



Minutes
Clarendon County Council
Regular Council Meeting
January 13, 2011
Weldon Cultural Arts Center, Auditorium
Manning, South Carolina

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. County Council Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
2. County Council Vice-Chairman W. J. Frierson
3. County Councilman A.C. English, Jr.
4. County Councilman Billy Richardson
5. County Councilman Benton Blakely

COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Mia R. Jackson, Clerk to County Council
- David W. Epperson, County Attorney
- Linda P. Lemon, Director of Human Resources

MEDIA PRESENT:

Bobby Baker, The Item
Daniel Lackey,

****Prior to County Council Meeting-** Beginning at 5:45p.m., Chairman Stewart called the public to order, announcing that W.J. Frierson, Benton Blakely, and Billy Richardson incumbent Councilmen, for Clarendon County Council were re-elected during the November 2, 2010 election. Judge R. Ferrell Cothran presided over the investiture ceremony. Immediately following the ceremony, the Regular County meeting commenced.

I. Chairman Stewart called the Regular council meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Chairman Stewart stated that due to inclement weather on Monday January 10, 2011, the council meeting had to be postponed. He also advised that William "Bill" Houser the County Administrator is currently out after undergoing exploratory surgery on Tuesday January 11, 2011 where his doctors discovered a completely blocked artery. He stated that Administrator Houser is expected to be out 8-12weeks.

II. Invocation was performed by Chairman Stewart

III. Pledge of Allegiance-Recited in unison

IV. Approval of Agenda- After reviewing the agenda as presented, a motion by Councilman Blakely, seconded by Councilman English to accept the January 13, 2011 council agenda as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

V. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes –Council was given the opportunity to review the minutes from the December 13, 2010 council meeting for correction and editing. With no comments, questions, or changes, Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to accept the minutes as presented. **ACTION:** Motion made by Vice-Chairman Frierson, seconded by Councilman English to accept the December 13, 2010 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

VI. Consideration of Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2010-13- Authorizing the Ratification of the Existing Multi-County Park Agreement Between Clarendon County, South Carolina and Sumter County, South Carolina; Ratifying the Existing Park Boundaries, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Revised and Restated Multi-County Park Agreement; and Other

Related Matters. **Chairman Stewart** turned the floor over to Attorney David Epperson who explained Ordinance 2010-13. **Attorney Epperson** thanked Chairman Stewart and advised council that the ordinance has successfully passed two (2) readings and a public hearing. Attorney Epperson explained that the ordinance is an agreement by and between Clarendon County and Sumter County. He stated that it is a “Multi-County Park” which is not a physical park or location, but are parcels of property agreed upon by both counties in the agreement. Epperson stated that the Multi-County Park Agreement allows companies established within the multi-county parks offered incentives like: FILOT credit and or a State based job credit. **Vice-Chairman Frierson asked**, “It’s my understanding that we have agreements with other counties as well, right?” Attorney Epperson replied, “Yes, we have other agreements with surrounding counties, however, this particular agreement is just between Sumter and Clarendon County.” Chairman Stewart thanked Attorney Epperson and stated that if there were no further questions or comments, he would entertain a motion on Ordinance 2010-13. **ACTION:** A motion made by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson to accept third and final reading of Ordinance 2010-13 as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

VII. Proclamation (s): Chairman Stewart began by stating that during the construction of the Weldon Auditorium Administrator Houser and Sandi Tucker, Weldon Coordinator thought it be nice to proclaim each performance at Weldon as that particular Performers Day in Clarendon County. He reminded council and the public that during the December council meeting, council approved the proclamation declaring December 14th as the Columbia City Ballet Day in Clarendon County. Attorney Epperson continued with advising that Administrator Houser also thought it would be good to read the proclamations for the next four (4) performances beginning; January 21st with a performance by BJ Thomas, January 29th the Triumphant Quartet following February 25th with a performance by Ball in the House, and then March 10th with Southern Fried Jazz Band. Chairman Stewart advised that the each proclamation declares the date of their performance as the group’s day in Clarendon County. He also stated that each proclamation is the same except for the name change. Chairman Stewart read the one of the proclamations in its entirety and then entertained a motion to accept all four (4) proclamations as presented. **ACTION:** A motion made by Vice-Chairman Frierson, seconded by Councilman Richardson to accept all four (4) proclamations as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

VIII. Approval of Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget Schedule- County Controller Lynden Anthony thanked Council for the opportunity make the presentation. He stated that each year during this time of year, council is presented with a schedule of dates that give a timeline of budgetary process (see attached schedule). Mr. Anthony reviewed the dates and noted the May25, 2011 is placed on the schedule each year; however it is at the discretion of council as to whether it is necessary. He stated that if the workshop is not needed, then that date will be eliminated. With no questions, comments, or concerns from council; Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget Schedule as presented. **ACTION:** Motion made by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Councilman Blakely to accept the FY2011-2012 Budget Schedule as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

IX. Out of State travel request- Attorney Epperson presented this request before Council. He stated that John Truluck, Director of the Economic Development Board for Clarendon County has been invited by the law firm, Parker Poe, to attend a European prospect meeting. He is invited to meet in Austria and Germany. Mr. Epperson advised that the trip is be sponsored by

the Power Team and Rodem Group along with Parker Poe and Mr. Truluck will be responsible for his lodging, travel, and meals. Epperson also noted that Mr. Truluck has the funds within his budget to cover the cost of the trip; however Council would need to approve the travel in order for him to attend. With no questions or concerns from council a motion to approve was made. **ACTION:** A motion by Councilman English, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson to approve the travel request of John Truluck to attend the European prospect meeting. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

X. **Administrator's Report**-In Administrator Houser's absence Attorney Epperson presented the Administrator's report. He began by presenting the monthly financial report for the county to include the Water & Sewer department and the C-Fund Report. (*See below*)

Clarendon County Finances -As of December 31, 2010

December Month-End Report **December Revenue not available **

November Revenue \$166, 728 (Low- not all taxes collected yet)

December Expenditures \$1, 417, 957

Year to Date TOTALS

YTD **Revenue** TOTAL \$2, 727, 984 or 15%

YTD **Expenditure** TOTAL \$8, 437, 562 or 47% (including grant funds)

Remaining Budget

Remaining **Revenue** Budget \$15, 187, 543

Remaining **Expenditure** Budget \$9, 477, 965

Clarendon County Water & Sewer-As of December 31, 2010

TOTAL Operating **Revenue** \$166, 121

TOTAL Operating **Expenses** \$149, 591

TOTAL **Depreciation** (\$17, 640)

TOTAL **Income/ (Loss)** (\$1, 110)

C-Fund Report-As of December 31, 2010

Last Report November 30, 2010

Funds Available November 1, 2010 \$944, 497

State Projects -\$388, 490

Local Projects -\$296, 053

TOTAL Committed Funds \$684, 543

Uncommitted funds available for December 2010 \$259, 954

After the financial report, Attorney Epperson presented updates on several countywide projects: **New Administrative Building**- The oral presentations by design build firms was recently done. The building committee will be making the final selections on the contractor/architect in the coming weeks. Once the final selection of the architect/contractor is made it is expected to have a 10-14 month project completion timeline. **Highway 260 Waterline**- Attorney Epperson advised council that on December 23rd a full page bid was placed in the local papers soliciting for contractors for the project. He stated that at this time Bob Dennis is currently working on obtaining the final easements needed for the project. He stated the expected date to officially break ground is March 2011. **Animal Shelter Department/Shelter**- Attorney Epperson stated that the contractors are completing the necessary additions and modifications at the Second Chance Animal Shelter. He stated that the 60-day completion extension is expected to be sufficient to ensure the Animal Shelter is up and running in March. **Weldon Auditorium**- Weldon Auditorium is doing well, however the Saturday movie is having low attendance. Attorney Epperson stated that during the last two (2) children's movie showings: 12/18-Prancer & 1/8- Arthur and the Invisibles, it was reported that there were only about 15 in attendance at one showing and 6 in the other. Mr. Epperson stated that Mr. Houser and Sandi Tucker, Program Director for Weldon has discussed the possibility of discontinuing the Saturday movie showings beginning in March if January and February attendance does not improve. Mr. Epperson stated that efforts will be made to advertise and bring more people in, however it is more costly to in have the facility open and staff if, if there is low attendance.

Mr. Epperson stated that council will be kept updated as to the attendance and decision regarding the Saturday Kid's Movie Matinee.

- XI. Chairman's Report-** Chairman Stewart began his report by reviewing the events he attended throughout the county (see attached). Chairman Stewart mentioned the Nutcracker performance on Dec. 14th; he stated that there was a great turn out of people. Sandi Tucker, Weldon's Events Director stated that there were over 900 in attendance. Chairman Stewart went on to review the rest of the programs as well as upcoming events that are happening throughout the county. He concluded his report by reminding the public that on January 28th the Cypress after 5 will be hosting the Embers. He stated that Cypress after 5 is a great community activity and encouraged anyone who could attend, should do so.
- XII. Executive Session-**Chairman Stewart advised council that there are a few items that need to be discussed in Executive Session. He stated that a personnel and contractual matter needs to be discussed. Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session. **ACTION:** A motion made by Vice-Chairman Frierson, seconded by Councilman Richardson. *Motion passed.*
(Council invited Sheriff Garrett, HR Director Linda Lemon, Water & Sewer Director Bob Dennis separately in Executive Session)
- Return to Open Session-** Motion made by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson to return to open session at 7:51p.m. **Chairman Stewart** reviewed what was discussed during open session. He stated that council received a briefing on a personnel matter within the Victims Advocates as well as a contractual matter regarding the Water & Sewer Department. Chairman Stewart stated that in both matters there will be no action taken however, Attorney David Epperson has asked council to ratify the decision made by County Administrator William Houser to appoint Mr. Epperson as Interim Administrator in his absence. As mentioned earlier, Chairman Stewart restated that Bill Houser is expected to be out for 8-12 weeks on medical leave and is scheduled to return in the spring. Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to appoint Attorney Epperson as Interim Administrator until further notice. **ACTION:** Motion made by Councilman English, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson to appoint Attorney Epperson as Interim Administrator until further notice. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- XIII. Adjournment-**With the January 13, 2011 agenda being exhausted and no further business to discuss: **ACTION:** A motion made by Councilman English, seconded in unison by council to adjourn the January 13, 2011 County Council meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC AND MEDIA NOTIFICATION

I, Mia R. Jackson, Clerk to Council, Clarendon County Council, Manning, South Carolina, do hereby certify that public and media notification of the County Council Meeting of January 13, 2011, was given prior thereto by the following means:

PUBLIC NOTIFIED: Yes

MANNER NOTIFIED: Agenda placed on the bulletin board in the Clarendon County Courthouse and the Clarendon County Website

DATE POSTED: January 7, 2011

MEDIA NOTIFIED: Yes

MANNER NOTIFIED: Agenda emailed to THE MANNING TIMES, THE ITEM, THE CLARENDON CITIZEN and THE FLORENCE MORNING NEWS

DATE NOTIFIED: January 7, 2011

**PUBLIC HEARINGS
ADVERTISED:** No Public Hearings Scheduled

Respectfully submitted,

Mia R. Jackson

Mia R. Jackson, Clerk to Council