

**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 8, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

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

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**Those in attendance:**

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
Administrator David W. Epperson

Vice Chairman W. J. Frierson, Sr.  
Councilman John P. Coker  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Absent: Councilman A.C. English

**Press in attendance:** None

**Others in attendance included:**

Moye Graham	Shannon Allen	Troy Allen	Maureen Calvo	Jose Calvo
Rose Infinger	Yana Mathis	Shannon Osteen	Joseph Osteen	Terry Streath
Mike Streath	Angie Jordan	Christy Avins	John McCoy	Dean Keller
Meredith W. Keller	Roy Lee McArthur	Mae Eaddy	Gavin Allan	Rosa Kind
Michele Christmas	Billy Simpson	Steven Gamble, Jr.	Ashleigh Goza	Bubba Dickson
Jacqueline Bennett	Jason Gamble	Parker Caulliette	Robert McFadden	George Frierson
Jacqueline Blackwell	And Other Clarendon County Residents			

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Regular scheduled Council Meeting for January 8, 2024.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting which was held on December 6, 2023.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting which was held on December 11, 2023.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting which was held on December 28, 2023.

**3. . Service Awards**

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting Linda Lemon, HR Director, Interim Administrator Anthony, and Chairman Stewart, recognized five employees for service awards.

- |                     |         |                       |          |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| • Kayla Williams    | 5 years | Councilman AC English | 15 years |
| • Jacquelyn Bennett | 5 years | Rosa Kind             | 25 years |
| • Lawrence Hammett  | 5 years |                       |          |

Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for their service.

#### 4. Public Comments

- Mr. Moye Graham stated that solar farms will ruin landscape, who will pay for the cleanup, and who will do the cleanup. He stated that the door was opened up by the Planning Commission and we do not need another nightmare here in Clarendon County.
- Mr. Troy Allen stated that we need to slow down the solar farms and see what is going on. What effect on Ecosystem, Clean up, Weather Pattern. He stated that we need to be good stewards for Clarendon County.
- Mr. Jose Calvo stated that there are a lot of negative sides that people do not see: When the solar farms are no longer producing, the panels are left behind. Who will pay the disposal fee for the disposing of the panels. The Land will no longer be in use, and it would have an impact on the property owners.
- Mr. David Christmas stated that the parent company makes the money, and it would cost around \$100,000 to dismantle the panels and \$200,000 to dispose of them.
  - Ms. Rose Infinger stated that there would be 78,000,000 tons of solar waste.

#### 5. Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Schedule Approval

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget Schedule.

#### 6. Board Appointment

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Ms. Lisa Justice to server another term on the Development Board.

Carolina (“COMPANY”), Including (1) Negotiated Fee In Liew of Ad Valorem Tax Arrangement; (2) Multi-County Industrial or Business Park Arrangement; (3) Special Source Revenue Credit; and (34) Other Related Matters.

#### 7. Ordinance 2023-07

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2023-07 - An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend Ordinance 2018-11 A/K/A the 2018 Comprehensive Plan and to Adopt the Attached Amendments Identified as Exhibit A in Conformance with the Requirements of Section 6-29 st.seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina; Providing for Severability and an Effective Date.

#### 8. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-08

An Ordinance to Provide for Regulations Relating to the Procurement of Goods and Services by Clarendon County and to Provide for Other Matters related thereto.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open. The Public Hearing opened at 6:37 pm.

- Interim Administrator Anthony stated that this Ordinance will update the Procurement Codes to the following:
  - ✓ \$10,000 – up to \$25,000 – Verbal Quote
  - ✓ \$25,000 – up to \$50,000 – Written Quote
  - ✓ Above \$50,000 -Bid Process Package

He stated that the Procurement Codes must be in line with the Federal Government Codes.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:42 pm.

## **9. Ordinance 2023-08**

On motion by Councilman Richarson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-08 - An Ordinance to Provide for Regulations Relating to the Procurement of Goods and Services by Clarendon County and to Provide for Other Matters related thereto.

## **10. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-09**

An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No 2023-01, which Approved and Adopted the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget for Clarendon County, South Carolina

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open. The Public Hearing opened at 6:43 pm.

- Interim Administrator Anthony stated that this Ordinance will amend Ordinance 2023-01 which Approved and Adopted the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget for Clarendon County. He stated that there is a large surplus in the General Fund, and we would like to use that surplus in the current Fiscal Year to purchase items that we would normally borrow money for.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments.

- ✓ Maureen Calvo asked if we will work with multiple vendors to get the best deals.
- ✓ Interim Administrator Anthony replied by stating that we will be using the State Contract.

Chairman Stewart stated that if there were no other comments, the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:51 pm.

## **11. Ordinance 2023-09**

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-09 - An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No 2023-01, which Approved and Adopted the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget for Clarendon County, South Carolina.

## **12. Ordinance 2024-01**

Interim Administrator Anthony presented Council with Ordinance 2024-01 – An Ordinance Adopting a Three-Month Moratorium on the Acceptance of Applications for Solar/Solar Farm Use, to Provide for an Immediate Effective Date, and To provide for an Extension of Ninety Days Hereto by Further Resolution of Council. He stated that once approved by First Reading, the Moratorium will go into effect immediately and this will stop any new application going forward.

- Councilman Richardson asked if there are any pending applications at this time.
- Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, replied by stating None at the time.

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-01 - An Ordinance Adopting a Three-Month Moratorium on the Acceptance of Applications for Solar/Solar Farm Use, to Provide for an Immediate Effective Date, and To provide for an Extension of Ninety Days Hereto by Further Resolution of Council.

## **13. Financial Report**

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating the following:

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$12,995,811 and Revenue was not available as of December 31, 2023.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$22,216 for the month ending December 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$71,048. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of December, 2023 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$764,230 for the month ending December 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$581,093. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month of December, 2023 with a Net Utility Income of \$470,705.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending December 31, 2023, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,812,215 of which \$5,569,751 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds. He stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$1,242,464 as of the end of December, 2023.

#### 14. Administrator's Report

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

✓ **Water and Sewer**

**Wyboo Wastewater Treatment Plant Diversion Project:** Project is near completion, and we should start partial flow to Manning Treatment Plant this week.

**Wyboo Ground Storage Tank Booster Pump:** The project is now complete, and we look forward to these improvements supporting our larger system.

**Facilities:**

**EOC/Communication Center:** Contract has been awarded to the architectural firm of Rosenblum Coe and project scope for these services are currently being developed.

**Turbeville Fire Station:** Contract for design/build services has been awarded to Hawkins and Kolb. We expect execution of the contract shortly.

**Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal control:** We closed on the property 2 weeks ago and are nearly ready to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for design/build services.

**SCIIP Grant Phase V:** We have executed our contract for engineering /design services and work has begun.

**Other:**

**Palmetto Trails Foundation:** Work has begun on the Lake Marion Trailhead project at the foot of the old SR301 bridge.

**Turbeville Library:** Discussions continue as to the eventual scope of the project.

**North Shore Summerton Development Project:** Potential sites for the lift station have been identified and engineering design has begun.

✓ **Recreation:**

- Basketball games began last week in the Manning, Summerton, Turbeville, and Kingstree Areas.
- Baseball and softball registration will begin this month Monday, January 22, 2024.

✓ **County Holiday:**

The County Offices – will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Just a reminder that the County offices will be closing at noon tomorrow in advance of the inclement weather headed out way. The storm system will bring some rain and strong winds.

#### 15. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that we have hired a search firm to fill the position for a new Administrator. He continued by stating that William Johnson will serve as County Attorney.

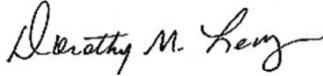
## 16. Adjourn

Chairman Stewart stated that we had exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC