

**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, July 14, 2025  
6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102**

**Those in attendance:**

Chairman John E. Johnson III	Vice Chairman John P. Coker
Councilman Billy G. Richardson	Councilman Kurtis W. Rodine
Councilman W.J. Frierson, Sr.	Administrator Lynden D. Anthony
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Y. Anderson	Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

**Absent: None**

**Press in attendance:** Manning Times, Melissa McCoy

**Others in attendance included:**

George Frierson	Diane Georgia	Stacy McKenzie	Legear McCabe	Robert Pegram
Terrey Streath	Mike Streath	Laura Thomas	Tiger Thomas	Skippy Osborne
Pat Goodwin	Mike Shorter	Andrea Kellman	Bree Hodge	Donald Davis
Brandon Prevost	Alice D. Wearing	Melissa McCoy	Delaney K. Frierson	Chuck Dukes
Ryan Hounshell	Franklin Colclough	David Wood, Jr.	Michael Johnson, Jr.	Tammy Hick
Clavita D. Jones	Mary Am. B	Marie Dukes	Jose Calvo	Lucille Thomas
Albert Thomas	Paticia Pringle	A.G. Stevenson	Jane Powell	

And other Clarendon County Residents

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

On motion by Councilman Frierson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Agenda for the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting for July 14, 2025.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, and the minutes for the Special Called Council meetings, which were held on Monday, June 16, 2025, Wednesday, June 18, 2025, and Thursday, June 26, 2025.

**3. Service Awards**

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council meeting, Leonard Lowery, HR Director, Chairman Johnson, and Administrator Anthony announced service awards for 13 employees for July:

Natajah Spencer	5 years	James C. Mahoney	5 years
Elizabeth Dukes-Atkinson	5 years	Angel M. Dukes	5 years
Lauren Beaty	5 years	Tonya Revill	5 years
William Brewer	5 years	William S. Dunlap	5 years
Jeremy Evans	5 years	Stephanie L. Robinson	15 years
Robert C. Graham, Jr.	5 years	Charles Brock	15 years
Stephanie Hughes	5 years		

Chairman Johnson thanked everyone for their years of service to Clarendon County.

#### 4. Public Comments

- **Mr. George Frierson** – again, I come to you with information specific to Clarendon County. One of the Emanuel Nine, from Mother Emanuel in Charleston, South Carolina was Rev. Daniel Simmons, Sr., was born July 16, 1940, in Clarendon County, South Carolina. Rev. Benjamin Franklin Randolph was the first black chairman of the Republican State Party to go to the National Convention. Mr. Frierson stated that he was the last elected chairman of the Clarendon School District Three School Board and he was wondering why we do not have an approved budget when school year started on July 1<sup>st</sup> and today is July 14<sup>th</sup>. He stated that elections matter and he want everyone to vote because sometimes we get stuck with someone we don't want.
  
- **Mrs. Delaney K. Frierson** – I am a 39-year retired South Carolina certified educator. Served as a classroom teacher, district administrator, and principal. I heard a few comments that concern me. We have a 2025 graduate from Manning High School and a rising 2<sup>nd</sup> grader down the road from Manning Early Childhood. I am proud of the accomplishments these and others have made in our school system. I was happy to see that the State Superintendent and the local State Delegation were visiting Manning Early Children Center, celebrating the Summer Learning Center with the Save the Children Program. We also had students participating from Manning Elementary, Rose Wilder, and Walker Gamble Elementary. I was happy to see the Manning High School has done a great job with the graduation rate, which exceeds that of the State. We are a hold county and we work together; we are not a house divided. The education trust fund now gives money to students who are home-schooled. She stated that she spoke with some certified teachers, and they are interested in an increase in pay. She stated that their message is that they hope the County Council will not deny them the opportunity to improve the quality of their lives, they work hard and deserve their pay. Mrs. Frierson concluded by stating that she read that Governor McMaster has set his goal of a starting salary for new teachers in the state of South Carolina of \$50,000 beginning in 2026. I pray that Clarendon County Council will do what is right by helping our schools, our children can get what they need, and our future could be bright.

#### 5. Airport Update – Holt Engineering

Mr. Ryan Hounshell, Operations Manager, began by congratulating Clarendon County on the recent news of the industrial prospect, which will bring a quarter of a billion dollars in investment and over 300 jobs to the county. The airports are an important part of the Economic Development Process. There are three projects that have been completed over the past 5 years. We have updated the layout, installed 6,600 Linear feet of fencing-10 feet tall, and a lighted windsock. We did some apron rehabilitation on the pavement, cleared some trees that were obstructing the airspace, and installed security cameras.

Mr. Hounshell continued by stating that the recent project is to reconstruct the Taxiway with new pavement and Lighting Rehabilitation. The upcoming project will be the building renovation project. The current building has served its purpose and is not ADA compliant, updating the lights along the pavement are being updated to LED lighting which would be more cost-effective.

#### 6. Request

- Judge Patrick G. Goodwin, Chief Magistrate, began his request by stating that normally they have 4 part-time judges which handle 13 weeks each of bond court. Judge Fulton retired in May and now we are shorthanded for June, July, and now August. We will be shorthanded until a new judge is sworn. We had bond court judges agree to fill in until a new judge is appointed. Judge Locklear volunteered to fill in the week of June replacing Judge Fulton. For the month of July and August, the remaining three bond court judges agreed to take on additional duties until another judge is sworn in. Because funds are already in place for a fourth part-time bond court judge, I am requesting that the Council transfer those funds from the fourth judge slot to the remaining bond court judges as follows:
  - For the month of June- Judge Locklear to be given \$1,143.73
  - For the month of July
    - ✓ Judge Stephens be given \$234.60

- ✓ Judge Goodwin be given \$234.60
- ✓ Judge Brunner be given \$234.60

Judge Goodwin concluded his request by stating that it is his hope that the fourth bond court judge will be appointed and sworn in this month to take the responsibilities of the fourth part-time bond court judge slot.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to approve the request from Chief Magistrate Patrick G. Goodwin for a pay adjustment for the bond court judges for the months of June, July, and August.

- Administrator Anthony made a request to the Council on behalf of Holly Cockfield, Director of the Library. He stated that currently we have 1 full-time circulating assistant and 3 part-time circulating assistants. Two of those part-time circulating assistants are unfilled. Ms. Cockfield is requesting that we take two of the part-time circulating assistants and make one full-time circulating assistant, which would then give the Library 2 full-time circulating assistants and 1 part-time circulating assistant. This would give her better flexibility, utilizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> full-time circulating assistant.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously to approve the request from Administrator Anthony on behalf of the Library to replace 2 part-time circulating assistants with 1 full-time circulating assistant.

## **7. Memorandum of Understanding**

Administrator Anthony presented the Council with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Business Corporation of Clarendon County, Clarendon County Government, and Santee Electric Cooperative, Inc. This agreement would extend Joe Rogers, Jr., Boulevard from its current point down to the junction with George Harvin Road. He stated that the Santee Electric Cooperative, Inc. agrees to provide Rural Development Act Funds in an amount not to exceed One Million Dollars for this purpose, and neither Clarendon County nor the Business Development Corporation will be required to pay out any funds.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Business Corporation of Clarendon County, Clarendon County Government, and Santee Electric Cooperative, Inc. This agreement would extend Joe Rogers, Jr., Boulevard from its current point down to the junction with George Harvin Road and the Santee Electric Cooperative, Inc. agrees to provide Rural Development Act Funds in an amount not to exceed One Million Dollars for this purpose.

## **8. Ordinance 2025-08**

Administrator Anthony stated that the Planning Commission is requesting that we table the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-08. He stated that the definition used in the Ordinance needs to be expanded, defining the terms of Tiny Homes.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted unanimously to table the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-08 so that the Planning Commission can expand the definition of Tiny Homes.

## **9. Ordinance 2025-09**

Consideration of the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-09 – An Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget of the Clarendon County School District and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Mr. John Bonaparte, Chairman of the Clarendon County School Board, stated that the School Board met at 2 pm and agreed that the School Board and County Council need to work together. He stated that the Third and Final reading of the School Board Budget Ordinance needs to be tabled. He continued by stating that this is

necessary to make sure that we do not violate statutes and policies, which will have legal ramifications for both the school board and the county council.

- Councilman Frierson – The school board is requesting that we table the third reading to make sure we get further information and do everything legally.
- Mr. Bonaparte responded by stating that this is necessary to avoid any legal ramifications for both sides.
- Councilman Frierson – as it relates to moving forward, my understanding is that without a budget, you still can't move forward or do anything.
- Mr. Bonaparte – the school board has a policy that if the school board budget is not passed by June 30, the school board has to write a continuing Resolution where the school can operate on the previous budget until the new budget has been passed.
- Councilman Frierson – you can operate as an Ordinance in waiting, which is legal to do, because we have already had two readings that have passed.
- Mr. Bonaparte – Yes
- Vice Chairman Coker – Did the school board vote today on the Budget?
- Mr. Bonaparte – responded by stating that yes, the board voted today.
- Vice Chairman Coker – Can you tell the public how they voted?
- Mr. Bonaparte – No, Sir
- Vice Chairman Coker – Was it done in public
- Mr. Bonaparte – Yes, Sir.
- Vice Chairman Coker – Is it public information
- Mr. Bonaparte – Yes, it is
- Vice Chairman Coker – so you can't tell the public
- Mr. Bonaparte – No Sir

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimously to table the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-09 so that the School Board can get clearer information.

## **10. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2025-10**

Ordinance 2025-01 – An Ordinance Authorizing, Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and a Company currently known to the County as Project Latitude, Acting for Itself, One or More current or Future Affiliates and Other Project Companies (Collectively, “Company”); Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; and Other Matters.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:50 pm

- Mr. George Kosinski – Project Latitude acquired the Alucoil building to use as their office and headquarters. They are investing \$30,000,000, and the job creation remains the same as it was under Project Hailstorm, which acquired Spec building #8 as their manufacturing facility.
- Auditor Patricia Pringle – How many years would the Special Source Revenue Credit be, and for how many years?
- Mr. Kosinski – The special source revenue is 35% for the first five years, and it goes down thereafter for up to 10 years. The total property taxes for that building are generated at \$31,000 annually.
- Auditor Pringle – Since this is a Fee-In-Lieu, will the School District or the Library or any other entity receive any of these funds?
- Mr. Kosinski – My understanding is that the County Council has the authority to make that decision. If an entity was getting 30% before, the Council can make the decision to give the entity 30% of these funds.

Chairman Johnson asked if there were any other comments on the public hearing. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 6:56 pm.

## 11. Ordinance 2025-10

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously in approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-10 – An Ordinance Authorizing, Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and a Company currently known to the County as Project Latitude, Acting for Itself, One or More current or Future Affiliates and Other Project Companies (Collectively, “Company”); Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; and Other Matters.

## 12. Ordinance 2025-11

Administrator Anthony presented the Council with Ordinance 2025-11 – An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No. 2014-02. He stated that this Ordinance is to amend the Pricing Schedule for Water and Sewer as follows:

- ¾” service tap fee will change from \$1,200 to \$2,000
- 1” service tap fee will change from \$2,000 to \$3,000
- 1 ½” service tap fee shall be \$4,000
- 2” service tap fee shall be \$5,000
- 4” service tap fee shall be \$7,000
- Irrigation Meter shall be charged a standard service tap fee of \$2,000

Administrator Anthony continued by stating that this amendment will remove the step tank annually inspection and the homeowner’s agreement.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimously approving the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-11.

## 13. Financial Report

Administrator Anthony gave the Finance Report:

- **The General Fund** expenses were 98% of the Budget. We had Expenditures of \$2,329,991, and Revenue was available as of today.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$137,979 as of June 30, 2025, and total Expenses were \$154,772. We do supplement Weldon with the Hospitality Fund. The Weldon Auditorium ended the year (after transfers) with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had a total Revenue of \$1,718,448 as of June 30, 2025, and total Expenses were \$2,648,225. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest Income, and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the year on June 30, 2025, with a Net Utility Income of \$64,095.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending June 30, 2025, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$7,774,699, of which \$6,013,197 has been committed to remaining local paving projects and State Proviso Funds. She stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$1,761,502 as of the end of June 2025.
- **Fire Rescue** – expenses were 93% of the Budget. We had Expenditures year to date of \$9,342,932 and Revenue of \$8,492,981 as of June 30, 2025, leaving a surplus of \$89,951.

## 14. Administrator’s Report

Administrator Anthony began his report by giving the Council an update on the following:

### ✓ **Facilities:**

**EOC/Communication Center:** Bid opening was June 20<sup>th</sup> and we hope to issue our Intent to Award shortly. We will be “moving dirt” by the fall of this year.

**Turbeville Fire Station:** We are awaiting the final inspection and expect the Certificate of Occupancy to be issued shortly.

**Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal Control:** The contract with Hawkins & Kolb has been finalized, and the plans have been approved. We anticipate that the building material will be delivered this week.

**Davis Station Well and Tank:** Drilling of a test well is completed, with final designs approved by SC DES, and we continue to move this project along briskly with pump installation, above-ground storage tank started, and pipe going in the ground for the 13-mile system expansion.

**Weldon Auditorium Renovations:** Exterior Building Services has begun work on the exterior of the building.

**Fire Station on MW Rickenbaker Road, Station #10:** With the recent appropriation from the State for a replacement fire station on M.W. Rickenbaker Road, Station #10, the firm of Hawkins and Kolb was awarded the contract, final plan designs are almost completed, and construction is expected to start within weeks.

✓ **Other:**

**Turbeville Library:** Our architect is finishing up interior design work and has sent the plans and specifications to the Dr. Bruce and Lee Foundation for approval. When approved, the project will be scheduled for bidding.

**North Shore Summerton Wastewater Development Project:** Construction has started and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

**Law Enforcement Joint Training Facility:** The facility is being reevaluated, and we hope to re-bid shortly. We have hauled and placed dirt for the slab to reduce anticipated project costs.

**Newman Branch Restoration Projects:** An Environmental Engineering Firm has been selected, and the scope of project parameters for the Newman branch restoration project is being developed. Beaver removal via trapping has commenced; interesting note, they have also removed several alligators as well.

- An update on the Newman Branch restoration project: To date, we have removed in excess of 85 beavers and at least one alligator. The dams are being manually broken up with the stream width open to a minimum of ten (10)feet.

✓ **Fire Rescue:**

- Fire rescue response times have become a hot topic lately. I just wanted to share some information with you:
  - Fire response times from dispatch to arrival on-scene (174 calls)
    - May 6:15                      June 6:31
  - EMS response times from dispatch to arrival on-scene (595 calls)
    - May 9:30                      June 9:17

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- As many of you are aware, we had to close our administrative offices on Friday afternoon so that Duke Energy could replace a leaking transformer. Thank you for your patience, as we had to cut the power off to the facility for several hours.
- I would like to thank the Clarendon County Healthy Counties Advisory Council for coordinating another successful Men’s Health Expo on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- With this being my last Council meeting in this chair, I wanted to take just a moment and thank everyone over the years for their support and patience; it has been an honor.

## 15. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Johnson stated that all of us should start acting like adults and stop pointing fingers. He said to stop telling teachers that they are not getting paid. He continued by stating that we have an obligation to our children and our citizens.

## 16. Executive Session

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for a Personnel Item in reference to the Interim County Administrator.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously in approval to go into Executive Session for a personnel item in Administration.

The Executive Session began at 7:14 PM

### **17. Open Session**

**Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.**

On Motion by Councilman Frierson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

The Executive Session ended at 7:48 pm

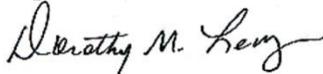
Chairman Johnson stated that at this time, no action will be taken on the Interim Administrator.

### **18. Adjourn**

On motion by Councilman Frierson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC