



Minutes
Clarendon County Council
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2011
Weldon Auditorium, Manning, SC

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEDIA PRESENT:

Bobby Baker- The Item

COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- William F. Houser, County Administrator
- Mia R. Jackson, Clerk to Council
- David W. Epperson, County Attorney
- Linda P. Lemon, Dir. of Human Resources

- I. Introductory remarks:** Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:01pm
- II. Invocation:** Vice-Chairman Frierson performed the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited in unison
- IV. Approval of Council Agenda:** Upon motion from Councilman English, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson; *Council unanimously approved the agenda for the April 11, 2011 council meeting.*
- V. Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion from Councilman English, seconded by Councilman Richardson; *Council unanimously approved the March 9, 2011 council meeting minutes subject to previously noted corrections to Clerk.*
- VI. Consideration of Resolution for Fair Housing Month:** Chairman Stewart began by stating that each April council reads a resolution for Fair Housing Month. Chairman Stewart read the resolution, resolving March as Fair housing month in Clarendon County. After reading the resolution, Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Frierson, seconded by Councilman Richardson; *Council unanimously voted to accept the April 11, 2011 Resolution adopting and ratifying April 2011 as Fair Housing Month in Clarendon County.*
- VII. Consideration of Proclamation-** Chairman Stewart began by stating that before council were two Proclamations for the Month of April. Chairman Stewart began with **1) Alcohol Awareness Month.** Chairman Stewart recited the proclamation in its entirety stating that County Council was teaming with the Clarendon County Behavior Health Services Commission to promote Alcohol Abuse Awareness in the youth and adolescents of the county. After reading the proclamation Chairman Stewart began with the second proclamation; **2) National County Government Month.** After reading the Proclamation in its entirety, Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to accept and proclaim March as Alcohol Awareness Month and the National County Government Month in Clarendon County. With no further discussion, upon a motion by Councilman Richardson, seconded

by Councilman Blakely; *Council unanimously voted to accept and proclaim both Proclamations, proclaiming April 2011 as Alcohol Awareness Month and National County Government Month in Clarendon County.*

VIII. Consideration of First Reading to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-04;

Chairman Stewart began by reading the ordinance heading in its entirety. He stated that this year's budget looks to be a very challenging year. Mr. Stewart acknowledged that there were several people in the audience that expressed concerns regarding the Clemson Extension. He stated that during the May 9th council meeting, council will hear public comments on the budget. He stated that if anyone would like to reserve time to speak during the public hearing on May 9th that he or she should contact the Clerk to Council. Stewart stated that he and Mr. Houser met with Blake, Regional Director for the Clemson Extension earlier that day and together they were trying to make some good decisions. Chairman Stewart stated that he wanted the public to know that, "Council, all of Council wants to assist in the efforts of Clemson Extension." **Councilman Blakely**, asked, "Do you think we have something worked out?" **Chairman Stewart** replied, "No, no Sir. The major part of our challenge is the operating expenses." Chairman Stewart continued by saying that there may be something council will be able to assist in, but they are in still exploring those options. **Councilman Blakely** continued by saying, "Our farmers are our greatest asset, we need to give them good treatment." He then stated that Clemson is a good program and council needs to help them as much as possible. **Chairman Stewart** recognized Mr. Russell Duncan and stated that it was good to have him back. Prior to turning the floor over to Controller Lynden Anthony for the presentation of the 2011-2012FY Budget Chairman Stewart stated that council will do everything they can to make the right decisions. Clarendon County Controller, Lynden Anthony thanked Chairman Stewart and began the budget presentation by stating that each council member received a budget packet at the beginning of the meeting. He stated that locally the county is facing the same challenges faced on the state level. Anthony continued by pointing out some of those challenges. He mentioned that in the past, county level governments were able to raise the millage rates to meet their budget needs. He stated that now those county governments are capped by the state. He stated that FY2011-2012 millage increase cap is 1.64%. He continued by stating that in order to reach a balanced budget several decisions needed to be made. Controller Anthony began by reviewing the General Fund Revenue for the budget. Anthony stated that since majority of our revenue is derived from ad valorem taxes and the County Assessor anticipates a very low reassessment the county will see very low if any increase in revenue from the ad valorem taxes. He continued by stating that he would only highlight a few points in other reductions. The fines and forfeitures will see a reduction in the amount of \$190,000. State aid will see reduction in the amount of \$220,000. He stated that the total revenue is anticipated to have no growth. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that with no growth in revenue Mr. Houser called the Directors and Managers under his supervision to a meeting and requested that their budgets be brought back to the previous year budget containing no growth. Mr. Anthony stated that in that meeting the departments worked together as a whole to reduce the budget and bring those under Administrator Houser's direction to a balanced budget containing no growth. Mr. Anthony stated that on April 1, 2011 Chairman Stewart sent letters to all the elected and appointed officials asking that each of them revise their budgets to reflect no growth as well. Mr. Anthony stated since then the Clerk of Court, Ms. Roberts, resubmitted a revised budget and even came slightly under budget from last fiscal year. He stated that in order to meet the total increase in expenditures for FY2011-2012 would need a 3.1 increase of millage to accommodate such

increases. However with an anticipated CPI cap of 1.64% for first reading of the budget there is a deficit outside the functions of County Administration. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Special Purpose Operating Funds obligations are F.E. DuBose Vocational School at \$259, 565 Library \$540, 000 (showing no growth), and the Fire Debt Service of \$86, 660.

Included in first reading of FY 2011-2012 Budget Ordinance is a request for council to authorize the use of a 1.5 million dollar TAN in the event the need should arise.

Mr. Anthony briefly reviewed the county obligation debt as well as the Water and Sewer Department expense of \$392, 842. He explained that the Water and Sewer department is an enterprise fund and its expenses included expansion, acquisition of water systems, depreciation and repairs. He projected that the Water and Sewer department will see a \$7500 surplus at the end of the fiscal year. He continued with discussing Weldon Auditorium. He stated that it was an understanding that Weldon would see a deficit for the first couple of years. Anthony stated that Weldon has a budget of \$426, 519. Mr. Anthony stated that the Finance Department is proposing a transfer in the amount of \$110,000 from the general fund, a request from the Hospitality Tax Fund of \$50, 000, \$69, 000 remaining available from the current fiscal year, and a request be made to the Tax Accommodations Committee for the amount of \$5,000. The Committee will meet in May and will hear the request then. He stated that as Weldon becomes more known around the community and surrounding counties, their revenue will increase and dependency on other resources. Controller Anthony advised council that the items not reflected in FY2012 budget includes the funding for the Post Employment Fund. He reminded council of the GASB Resolution which requires the funding of the future cost of benefits for county employees. Mr. Anthony stated that in the past council has chosen not to fund the cost; however he stated that he needed to advise council of the added liability. Mr. Anthony continued by advising council of the other funding requests received. He stated that solicitor Finney asked for an additional \$25,000 to fund an additional staff member in the Clarendon County office. Another request was received in the amount of \$33,000 for the Public Defender's office as well. Controller Anthony stated that he would recommend that any budgets be held flat to reflect no growth. He stated that both the Public Defender's office and the Solicitor's office were sent a letter advising them that their requests would be brought before council and that they are welcome to attend the public hearing on May 9th. In concluding his presentation, Mr. Anthony stated that at that time there were several items in the budget that were estimates, because the state had not released the final information. He stated that by the second reading he was sure he would have more conclusive figures from the state. He stated that he would be available to answer any questions the council members may have. ***Chairman Stewart*** thanked Mr. Anthony and stated that council will reach out to the elected and appointed officials to discuss the county's budget. Chairman Stewart continued with a discussion the impending Act 388. He stated that although Act 388 may be good for the home owners currently occupying a home because their taxes will be frozen, it will pose a challenge for the taxes on new home purchases. Chairman Stewart concluded by encouraging the public to contact Senator Land and Representative Elect Johnson and express their concerns.

- IX. Administrator's Report-** Administrator Houser thanked Chairman Stewart and began his report by stating that Mr. Anthony gave a detailed overview of the upcoming budget, however he wanted to remind council and the public of the \$450,000 in new costs county council will have to fund in the next fiscal year. He stated that the increase includes: The new animal control facility, mandatory increases in employer insurance premiums, increased

gasoline costs, and the funding for the mandatory landfill expansion project. He continued with his financial report as follows:

➤ Clarendon County Finances

MONTH END

March Revenue \$12, 661, 973 *or* 71% of Budget

March Expenditures \$12, 932, 256 *or* 72% of Budget

Administrator Houser said that in the 9 years he has been with the county, each year the county ended with a surplus. He stated that at the time he predicted that the county will end in a deficit. He stated that there has been a decrease in revenue and currently he believed the revenue would be slow coming in.

➤ Water & Sewer Department-

Operating Revenue \$340, 025

Operating Expenses \$303, 026

Operating Revenue/ (Loss) \$36, 999

Depreciation (\$35, 280)

Income/ (Loss) \$1, 719 *BEGINNING TO SEE SMALL PROFIT*

➤ C-Fund Report-

Cash Balance as of **FEBRUARY 2011** \$1, 088, 026

Funds committed to State Projects \$514, 665

Funds committed to Local Projects \$479, 925

Stated Required Reserve funds 0

TOTAL Committed C-Funds \$994, 590

Uncommitted C-funds available \$93, 436

Houser continued with an **Out-of-State Travel Request** from John Truluck. On behalf of the Economic Development Director John Truluck, Mr. Houser requested approval for Truluck to attend a 3-day conference along with Central SC Alliance to meet with various companies in Ontario, Canada. He stated that already there were 12 companies lined up to meet with Mr. Truluck. With no further discussion: *A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Frierson, seconded by Councilman Blakely; Council voted unanimously to approve the out of state travel request for John Truluck.* **New Administrative Building:** Mr. Houser stated that the Schematic drawings have been provided to Administration for review and revision. Once plans are finalized, Meadors Architecture will host a complete presentation at council meeting to present plans to the council and public. Look for that in coming month or so. He stated that he hopes to have that some time after the May council meeting. He said that the construction should start shortly thereafter. **Hwy 260 Waterline:** Mr. Houser stated that on Friday April 8, 2011 Vicki Williams, Grants Administrator, obtained the final signature needed to proceed with the project. He continued by advising that Ms. Williams met with Rusty Craven in Walterboro and USDA planned to have a ground breaking on Friday, April 15, 2011 at Mount Chapel Baptist Church on Hwy 260 at 1pm. (He invited each Councilman and stated the clerk provided an invitation to each of them before the meeting). He stated that USDA planned to have staff from the Washington office present at the ground breaking ceremony. **C-Fund/Roads:** Mr. Houser stated that earlier that day he, Lynden Anthony, and David Epperson met to discuss the C-Fund programming for 2011-2012. He stated that the 2011 program year should begin this spring. He advised that the CCTC revised the road paving list and that is what they used as a guide. Administrator Houser concluded with recognition of Shelton Hughes, Clarendon County Detention Center Director for being awarded the 2011 Jail Administrator of the Year. He commended Hughes on his achievements and accomplishments and stated that he was proud of the work he does at the jail and the standards he sets for his staff. He said that Mr. Hughes has faced

numerous challenges and he has always handled each situation with the public in a professional manner.

- X. Chairman's Report-** Chairman Stewart stated that his report was brief and that the councilmember's received his report in their packets. He thanked Ms. Sandy Tucker and her staff for providing the use of Weldon Auditorium and that council is pleased with how nice the auditorium looks.
- XI. Executive Session-** Chairman Stewart stated that there is one item for discussion under Executive Session which is a Contractual Matter regarding the Water and Sewer Department. Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session. **Upon motion by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson, council entered Executive Session at 6:59pm.**
Open Session: At 8:55pm Council unanimously reconvened into open session. Chairman Stewart stated that council received a Legal briefing on a contractual matter concerning Water and Sewer and there would be no action taken on this matter.
- XII. Adjournment:** With no further business to discuss, council adjourned the April 11, 2011 meeting upon motion by Vice-Chairman Frierson, seconded by Councilman Richardson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: _____

Mia R. Jackson,
Clerk to County Council

Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.,
Council Chairman

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 April 11, 2011 was given prior thereto by the following means:

PUBLIC NOTIFIED: Yes
MANNER NOTIFIED: Agenda placed on the Clarendon County Website, Clarendon County Courthouse and at Weldon Auditorium
DATE POSTED: March 8, 2011
MEDIA NOTIFIED: Yes
MANNER NOTIFIED: Agenda emailed to THE MANNING TIMES, THE ITEM, THE CLARENDON CITIZEN and THE FLORENCE MORNING NEWS
DATE NOTIFIED: March 8, 2011
PUBLIC HEARING ADVERTISED: N/A
MANNER NOTIFIED: N/A
Respectfully submitted,

Mia R. Jackson,
Clerk to County Council