

## Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, June 10, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

### Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
Councilman John P. Coker  
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Anderson

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson  
Councilman A.C. English  
Administrator Lynden Anthony  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Press in attendance: None

### Others in attendance included:

Elaine Wood	WL McCabe	Terry Streath	Mike Streath	J. Coker
George Frierson	Kurtis Rodine	Joe Pedalino	Fawn Pedalino	Maureen Calvo
Jose Calvo	Caleb Lemoine	Troy W. Allen	Todd English	Chuck Dukes
Nehemiah Conyers	James L. Conyers	Patricia Pringle	Marie Dukes	Jay Johnson
Jacqueline Blackwell	Michael A. Johnson, Jr.		Franklin D. Colclough, Jr.	
And Other Clarendon County Residents				

Chairman Stewart called the 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 Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Regular scheduled Council Meeting for June 10, 2024.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, May 13, 2024.

### 3. Service Awards

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

- Thomasine McBride 35 years Willie Moses Parker 45 years

Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for their service.

### 4. Public Comments

- **Mrs. Delaney K. Frierson** stated that she wanted to let everyone know of the great job that Manning High School Marching Band is doing. She stated that the band represented Clarendon County at the 2024 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC and well as represented Clarendon County and South Carolina at the first inauguration of formal President Barack Obama back in 2009. Mrs. Frierson stated that she wanted to promote joy and happiness for our schools, the parents, the students, Superintendent, and the staff.
- **Mr. George Frierson** stated that the movie Bull Street, which was filmed in Summerton and written by Lynn Dowell, a Summerton Resident is being shown at the Beacon Theater in Sumter

and you should go and see it. He concluded by stating that there would be a celebration commemorating the execution of a 14-year-old child, George Stinney, on June 16, 2024 at 4 pm on the Steps of the County Courthouse, letting everyone know that we will remember.

## **5. Board Appointment**

County Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Ms. Anitra Hammett to serve a four-year term on the Harvin Clarendon County Library Board presenting District Two.

## **6. Memorandum of Agreement for the Detention of Juveniles**

Administrator Anthony presented Council with an Agreement by and between the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ), by and through its duly authorized employee, and the governing body of Clarendon, hereinafter referred to as Clarendon, by and through its duly authorized official and/or employee. Administrator Anthony stated that this is an Annual Agreement with SCDJJ.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ), by and through its duly authorized employee, and the governing body of Clarendon, hereinafter referred to as Clarendon, by and through its duly authorized official and/or employee.

## **7. Clarendon County School District Budget Request**

Dr. Shawn Johnson, Superintendent Clarendon County School District, presented Mrs. Cathy Williams, Finance Director to Clarendon County Council.

- Mrs. Williams began her presentation by stating that this budget request is based upon the latest information they have from the State, County Treasurer, and County Auditor. She stated that the budget includes the same salary schedule as last year, with the exception of granting teachers the mandated \$4500 pay increase and adjusting the bus driver scale to meet the state minimum requirement. She continued by stating that they are requesting that the school operating millage be increased from 168.9 to 192.2 (23.3 mill increase). This is the result of taking advantage of 1.7% unused millage from 2022-2023, 8% from 2023-2024 and 4.12% allowable millage from 2024-2025. Mrs. Williams stated that they are requesting funding to support the Clarendon Adult Education Program. She stated that there is currently no Debt Service millage or Debt Service requirements for 2024-2025 and the school district is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). She concluded her presentation by stating that the capital improvement items be expended as far as the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenue collections will allow.
- Councilman Coker asked will all teachers get the \$4500 increase in salary.
- Mrs. Williams replied by stating that all certified teachers will get the increase and the district will bring all teachers' salaries up to \$47,000.
- Councilman Coker asked what about the bus drivers.
- Mrs. Williams replied by stating that all bus drivers will get something.
- Chairman Stewart stated that there is no line item to veto or make adjustments to the budget request from the school district and this is a pretty big ask for a line item and we have to approve or disapprove the whole package.
- Councilman Richardson asked how would this affect your property tax?
- Chairman Stewart asked Administrator Anthony how much this would cost our taxpayers.
- Administrator Anthony replied by stating that it would depend on the size of your house (which would be different for everyone).
- Auditor Patricia Pringle stated that for a \$100,000 (2<sup>nd</sup> home) at 6%, the taxes would increase \$139.80 and for a \$100,000 (primary home) at 4%, the taxes would increase \$93.20 but since we do not pay school operating taxes, a taxpayer will not see an increase.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval approving a 4.12% mill increase for Clarendon County School District for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

**8. Presentation of the FY2024-2025 Budget – Mr. Lynden Anthony**

Administrator Anthony began his presentation by thanking the staff of the Finance department, all department managers, elected officials and members of the public that have assisted in producing the balanced budget. He stated that this has been another challenging year in terms of planning for the upcoming year and prioritizing resources.

Administrator Anthony stated that the budget that we are submitting for Third Reading contains no millage increase for County operations through the General Fund, the Library Special Tax District or support for F.E. Dubose Vocational School.

He stated that we are continuing to see our collections of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenue increase over what we have received in prior years. He stated that we are recommending a further increase of \$100,000 to the Local Option Sales Tax credit given back to our taxpayers; the credit would then become \$4.4 million.

Administrator Anthony stated that as required under our Classification and Compensation policy, we have included a salary increase of 1.6% for our employees and elected officials, across all operating Funds. Total General Fund revenues and expenses are anticipated to be a little more than \$29.6 million.

He stated that in terms of intra-fund transfers, we are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund increase its level of operational support for Weldon to \$100,000; as well as a \$10,000 transfer to the General Fund again this year.

Administrator Anthony continued by stating that in reference to Fire Rescue service; the budget submission before you reflect an estimated 2.0 mill increase. As a result; the Fire Rescue budget is also balanced at \$9.1 million; supported through tax collections within the Emergency Services Special Tax District as well, in which, the impact to our citizens will be reduced as a result of the increased LOST credit. He stated that included in Third Reading is a request for a \$2 million Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. He further stated that we do not anticipate the need; however, it is a part of our annual planning process.

Administrator Anthony stated that this year we have three (3) separate borrowing requests:

- The first is a \$400,000 five (5) year lease to acquire a new ambulance to close in March of 2025.
- The second is a \$700,000 five (5) year instrument to acquire a new fire support tanker to close in June of 2025.
- Lastly, we have the General Obligation issuance associated with the debt service requirements on the Courthouse and 2022 Facilities Corp IPRB projects, to close in February of 2025.

Administrator Anthony stated that for the purpose of Third reading, He would like to “formally” state that we have the following expenses contained within the FY2025 Budget:

General Fund	\$ 29,622,705
General County Debt	1,852,338
FE Debose VoTec	330,120
Fire Rescue	6,829,064
Fire Debt	313,162

Emergency Services	2,280,735
Emergency Svcs Debt	68,400
Library	<u>802,700</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 42,099,224

Admin Complex Debt svc	487,745
Courthouse Debt svc	181,519
Capital Proj. Series 2022	<u>1,034,113</u>
Total IPRB Bonds	\$ 1,703,377

Water & Sewer (op ex)	\$ 1,176,600
Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	\$ 160,165

He concluded his presentation by thanking Council for the confidence they and the community continue to have in our ability to operate effectively and efficiently.

- Councilman Coker asked is the Fire engine replacing an older fire engine or is it an add on.
- Chief Michael Johnson stated that it would be both, the older engine would be used as backup.
- Councilman Coker asked were there three bids on the fire truck and ambulance?
- Administrator Anthony responded by stating yes, we contacted multiple suppliers.

## 9. Ordinance 2024-03

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-03 – An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025, 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, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025.

## 10. Ordinance 2024-04

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-04 - An Ordinance to Authorize the Granting of an Easement Across Property Owned by Clarendon County, South Carolina and Identified as Clarendon County Tax map Parcel Number 187-02-04-020-00.

## 11. Ordinance 2024-05

Administrator Anthony presented Council with Ordinance 2024-05 – An Ordinance of Clarendon County, South Carolina amending the Unified Development Code of Clarendon County Regarding the Regulation of Solar Energy Facilities and Other Matters Related thereto. He stated that this proposed Ordinance was created by the Planning Commission along with the County Attorney William Johnson and another Law Firm.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-05 - An Ordinance of Clarendon County, South Carolina amending the Unified Development Code of Clarendon County Regarding the Regulation of Solar Energy Facilities and Other Matters Related thereto.

## 12. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$27,190,917 and Revenue was not available as of May 31, 2024.

- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$48,601 for the month ending May 31, 2024 and total Expenses were \$161,893. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of May, 2024 (after transfers) with a deficit of \$18,292.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$1,375,385 for the month ending May 31, 2024 and total Expenses were \$934,496. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month of May 31, 2024, with a Net Utility Income of \$881,555; of which was reinvested into system expansion.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending May 31, 2024, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,822,996 of which \$5,079,913 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 \$1,743,083 as of the end of May 2024.

### 13. Administrator's Report

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

#### **Facilities:**

**EOC/Communication Center:** Architectural firm and Civil Engineering sub-contractor are developing preliminary site plans now. We continue to work with them in clearly identifying our expectations and needs for interior space.

**Turbeville Fire Station:** Both site plans and building plans have been approved; mobilization should start in the next 7-10 days.

**Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal Control:** We have scheduled to release a Request For Proposals (RFP) for design/build services soon now that our wastewater plans have been firmed up.

**SCIIP Grant:** We have executed our contract for engineering /design services and work has begun designing both the well and storage tank, We will soon contract for the drilling of our associated test well on the site when the permit has been approved by DHEC.

**Weldon Auditorium Renovations:** No change from last month on Weldon Auditorium renovations: currently expect that design and specifications will be completed and bid packages ready in June. Recent delay in subcontracting civil engineering work recently completed and are now performing hazardous materials testing.

#### **Other:**

**Palmetto Trails Foundation:** Work is close to completion on the Lake Marion Trailhead project at the foot of the old SR301 bridge. We have partnered with Palmetto Trails and SCDNR to make this project a reality. Final work will be completed soon.

**Turbeville Library:** No movement from last month; a request has been made and contained within the State budget for an appropriation to the County for the project.

**North Shore Summerton Development Project:** A utility easement has been recorded and engineering design and site work can continue.

**Law Enforcement Joint Training Facility:** We are finishing up developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Manning, Sheriff's Department, and the County to build the facility.

#### ✓ **Recreation:**

- Thursday nights pickleball has been a great success so far and everyone is invited to join our daytime session three days a week. In May, we had over 209 participants in the program.
- We are currently still advertising for summer adult co-ed kickball and a church league softball program.
- We are going to do some boardwalk repairs at Taw Caw Park; however, our park guests will still have full access to the boardwalk.

#### ✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- The newest addition to our Fire Rescue apparatus fleet is parked in the parking lot. This E-One Typhoon fire engine (with equipment) was ordered over two years ago in February, 2022 at a

cost of \$860,000. Next to it is the engine that we will be taking out of rotation, a 1977 model which was brought into service over 45 years ago.

- Just a reminder that County offices will be closed Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth.
- As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, we are now in Hurricane Season, so set your hurricane guide for this year.

#### **14. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Stewart stated that he did not have anything to add, and he wishes everyone would have a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### **15. Executive Session**

Legal Briefing – Solar Farm Moratorium

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for a Legal Briefing on Solar Farm Moratorium, and he asked Attorney Johnson to join them in the Executive Session.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session for a Legal Briefing on Solar Farm Moratorium. The Executive Session began at 7:05 pm.

#### **16. Open Session**

Legal Briefing – Solar Farm Moratorium

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

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 7:24 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received a Legal Brief on the Solar Farm Moratorium, and we still have some questions and he wanted to know what was the will of Council on the Resolution to extend the Moratorium.

#### **17. Resolution 2024-03**

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Resolution 2024-03 – A Resolution to Extend Moratorium on the Acceptance of Applications for Solar Farm Use for an Additional Three (3) Months.

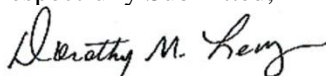
#### **18. Adjourn**

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 7:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC