



# Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting Monday, May 11, 2015, 6:00 PM Council Chambers

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## Those in attendance:

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

**Press in attendance:** Bobby Baker, The Manning Times, Konstantin Vengerowsky, The Item

## Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Tammy Rodvansky	Carole & George Summers	John Tindal
Cathy Williams	Dr. Rose Wilder	Renee Jeffcoat	Kim Johnson
Patricia Pringle	Nancy Cave	Anne Little	Mike Stebmoyer
Donna Stebmoyer	Dr. Connie Dennis	Mike Jackson	Linda Lemon
Seth Land	Arthur Moyd	And other Citizens of Clarendon County	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

## I. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stewart asked for an approval of the agenda.

Administrator Epperson requested that the agenda be amended to add the item "a request to allow the Clarendon County Assessor to retroactively grant an agricultural classification to qualified applicants".

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to amend the agenda to add "the item to allow the Clarendon County Assessor to retroactively grant an agricultural classification to qualified applicants".

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the regular council meeting agenda for May 11, 2015 with the amended item.

## II. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on April 13, 2015 with minor corrections.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Special Called Meeting, which was held on April 22, 2015.

## III. Presentation of Proposed FY2015-2016 Budget

Chairman Stewart began by stating that local governments have faced difficult times and challenges for the last several years. He continued by stating that since the Home Rule Act went into effect in 1973, the General Assembly

has limited the responsibility of Local Government. Chairman Stewart continued by stating that Act 388 affects decisions made by Council and the School Districts.

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his presentation by thanking Chairman Stewart and the members of County Council. He continued by stating that Act 388 has capped the amount of increase allowed in millage rates at the local level. He stated that the budget for Second Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 1.62% for County operations. Because of the General Assembly's actions regarding the Local Government Funds, this is the third year without an increase in the Local Government Fund. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that there will be a 37% increase to our health insurance premiums for active employees and retirees effective January 1, 2015. He continued by stating that the increase in insurance premiums would cost \$420,000.

Mr. Anthony further stated that for budgetary reasons, he has requested that Council suspend this year's Community Grant program. He continued by stating that we have received 14 grant applications that total in excess of \$630,000 in funding requests. Mr. Anthony continued by requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund increase its level of operational support from \$70,000 to \$100,000.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by requesting a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note. He continued by pointing out the following expenses:

• General Fund	\$ 20,291,413
• General County Debt	\$ 700,448
• FE Dubose Voc. Tech.	\$ 210,000
• Fire Operating	\$ 3,030,750
• Fire Debt	\$ 112,618
• Admin. Complex Debt Service	\$ 281,853
• Courthouse Debt Service	\$ 262,550
• Total Appropriations	\$ 24,889,632
• Water and Sewer (Op. Ex.)	\$ 582,905
• Weldon Auditorium (Op. Ex.)	\$ 212,365

1. **Dr. Tim Hardee**, President of Central Carolina/FE Dubose, began his presentation by stating that it is very expensive to operate a campus in Clarendon County. He continued by stating that there were 565 graduates from Central Carolina in 2015 and 75 of the graduates were from Clarendon County. Dr. Hardee continued by stating that 22-Registered Nurses were pinned in 2015 and one of the nurses that was pinned was a graduate from Scott's Branch High School, Rodney Johnson. He further stated that out of the 360 graduates from Clarendon County, 87 would start Fall classes at Central Carolina. Dr. Hardee continued by stating that Central Carolina is offering a two-year scholarship to qualified high school students. He concluded by stating that there are 50 residents of Clarendon County employed at Continental Tires and there are 400 students taking classes at FE Dubose.

Chairman Stewart thanked Dr. Hardee for all that he does for Central Carolina and the surrounding Areas.

2. **Dr. Rose Wilder**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District One, began her report by stating that District 1 was able to refinance their Bond, which saved the taxpayers \$400,000 over the life of the bond. She continued by stating that Clarendon One will have a six week summer program offering art and fine arts.

**Ms. Renee Jeffcoat**, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 1 has a balanced budget of 6,603.081. She continued by stating that Clarendon One has installed Cameras, and Smart TVs and District One is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note for Fiscal Year 2015/2016.

Councilman Richardson thanked Dr. Wilder and Ms. Jeffcoat for all that they do for Clarendon School District One.

3. **Mr. John Tindal**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District Two, began by thanking the board members that were present. He continued by stating that there are 3,000 students and 370 employees in the District and their students to teacher ratio is 25-1.

**Ms. Kathy Williams**, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 2 is requesting an operating millage increase from 129.3 to 131.4 mills based on the millage cap increase of 1.62%. Ms. Williams concluded by stating that Clarendon School District Two is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note.

Vice Chairman Frierson thanked Mr. Tindal, Ms. Williams, and District Two Board Members for everything that they do for Clarendon 2.

Councilman English stated that there are two Manning High School graduates serving on the school board for Clarendon School District Two in attendance.

4. **Dr. Connie Dennis**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District Three, began her presentation by recognizing the Clarendon 3 board members that were present. She continued by stating that Clarendon 3 has a new Art Director and Football Coach. Dr. Dennis continued by stating that Clarendon 3 is working on reducing and reassigning employees.

**Mr. Mike Jackson**, Finance, began his presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 has 1200 students and 154 employees. He continued by asking County Council to put something into place that would increase assessed property value in Clarendon 3. He continued by stating that District Three has the highest Millage rate with the lowest assessed value. Mr. Jackson continued by stating that Clarendon 3 has three positions less than they had last year. He concluded by stating that Clarendon 3 wants to stay separate but equal and Clarendon 3 is requesting a Tax Anticipation Note up to \$300,000.

Chairman Stewart stated that, in his opinion, there is no way that the Millage rate can be the same as District 1 or District 2 unless Clarendon has one consolidated school District.

Councilman Blakely stated that District 3 is the poorest District with the highest taxes. He concluded by thanking Dr. Dennis and Mr. Jackson for what they do. Councilman Blakely continued by stating that all School Districts should be funded equally. He concluded by stating that District Three has a great team with great athletes and we all have to work together for the betterment of our students.

#### **IV. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2015-01**

Chairman Stewart opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm for Ordinance 2015-01. An Ordinance to provide for a levy of taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for Fiscal Year Beginnings July 1, 2015, and Ending June 30, 2016, 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, 2015, and Ending June 30, 2016

- Ms. Kay Kilpatrick stated that the group would hold their request until the next fiscal year.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there were no other comments, the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 7:34 pm.

#### **V. Ordinance 2015-01**

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2015-01, An Ordinance to provide for a levy of taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for Fiscal Year Beginnings July 1, 2015, and Ending June 30, 2016, 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, 2015, and Ending June 30, 2016.

#### **VI. Amended Item**

Administrator Epperson requested Council's approval to allow the Clarendon County Assessor to retroactively grant an agricultural classification to qualified applicants who made an application before the first penalty date based on South Carolina Code of Laws 12-43-230. He stated that the applicants must have a legitimate reason why they did not make the first penalty date.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval giving the Clarendon County Assessor authority to retroactively grant an agricultural classification to qualified applicants who made an application before the first penalty date.

## **VII. Financial Report**

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his report by stating that the General Fund had Expenditures of \$16,032,776 year-to-date and Revenue figures were not available.

Mr. Anthony further stated that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Revenue of \$590,775 and Operating Expenses of \$397,793 as of April 30, 2015. He stated that after depreciation, transfers, and interest expense, the Water and Sewer Department had a Net Utility Loss of \$34,036.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Weldon Auditorium had Total Revenue of \$62,072, and Total Expenses of \$167,771. He stated that after transfers, the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of April with a balance of \$28,301.

Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that the C-Fund had a cash balance of \$1,497,315 as of March 31, 2015 of which \$1,598,205 has been committed to the remaining local paving projects and the state required projects leaving a deficit of \$100,889.

## **VIII. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Epperson began his report by stating that the renovation of the County Courthouse is continuing as scheduled. Administrator Epperson further stated that the joint meeting with the City of Manning, which was held on April 30, 2015, went well. He continued by stating that all road pavings for 2014 have been completed except for the inspecting.

## **IX. Chairman's Report**

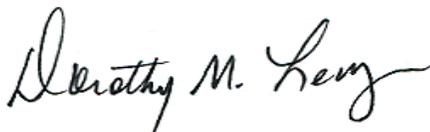
Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he attended the Law Enforcement Ceremony at the Courthouse and the organizers did an excellent job. He continued by stating that he would be attending the CSC Legislative Breakfast in Columbia on May 13, 2015 and the Development Board Golf Tournament on May 21, 2015.

## **X. Adjournment**

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the council meeting. The Council Meeting ended at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

