenly between the three Clarendon County School Districts.

### **IV. Presentation from Mr. John Jones**

Mr. John D.R. Jones, Community Relations Senior Consultant from the Human Affairs Commission, requested Council to consider passing an Ordinance to create an Advisory Council for Clarendon County. He stated that this Advisory Council would promote the betterment of the citizens. He further stated that the members of the Advisory Council would comprise of ages, races, genders, religions, etc. Mr. Jones stated that the Advisory Council would identify issues, set goals, establish plans, and monitor results. He continued by stating that there were 20 counties in the State of South Carolina that had an active Council prior to the budget cuts. He concluded by stating that for a county the size of Clarendon, the Advisory Council should have 15 to 30 members.

Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation. He continued by requesting Administrator Epperson to investigate and see what other Counties have an Advisory Council.

### **V. Resolution 2013-09**

Administrator Epperson gave Council a synopsis of Resolution 2013-09, a Resolution in opposition of House Bill 3290, and Senate Bill 203 currently pending before the South Carolina General Assembly. Mr.

Epperson stated that this bill would change the County's right to control solid waste within the county. He concluded by stating that if this bill passes, it would kill any zoning laws that the county has.

Mr. Robert McFadden asked what kind of waste was included in these bills.

Chairman Stewart responded by stating that these bills would control how we dispose of Municipal Waste or Household garbage.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted unanimous approval to Resolution 2013-09, a Resolution in opposition of House Bill 3290 and Senate Bill 203.

#### **VI. Mutual Aid Agreement**

Administrator Epperson presented Council with a Mutual Aid Agreement in consideration of the Termination of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Clarendon County and the Town of Summerton. He stated that the termination of this agreement would allow the Town of Summerton to enter into an agreement with a private firm that would handle building approvals and permits. He concluded by stating that Mayor Bruner would like this termination to be effective October 1, 2013.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to terminate the Intergovernmental Agreement between Clarendon County and the Town of Summerton effective October 1, 2013.

#### **VII. Clarendon County Transportation Committee**

Chairman Stewart stated that the Clarendon County Transportation Committee was now in session. The Clarendon County Transportation Committee began its session at 6:40 pm.

1. Administrator Epperson requested Council's approval on the following change orders to the 2013 Road Paving List:

- **\$9,350 to repair a busted pipe in the DSS parking lot.**
- **\$9,180 to repair the drainage problem on Hector Walker Road.**
- **A 30 days extension to complete the work on Hector Walker Road.**
- **\$34,369 to replace five pipes on Pompey Town Road.**

Administrator Epperson further stated that the road paving projects came in under budget so there are funds to cover these changes.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to the change orders presented by Administrator Epperson.

Mr. Robert McFadden stated that some citizens in the Silver area want to know why Mahoney (SC-S-14-463) is blocked with a gate. He stated that Mahoney Road is a state road and the citizens that live on that road are paying taxes just like other citizens. He further stated that the citizens are requesting Council to have the gate removed because they have used that road for a hundred plus years.

Chairman Stewart stated that we would research it to see if anything can be done by Council. He further stated that he is familiar with that road. He concluded by instructing Administrator Epperson to investigate to see who owns Mahoney Road.

2. Administrator Epperson stated that Mr. Billy Timmons, Engineer, and Mr. John Truluck, Economic Development Director, requested the approval to have 200 feet of pavement resurfaced on Joe Rogers Blvd. He further stated that the resurfacing would cost \$12,500.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to have 200 feet of pavement on Joe Rogers Blvd. resurfaced.

3. Administrator Epperson stated that by law, 25% of the C Fund must go to the local DOT, and Mr. Billy Timmons and Mr. Tim Hilliard are requesting the 25% of C Funds to complete the following work:
  - \$125,000 to replace 60 inches of piping on Highway 301 and Highway 15 at Cantey Street.
  - \$190,000 to provide storm drainage and installation on Church Street behind Samuels Funeral Home.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing the Local DOT to spend \$315,000 to replace the piping on Highway 301 and Highway 15 at Cantey Street and to provide storm drainage and installation on Church Street behind Samuels Funeral Home.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Transportation Committee meeting was now closed. The Transportation Committee closed at 6:54 pm.

#### **VIII. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2013-04**

The public hearing for Ordinance 2013-04 began at 6:54 pm. Administrator Epperson stated that every 5 years, the county has to amend the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Maria Rose, Planning Director, stated that the list of industries was deleted from the plan because seventy-five businesses/industries have closed in the past 5 years and fifteen hundred people lost jobs. She concluded by stating that a brochure of the services rendered by the Planning Commission would go out to each citizen along with their tax bill.

Mr. Gary Smith, Burkhold and Smith Planning Consultants, presented the Comprehensive Plan to Council. Mr. Smith stated that the Comprehensive Plan must change every 5 years and the only thing that changed were the statistics from five elements that had to change because of the census.

##### **Element 1 – Population**

- Clarendon County grew 7.6 percent between 2000 and 2010.
- In 2000, the population was 32,502 and the 2010 census, the population was 34,971.
- 74.2 percent of the county's population was born within the county.
- The racial breakdown of the County's Population is as follows:  
Forty-seven percent – White, 50.1 percent black, and 2.9 percent other.
- 76.4 percent of citizens have a high school diploma or a higher-level degree, which is an eleven percent increase.
- 41.8 percent of citizens are living below the poverty level.

#### **Element 2 – Housing**

- There were 17,467 housing units in 2010, in which 72 percent were occupied
- The mobile homes increased by 1,042 over 5 years

#### **Element 3 – Economic Development**

- Sixteen hundred workers commuted to Clarendon County for work in 1964, and 2,710 workers commuted to Clarendon County for work in 2010.
- Ten of the 15 largest employers in Clarendon County have less than 50 employees.
- The larger Industry in Clarendon County had 210 employees in 2010, whereas in 2008, the largest employer had 650 employees.

#### **Element 4 – Land Use Element**

- There were 365 farms in 1997 whereas; in 2007, there were 491 farms.
- There were 505 building permits issued in 2005, whereas; in 2012, there were only 155.

#### **Element 5 – Transportation Elements**

- The 2010 Census reported that 74.2 percent of the County's residents were born in South Carolina, whereas; in the 2000 Census, 81.1 percent of the County's residents were born in South Carolina.

Chairman Stewart asked if there was any additional discussion on this Ordinance.

- Mrs. Loretta Pollard asked what percent of the workforce was unemployed because of the closing of Federal Mogul and what percent of the Senior Citizen population changed.

Mr. Smith responded by stating that the percentage that he has is for all of the industries that closed. He concluded by stating that the Senior Citizen Population did not change very much.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there was no other discussion on Ordinance 2013-04, the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 7:20 pm.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-04, an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2008-12, the Clarendon County Comprehensive Plan.

#### **IX. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2013-05**

Administrator Epperson stated that the Reassessment Appeals Board was established 5 years ago. He continued by stating that this Ordinance established guidelines and term limits.

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing for discussions for Ordinance 2013-05. The public hearing began at 7:22 pm.

- Ms. Loretta Pollard asked what was the purpose of the Re-Assessment Appeals Board.

Administrator Epperson responded by stating that the Re-Assessment Appeals Board hears appeals from property owners if they are not satisfied with the assessed value given, by the Assessor's Office, for their property.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there was no other discussion, the public hearing would close. The Public Hearing closed at 7:25 PM.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-05, an Ordinance to establish the Clarendon County Reassessment Appeals Board.

#### **X. Financial Report**

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his report by stating that the General Fund spent \$4,654,144 for the first three months. He stated that the County spent 24% of the budget appropriation year to date.

Mr. Anthony stated that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Expenses of \$138,750 and Total Operating Revenue of \$169,304 for the month ending September 30, 2013. He further stated that Depreciation and Interest Expenses were a total of \$64,407 leaving a Net Utility deficit of \$33,853.

Mr. Anthony stated that the Weldon Auditorium sold nearly 700 tickets for the last concert. He further stated that with the Sponsorship and tickets Revenue, the Weldon ended the first quarter with a deficit of \$31,000 before transfers.

Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that the C Fund Program had a balance of \$784,923 as of the end of August 2013. He continued by stating that there is a balance of \$478,215 remaining for current projects, and the amount that is set aside in the State Project Reserve is \$97,597. Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that there is an uncommitted balance of \$209,111.

#### **XI. Administrator's Report**

Mr. Epperson began his report by stating that the Delinquent Tax Sale was held on October 7, 2013 and he wants to thank Ms. Gamble and her Staff for a job well done. He continued by stating that the tax books are open and citizens can pay their taxes online or in person.

Mr. Epperson stated that all USDA Projects are on hold because of the Government shutdown. He continued by stating that the Court House renovation should be completed in 18 to 24 months.

Mr. Epperson continued by requesting County Council to move the November's Council meeting to the third Monday Night instead of the second Monday Night. He further stated that the second Monday is a county holiday and the County offices would be closed.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to move the November's Council meeting to the third Monday night instead of the second Monday night.

Councilman Blakely stated that he attended the presentation that was held at the Fire Department in reference to having a Sprinkler System in your home. He stated that if you were building a home, it would be to your advantage to have a sprinkler system installed.

#### **XII. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Stewart began his report by thanking everyone that took the fire fighters training class. He continued by stating that he would be traveling to Columbia on Friday to attend a conference given by the

Association of Counties. Chairman Stewart further stated that he would be attending the SC Forestry Association meeting on October 31, 2013 through November 2, 2013.

Chairman Stewart concluded his report by thanking Mr. Johnson for waiting until the end of the meeting to speak to Council.

- Mr. Johnson stated that he has an issue about bad roads. He stated that Gator Lake Road is so bad that their mailboxes have to be moved to the end of the road because the mail carrier does not want to deliver mail on the road. He further stated that when it rains, an emergency vehicle would not be able to provide service because the road is flooded. He stated that the buses would not come down that road anymore.
- Chairman Stewart stated that Gator Lake Road is a private road and the County cannot spend County dollars on a private road.
- Chairman Stewart further stated that when Mr. Ferrell Cothran was the County Attorney and Mr. Bill Houser was the County Administrator, they went to Williamsburg County to see if Williamsburg County had anything in place to pave a private road. He stated that they found a judge's order that stated that County Council could not maintain a private road. Chairman Stewart further stated that there are conditions that must be met that would allow a private road to be maintained by county dollars. He stated that if you are receiving service such as meals on wheels or a home health nurse, it could qualify for road service. He concluded by stating that County Council would need a letter stating that service can no longer be provided because of the conditions of the road and all of the landowners have to get together and deed a right of way to the county. Chairman Stewart stated that if this happens, then the road becomes a public road and the county would be able to maintain the road.
- Mr. Johnson continued by stating that you can only drive 5 miles an hours because if you do not, you would have to keep realigning your tires. He concluded by stating that if the mail boxes are moved to the end of the road, some of the citizens would not be able to get their mail.
- Chairman Stewart instructed Administrator Epperson to investigate and let Council know what can be done.

### **XIII. Executive Session**

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel item in the Facilities Department and multiple personnel items in the Sheriff's Department.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session. The Executive Session began at 8:00 pm.

### **XIV. Open Session**

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 8:34 pm.

#### **1. Personnel Item – Facilities Department**

- i. Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council discussed a personnel item in the Facilities Department in which no action would be taken.

Chairman Stewart further stated that Council discussed multiple personnel items in the Sheriff's department in which action would be taken.

## 2. Personnel Items -Sheriff's Department

- i. Administrator Epperson requested Council's approval to create a grant position for a Criminal Domestic Violence Investigator, within the Sheriff's Department that would run from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson, and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval allowing Administrator Epperson to create the position for a Criminal Domestic Violence Investigator for the Sheriff's Department, which would be funded with a grant.

- ii. Administrator Epperson requested Council's Approval for a salary of \$38,000 for a Narcotics Investigator Position within the Sheriff's Department.

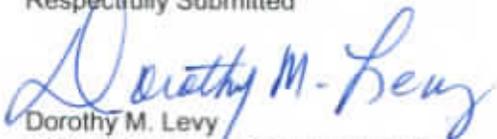
On motion by Councilman English, and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to a salary of \$38,000 for a Narcotics Investigator Position within the Sheriff's Department.

## XV. Adjournment

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to adjourn.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the council meeting. The Council Meeting ended at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

