



**Clarendon County Special Called Meeting
Thursday, June 26, 2025
6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

Those in attendance:

Chairman John E. Johnson III
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman W. J. Frierson, Sr.
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Anderson

Vice Chairman John P. Coker
Councilman Kurtis W. Rodine
Administrator Lynden Anthony

Absent:

Press in attendance: None

Others in attendance included:

Skippy Osborne	Terrey Streath	Mike Streath	Diane Georgia	Mike Shorter
Susie Murray	Deloris M. Brown	Annie Robinson	Peggy Knox	Marie Dukes
Chuck Dukes	Lillian Frazier	Jannett Hammett	Mary A. Cain	Julius Adger
Ceth Land	Michael Richburg	Robert Falls, Jr.	W.L. McCabe	Debra Billie
Breanna Hodge	Donald Davis	Sylvia Witherspoon	Stacy McKenzie	Mark DuBose
Delaney K. Frierson	John D. Bonaparte	George Frierson	Patricia Pringle	Maureen Calvo
Alice D. Wearing	Joe Pedalino	Fawn Pedalino	Jose Calvo	Julius Dukes, Sr
Rev. David Wood, Jr.		And Other County Residents		

Chairman Johnson called the Special Called Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. 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 Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Special Called Council Meeting for June 26, 2025.

2. Executive Session

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for a Legal Briefing and a Personnel/Contractual matter about the County Administrator's position.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Frierson, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for a Legal Briefing and to discuss the County Administrator's position. The Executive Session began at 6:02 pm.

3. 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 Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously to come out of Executive Session. The Executive Session ended at 7:30 pm.

Chairman Johnson stated that there was no action to be taken on the Personnel/Contractual matter on the County Administrator's Position.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to go back into Open Session. On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted unanimously to go back into Open Session.

4. Ordinance 2025-09

Councilman Rodine stated that after the discussion in the Executive Session, he would like to make a motion to table the third 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. He stated that they are asking the School Board to give them a budget with a zero-mill increase.

Vice Chairman Coker seconded the motion to table the third reading of Ordinance 2025-09.

- Councilman Richardson stated that we had two readings on this budget, which was passed. Now, all of a sudden, some of us have had a change of heart. He does not understand what happened. He heard someone say there was new information, if it is, it did not come across his desk. It is very puzzling to him if there is something out there; why didn't it happen on the first or second reading? It seemed to him that something happened since the last time Council met. Some people changed their minds. I hope we are not playing with the education of our children. He stated that he has been on the Council for 30 years and had serious discussions about education. I have never known that we went through two readings and did not go through the third reading. We have always been able to reach our differences by the Second Reading. Education is a very important thing to this county. We just consolidated the school districts, and he does not think that what they are asking for is unreasonable. They started at 19 mills, and it was negotiated down to 5 mills, and that's a lot of cutting. Here we are in the last minutes about to pass third reading, and I know some of you do not want it to pass. We have to fund education, and this is not a perfect budget, but the County does not have a perfect budget. I hope we will reconsider and pass the third reading for our children in this county.
- Vice Chairman Coker stated that he is going along with tabling third reading, and it has nothing to do with social media. He stated that they found out that there is a very good chance that the mill will increase in value. If the mills increase to 5%, it will be over the amount asked for, and if it increases to 3%, it will be the amount that they are asking for. He believed that it would increase 3% which is why he is in favor of tabling the third reading for the school board to come back with zero mills increase.
- Chairman Johnson stated that the school board negotiated the 19 mills down to 5.1 mills. He stated that there is nothing in this world more important than our children. He continued by stating that if people get off social media, stop bashing people, and get out and talk to some schoolteachers, they will find out that money is not the problem. He spoke with two schoolteachers this week and was told that Clarendon County does not have enough money for them to work under that administration. He stated that throwing more money at a problem does not fix the problem. Some people say that they don't mind paying a little

more in taxes, he did the research, and they are only paying \$300 in taxes. People are paying \$20,000 to \$30,000 in taxes, and they are tired of it. Councilman Rodine and I won the election by running on not raising taxes. It has to stop somewhere.

- Councilman Frierson stated that much is given, much is required, and he thinks that this budget should be voted up or down, but he opposed tabling it.
- Councilman Rodine stated that the kids are the most important thing. He knows what goes on in schools, and it's not about the money because he talks to the teachers and almost every mother and father who have children in school. The school board needs to spend time with the teachers. There is a discipline issue, and he knows the difference between a good child and a child with a discipline problem. Like Councilman Coker said, the predicted increase will be 5% which is more than enough to cover what you all are asking for. He stated that parents tell him that they pulled their kids out of school because of the discipline problem, and our numbers are going down. We need to discipline the kids who are disrupting the classes.

Chairman Johnson stated that he had a motion and a second to table the third reading and that Clarendon County School District should come back with a 0-millage increase.

He asked all in favor:

Councilman Rodine voted in favor of tabling the third reading

Vice Chairman Coker voted in favor of tabling the third reading

Councilman Richardson voted not to table the third reading

Councilman Frierson voted not to table the third reading

Having a tie vote, Chairman Johnson voted in favor of tabling the third reading until the school district comes back with a 0-millage increase. The motion to table the third reading passed with a 3 to 2 vote.

Vice Chairman Coker stated that the School Board has until Monday to come back with a 0-millage increase. He stated that if the school board can get it worked out by Monday, we will schedule a meeting for Monday afternoon and pass it on Monday afternoon, which is the deadline.

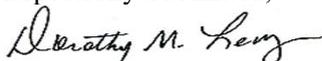
5. Adjourn

Chairman Johnson stated that if there was nothing else, he needed a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Special Called Council Meeting.

The Special Called Council Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

