



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, July 11, 2022  
6:00 PM**

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

---

**Those in attendance:**

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman A.C. English  
Councilman Benton Blakely  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W. J. Frierson, Sr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
Administrator David W. Epperson  
Deputy Administrator Ted Felder

**Press in attendance:** Ashley Miller, The Item

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	Jamie Welch	Robert Pegram	Sampson Pearson
Jacqueline Blackwell	Ronnie Rhodes	Rose Yeadan	George E. Frierson, III
Bessie Harvin	Jason Montgomery	Clinton Bethune	Glyn Oliver Bethune
Carrie Myers	Angeline Bradley	Rev. Albert Thomas	Lucille Thomas
Dr. Stephen R. Cury	Sescily R. Cury	Patricia Pringle	Linda P. Lemon

And Other Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. He stated that Mr. George Summers passed away and his service will be held on Friday. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for July 11, 2022.

**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 June 13, 2022.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Special Called Council Meeting which was held on June 29, 2022.

**3. Service Awards Recognition**

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting, Linda Lemon, HR Director, Chairman Stewart, and Administrator Epperson presented 5 employees with service awards.

- |                              |          |                    |          |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| • James Hodge                | 5 Years  | Robert Pegram      | 20 Years |
| • Judge Robin Locklear-Moody | 10 Years | Willie Mae Manning | 30 Years |
| • Tiffany Wells              | 10 Years |                    |          |

**4. Presentation – Sumter Area Small Business Development Center (Mr. Fletcher Smith and Mr. Paul Featheringill)**

Mr. Featheringill began his presentation by stating that the Small Business Development Center have 50 consultants that assists with existing and startup companies. He stated that they were able to help create and retained 3,912 in 2020 and assisted 143 new businesses.

Mr. Smith stated that the organization works with constituents to help start a business and grow businesses. He stated that they provide individuals with confidential consulting sessions at no cost. Mr. Smith further stated that they provide educational workshop and seminars, referrals, and joint services with service partners. He concluded his presentation by stating that they provide specialty services for Minority, Women, Veterans, Procurement, and other Government Contracting.

## **5. Section 504 Updated Self Evaluation and Transition Plan – Ms. Vickie Williams**

Ms. Williams began by giving Council an updated on the ADA Transition Plan. She stated that Section 504 Self Evaluation and Transition Plan consists of Employment, State and Local Government Services, Public Accommodations, Telecommunication, and Miscellaneous. Developing a Transition Plan which consist of Building Issues to include signage and lighting. Clarendon County must apply with the Act. The County Owned buildings that we have to work on signage and lighting. All other County owned buildings are in compliance.

Ms. Williams completed her presentation by stating that the law does allow for buildings that will cost the county a lot of money to be in compliance.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Updated Section 504 Self Evaluation and Transition Plan presented by Ms. Vickie Williams.

## **6. Report of the Clarendon County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission(CPST)**

Mr. Michael Kozlarek, General Counselor, gave the laws governing the Commission and how the members of the Commission were appointed. He stated that the County adapted the appointed Commission which consists of three members appointed by Clarendon County, two members appointed by the City of Manning and one member, from the City of Paxville, was appointed by the two members that were appointed by the City of Manning.

Mr. Kozlarek stated that the Commission started having meetings in May and they had five meetings that were open to the public. He stated that the Commission created the list and the cost estimates with help from Alliance Consulting Engineering. The Commission voted on the list and the order in which they will be performed. The County cannot change anything on the list that was created by the Commission. The County can only vote Yes or No on the ballot. This referendum that will be on the ballot would be for a one cent penny tax on the dollar that would go into effect on May 1, 2023 for eight years if approved by the voters. Which would give the County the option to borrow up to \$35,755,000.

Mr. Kozlarek continued by stating that several South Carolina Counties have a Capital Project or Transportation sale tax to include Florence, Lee, Sumter, Williamsburg, Berkely, Bamberg, Dorchester, Charleston, Colleton, Richland, Lexington, Darlington, and Orangeburg Counties.

- Councilman English asked if there are items excluded from the Capital Sales Tax.
- Mr. Kozlarek stated that some items are excluded from the sales tax, medication, unprepared food, and gas are exempted from sales tax.
- Councilman Blakely stated that Clarendon County being a tourist county, so tourists traveling through Clarendon County will be paying the sales tax.
- Mr. Kozlarek stated that as of January 1, 2022, there were only four Counties that do not have some type of Sales tax: Beaufort, Oconee, Greenville, Georgetown. There are 42 Counties out of 46 that have some type of Sales Tax.

Mr. Pro Prothro, President of the CPST Commission, began his presentation by stating that the Commission had five meetings that was opened to the public and they only had one citizen of the public attended one meeting. He stated that the committee received recommendations from the Municipalities before the list was finalized. He

stated that the Commission had very good discussions and recommendations from the Municipalities before the list was created and he very much supports the one cent sales tax. He stated that there are six interchanges in Clarendon County and with the addition of Chick Fil A at Exit 119, there will be more traffic as well as the beach traffic.

Mr. Prothro continued by outlining the list for the Capital Sales Project:

- County-wide emergency operations center/911 call center \$8,100,000
- Church Street park (Manning) 4,540,000
- Town Hall (Paxville) 350,000
- Town Hall/Police department (Summerton) 2,000,000
- Fire station (Turbeville) 1,700,000
- Centrally located recreation park/facilities with competition ballfields 6,500,000
- Library branch facility (Summerton) 2,600,000
- I-95 wastewater improvements (Manning) 1,250,000
- Recreation park(s) (Paxville) 1,500,000
- Downtown beautification (Summerton) 1,000,000
- Downtown beautification (Turbeville) 250,000
- Recreation park(s) (St. Paul area) 1,500,000
- Fire/rescue sub-station (Station 5) (Paxville area) 675,000
- Clarendon County industrial park infrastructure 840,000
- Fire/rescue sub-station (Station 11) (Brewington area) 725,000
- Fire-rescue sub-station (Station 15) (Liberty area) 725,000
- Recreation park(s) (Turbeville) 1,500,000
- Centrally located, county-wide fire training facility with burn building 5,750,000

Mr. Prothro concluded his presentation by stating that this was a great learning opportunity, and he would like to thank Clarendon County Council and the Commission members for doing a fantastic job.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, County Council Unanimous approved the list as presented by the Clarendon County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission.

## **8. Public Hearing - Ordinance 2022-03**

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-03 – An Ordinance To Levy and Impose a One Percent Sales and Use Tax, Subject to a Referendum in Clarendon County Pursuant to the CPST Act, South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-10-300, ET SEQ.; To Define the Specific Purposes and Designate the Projects for which the Proceeds of the Tax May be used; To Provide the Maximum Time for the Imposition and Collection of the Tax; To Provide for a County-Wide Referendum and to Prescribe the Contents of the Ballot Question in the Referendum; To Provide conditions Precedent to the Imposition of the Tax and Conditions or Restrictions on the use of the Tax Revenue; To Establish the Priority in which the Net Proceeds of the Tax are to be Expended for the Purposes and Projects stated; To Provide for the Conduct of the Referendum by the Clarendon County Board of Voter Registration and Elections; To Provide for the Payment of the Tax; To Provide for the Issuance of Bonds, In Exceed the Aggregate of \$[]; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Pledge of Revenues Related to the Bonds; Providing Otherwise for the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for Borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing for the Disposition of Property Related to the Bonds; and to Provide for Related Matters is now open.

The Public Hearing began at 6:55 pm.

- Citizen – raising taxes is a horrible idea and how can you have a public hearing when the list is not available to the public and everything on the list is a want and not a need.
- Citizen – Why isn't Clarendon One water system on the list, we are still boiling water.
- Mr. Prothro responded by stating that the Town of Summerton said there are other funds through the Cares Act that the Town applied for.

- Ms. Kathleen Gibson – The Council of Summerton composed the list.
- Ms. Mary Cooper - We keep hearing about a park over and over, but nothing is going on in New Zion.
- Councilman Blakely – I agree with you 100% but County Council had nothing to do with the list.
- Mr. Prothro – The Turbeville list came from Turbeville, and we added money for the Walker Gamble park.
- Administrator Epperson – The county made some investment in the Walker Gamble Park, we remodeled the bathroom, added fencing, and dugouts that the school uses as well. We have made some improvements over the last several years. We also added grant funding for a study for the flooding in Newman Branch, once we get the approval, hopefully we can move forward and address the problem.
- Mr. Moye Graham – This is a good idea, but it is a terrible time to raise taxes with inflation and Republicans do not like taxes and now is a bad time.
- Mr. George E. Frierson, III – There is a lot of things going on and we need to recommend tabling this for a year. I want to see Clarendon County grow and there is a landfill behind his house, and he will not drink ground water because of the landfill. We should postpone this for a year because there are more pressing things that we need.
- Ms. Patricia Pringle – Stated that she is in favor of the 1% sales taxes and where were the meeting announcements posted.
- Mr. Kozlarek – the meeting announcements were posted in the Administrator Building
- Ms. Tammy Rodvansky – I am for the 1% sales tax.
- Mr. Jesse Surette – in 2020 – there were 35,000 to 38,000 people that traveled through Clarendon County daily that would be paying taxes on items purchased.
- Mr. Pedalino - We live here, and we pay taxes all the time.
- Ms. Gennie Lee – I am in favor of the 1% sales tax and please give the voters the opportunity to voice their opinion.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other comments, hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The public hearing closed at 7:29 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that everyone will have the change to vote for it or against it if you can't afford it, but I would like to recommend that Council vote that the referendum be added to the ballot.

## 9. Ordinance 2022-03

On motion by Councilman Richardson, and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2022-03 - An Ordinance To Levy and Impose a One Percent Sales and Use Tax, Subject to a Referendum in Clarendon County Pursuant to the CPST Act, South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-10-300, ET SEQ.; To Define the Specific Purposes and Designate the Projects for which the Proceeds of the Tax May be used; To Provide the Maximum Time for the Imposition and Collection of the Tax; To Provide for a County-Wide Referendum and to Prescribe the Contents of the Ballot Question in the Referendum; To Provide conditions Precedent to the Imposition of the Tax and Conditions or Restrictions on the use of the Tax Revenue; To Establish the Priority in which the Net Proceeds of the Tax are to be Expended for the Purposes and Projects stated; To Provide for the Conduct of the Referendum by the Clarendon County Board of Voter Registration and Elections; To Provide for the Payment of the Tax; To Provide for the Issuance of Bonds, In Exceed the Aggregate of \$[]; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Pledge of Revenues Related to the Bonds; Providing Otherwise for the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for Borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing for the Disposition of Property Related to the Bonds; and to Provide for Related Matters.

## 10. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$29,911,584 and Revenue figures were not available as of June 30, 2022.

- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$28,955 for the month ending June 2022 and total Expenses were \$193,575. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of June, 2022 after transfers with a Net Deficit of \$104,620.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$1,404,657 for the month ending June 30, 2022 and total Expenses were \$849,372. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and USDA Phase II, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending June 30, 2022 with a Net Utility Income of \$724,788.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending June 30, 2022, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$3,363,179 of which \$2,656,191 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 \$706,988 as of the end of June 2022.

## 11. Administrator’s Report

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

- **Water and Sewer Projects** – All of our water and sewer projects are nearing completion or are nearing the bidding process. WE also anticipate applying for grant funds (SC ARPA) through the Sc Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) for various water projects.
- **Summerton Park** – Work on the park is moving along as planned. We anticipate completion of the project in the Fall of 2022.
- **Barrineau Recycling Center** – Upgrades to this center have begun. Grading ins taking place; a new attendant building is on order as well as upgraded containers form Waster Management. We anticipate this site being completed by the end of 2023.
- **Landfill Recycling Center** – upgrades to this center are almost complete. The Center is relocating across the entrance road to the old cardboard bailing site. Grading is completed and a new attendant building has been installed. Upgraded containers from Waste Management should be set up soon.
- **COVID** – for the week of 06/26/2022 through 07/02/2022, There were 70 active cases
- **Miscellaneous** -
  - Baseball has ended. Our all-star teams performed well in their respective tournaments. Fall sports registration will begin August 1. Individuals can register online or in person at JC Britton Park in Manning or at Smith Field in Turbeville.

## 12. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by asking County Council did they have any questions or comments. He stated that his door is open at 26 E. Boyce Street if anyone had questions.

## 13. Adjourn

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

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dorothy M. Levy*

Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

