



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, May 14, 2012 6:00 P.M.
Weldon Auditorium
Meeting Minutes

Those in attendance:

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

Press in attendance: Sharon Haley, The Citizen, Jason Lesley, The Manning Times, and Bobby Baker, The Item.

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Cynthia Mack	Pat Goodwin	Connie J. Dennis
Fred Tucker	Linda Lemon	Randy Garrett	Tammy Rodvansky
Sandi Tucker	Patricia Pringle	Nancy Cave	Lee Bledsoe
Connie Bledsoe	Carrie Trebil	Archie Lemon	Ann August
Doretha Ford	Charlotte Johnson	Riley Richards	Sandra Bagnal
Scott L. Robinson	Dawn Griffith	Louis Griffith	Marilyn Fletcher
Roy Fletcher	John Tindal	Ernest Finney, III	Cathy Williams
Rose Wilder	Lyde Graham	Tim Hardee	Jack Howle

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Following brief introductory remarks from Chairman Stewart, Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

IV. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to the agenda as presented.

V. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to the council meeting minutes for Regular Meeting which was held on April 9, 2012.

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

Administrator Epperson made two requests to the transportation committee as follows:

- i. Requested funds in the amount of \$500.00 to fabricate and replace dedicated signs stating that the portion of state road S-14-187 from Barrineau Road to New Town Road name be changed to "Sergeant Walter Kenneth Floyd Memorial Highway".

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson council voted unanimous approval to the request of \$500.00 to fabricate and replace dedicated signs reflecting the name change.

- ii. Requested funds in the amount of \$150,000 to purchase reconstituted asphalt.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to the request of \$150,000 to purchase reconstituted asphalt.

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

VII. Requests

Administrator Epperson requested council to appoint or reappoint the following citizens as stated:

- i. To reappoint Marie Gates and Walter L. Sanders – to the Clarendon County Disability and Special Needs Board.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to reappoint Marie Gates and Walter L. Sanders to the Clarendon County Disability and Special Needs Board.

- ii. To reappoint Marilyn Fletcher and Robert Gibbons – to the Clarendon County Planning Commission.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to reappoint Marilyn Fletcher and Robert Gibbons to the Clarendon County Planning Commission.

- iii. To appoint Joseph Postell – to the Clarendon County Planning Commission.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to appoint Joseph Postell to the Clarendon County Planning Commission.

- iv. To appoint Charles K. Gibbons – to the Clarendon County Zoning Board.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval to appoint Charles K. Gibbons to the Clarendon County Zoning Board.

VIII. Presentation of Proposed FY2012-2013 Budget

Mr. Lynden Anthony, County Controller, started his presentation by stating that the millage rate will increase 3.16%. He stated that the proposed budget has a deficit of \$54,000. He continued by stating that the Supreme Court mandated security for the county courthouse will cost about \$150,000. He stated that included in the budget is a 5% increase for elected officials and a 2% cost of living increase for county employees. He continued by stating that council approved a \$50,000 transfer to the Weldon Auditorium which will be transferred from Hospitality Tax Funds.

Mr. Anthony continued his presentation by stating that there is a \$2,000,000 tax anticipation note also written into the budget. Mr. Anthony categorized expenses as follows:

- a. Public Safety – 37%, this includes the Sheriff, Coroner, EMS, and Communications.
- b. General Government Costs – 24%
- c. Physical Inventory – 17%, this includes Public Works and Landfill.
- d. Court Related Costs – 8%
- e. Miscellaneous Costs – 5%
- f. Transportation - 2%

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by stating that Ad Valorem Taxes provided 62% of the budget revenue.

Clarendon School District #1 - Dr. Rose Wilder, Superintendent, thanked council for the opportunity to present their budget. She continued by stating that the district is preparing to move into the new facility. She stated that the district is not asking for anything other than the 3.16% increase in millage authorized by the State. Dr. Wilder presented Finance Director, Mr. Lyde Graham to provide information on District One FY 2012-2013 Budget.

Mr. Graham stated that Clarendon School District One has a balance budget. He concluded his presentation by stating that because of the cuts in Federal Allocation, the Clarendon District One Board of Trustees is requesting the utilization of a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Clarendon School District #2 – Mr. John Tindal, Superintendent, thanked council for the opportunity to present their budget and stated that the District is in a Solid Financial State. He stated that the facilities have needs. Manning High School was built in the 1980s and has needs. Mr. Tindal presented Finance Director, Mrs. Cathy Williams to provide financial information on District Two budget for FY 2012-2013.

Mrs. Williams stated that Clarendon School District Two has a balanced budget. She stated that the district budget has estimated revenues of \$16,604,960. Mrs. Williams stated that the district is requesting the operating millage be increased from 121.0 to 124.8 mills based on the millage cap increase of 3.16%. She concluded her presentation by stating that the district is requesting approval for a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$750,000.

Clarendon School District #3 – Dr. Connie Dennis, Superintendent, thanked council for their support and she stated that the district wants to improve technology. Dr. Dennis presented the Finance Director, Ms. Sandra Bagnal to present financial information on District Three budget for FY 2012-2013.

Ms. Bagnal stated that Clarendon School District Three has a balanced budget through use of The Fund balance. Ms. Bagnal asked that the millage rate be increased by the State allowed 3.16% PLUS 1.56% not used from the prior year. This results in a millage rate increase of 4.72%. She stated that included in their budget is a 2% increase for all district three employees. Ms. Bagnal concluded her presentation by stating that the district is requesting approval for a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$500,000.

Central Carolina Technical College – Dr. Tim Hardee, President of CCTC, stated that Central Carolina had 791 graduates this year and 112 of those graduates were from Clarendon County. He stated that Shaw Campus and FE Dubose Career Center would be training the first 180 potential employees for Continental Tires. Dr. Hardee concluded his presentation by stating that CCTC has entered into an agreement with Francis Marion University whereas, starting this fall, Francis Marion University Instructors will be teaching classes at Central Carolina Health Science Center.

Clarendon County Auditor - Ms. Patricia Pringle thanked council for everything. She stated that the auditor's office has not requested any changes in the last two budget years, but this year she is requesting that all Clerk II positions in the Auditor's office be eliminated and replaced with the job titles Auditor Tax Clerk and Auditor Sr. Tax Clerk, which best describes their job responsibilities and that the salary for those positions be increased 5% – 7% depending on experience.

Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Garrett had an emergency so Mr. Lynden Anthony, County Controller, gave council the budget consideration for the sheriff's office. Mr. Anthony stated that the sheriff's office is requesting an increase of \$45,000 for salary and salary related expenses, \$55,000 to enhance the video equipment, \$72,000 increase in fuel expense, and \$29,000 for other equipment. Mr. Anthony concluded that the sheriff has a capital

request for two new vehicles and he wants to add a new line item to track boats and related expenses.

Solicitor – Ernest "Chip" Finney thanked council for the opportunity. He continued by stating that the State mandated the Solicitor's Office to move cases faster, so now the Clarendon office has two attorneys which allows them to move cases faster. He continued by stating that the two attorneys are sharing the same office and telephone. Solicitor Finney concluded by stating that he wants the attorneys to be able to work more efficiently, so he is requesting an increase in the solicitor's office budget of \$25,000.

Third Circuit Public Defender – Jack Howle asked council for funds to set up a public defender's office in Clarendon County and to hire a full-time secretary to staff the office. He stated that an office would be available in the county courthouse in September. Mr. Howle concluded by requesting an increase in the Public Defender's office budget of \$33,000 for salary and salary related expenses for a full-time secretary so he can staff the Clarendon office.

Santee Wateree RTA, - Ann August, Executive Director, stated that RTA lost \$3,000,000 due to Medicaid Cuts. She stated that because of the cuts, 16 employees were laid off and 14 employees were reduced to part-time. Ms. August continued by stating that 50% of their funding comes from the federal government, 25% comes from state government, and 25% comes from local government. She concluded by asking council to increase the contribution amount to match federal and state government contribution of \$55,000.

IX. Public Hearing

Chairman Stewart called the public hearing to order at 7:16 PM to discuss Clarendon County FY2012-2013 budget.

Marilyn Fletcher – Ms. Fletcher stated that on the sheriff's budget, he is requesting an increase of \$72,000 for fuel. She stated that the sheriff hired four deputies from Florence and she wants to know if it is true that the officers are taking their vehicles home at night. She stated that the sheriff's budget is out of line every year. Ms. Fletcher asked if there were other ways to cut back on expenses. She stated that she did not see how a Clarendon County vehicle situated in Florence County could help Clarendon County. Ms. Fletcher concluded by asking if council was allowing officers, that live in Florence County, to take their vehicles home.

Lynden Anthony, County Controller, responded by stating that the Sheriff has control over all his vehicles.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any additional comments in reference to the County FY2012-2013 Budget.

Vice-Chairman W.J. Frierson stated that he was proud of all of the school districts and Central Carolina Technical College for what they are doing.

Chairman Stewart invited anyone with questions to come by his office or the office of the administrator. He stated that if anyone wanted to see his budget book or make a copy they could do so. He also stated that the public hearing was closed.

The Public hearing closed at 7:22 PM.

X. Ordinance 2012-01 – FY2012-2013 Budget for Clarendon County

Consideration was given to Second Reading of Ordinance #2012-01 to adopt the FY2012-2013 County Budget.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to the second reading of Ordinance 2012-01 to adopt the FY2012-2013 County Budget.

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to approve the Tax Anticipation Note.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman English, council voted unanimous approval to a Tax Anticipation Note of \$2,000,000.

Chairman Stewart instructed Administrator David Epperson to bring back a balanced budget.

Xi. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson stated that the Revenue for the month of April was \$1,713,862 and the Expenses were \$1,606,990. He stated that the dog pound received 56 animals for the month, one passed away, five were adopted, and four were claimed by the owners. He also stated that of the 56 received, 34 were brought in by the public and the remaining 22 were brought in by animal control officers.

Administrator Epperson stated that the dinner meeting with Manning City Council was a success. He thanked the Chamber for another successful Taste of Clarendon. He also thanked LeBon Joye and Bridgette Epperson for getting everything prepared at the Community Complex for the Taste of Clarendon. Administrator Epperson concluded his report by stating that the county is moving well and the administrative building is on schedule for completion by June 15. He stated that he along with Lynden Anthony, and

Tamika Malone would be speaking at the Rotary next Wednesday in reference to the funding for the administrative building.

XII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that council will do their very best to accommodate the requests that were made for the FY2012-2013 Budget and he also stated that the 250 miles bike ride in memory of fallen law enforcement officers ended at the White House, in Washington, DC.

XIII. Public Comments

No public comments

XI. Executive Session **i. Personnel Matter**

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

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval to go into Executive Session at 7:38 PM.

Chairman Stewart asked LeBon Joye and Linda Lemon to attend the Executive Session.

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session.

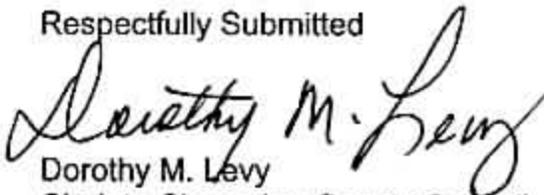
On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval to come out of Executive Session at 8:05 PM.

Chairman Stewart stated that, from the Executive Session, no action would be taken at this time.

XVI. Adjournment

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to adjourn the council meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted


Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

