

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, January 13, 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 John P. Coker
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Anderson

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman Kurtis W. Rodine
Administrator Lynden Anthony
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Absent: None

Press in attendance: The Manning Times

Others in attendance included:

Terry Streath	Mike Streath	Moye Graham	George E. Frierson	Jose Calvo
Skip Osborne	WL McCabe	Fawn Pedalino	Joe Pedalino	Ed Gamble
Jacqueline Blackwell	Tammy Rodvansky	Julius Dukes, Sr.	Frank Colclough	Clayton Pack
Chuck Dukes	Marie Dukes	Frankie McCabe	Marie M. Rogers	Annie Hord
Johnny Bonaparte	Patricia Pringle	Shanita Brangman	Georgette Murray	Diane Georgia
Kiyana James	And Other Clarendon County Residents			

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Regular scheduled Council Meeting for January 13, 2025.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Rodine, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, December 9, 2024.

3. Service Awards

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

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|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| • Christopher D. Brunson | 5 Years | Charles Eaddy | 25 Years |
| • Yolanda Lindler-Martin | 5 Years | William J. Frierson, Sr. | 30 Years |
| • Terry Allan Lee, Jr. | 10 Years | Billy G. Richardson | 30 Years |

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

4. Public Comments

- Mrs. Terry Streath (Palmetto State Audit) – began by thanking and congratulate our new Councilmembers for running a good clean campaign and winning their seat. I would also like to thank our previous members for their service. She stated that she would like to remind everyone Elected Council, other Officials, and

every other person that receives a payroll check through public money to remember that we (all 31,000 of us) are the people that you work for and answers to. Transparency is easy, if there is nothing to hide, hide nothing. We as taxpayers have the right and responsibility to question any use of public money, facilities, or properties. They all belong to us. Palmetto State Audit is a watch dog group based in Clarendon but covering the State. When we ask a question or send a request through FOIA, we already know the answer, we are just trying to verify the information. Our group has been around for a couple of years, we keep citizens informed and we ask questions in writing so that no one can be misquoted.

The agenda states that Ms. Anderson will be presenting a draft Freedom of Information Act Policy. There is a non-negotiable State Law governing this. As long as a request is in writing, no one can be required to use any kind of form. The guidelines cover what can and cannot be requested, time constraints, and reasonable fees. Until our New Administrator and Deputy took these rolls, we were never charged for this information. Reasonable fees are understandable, but we have already help to buy material, electronic, and supplies through our taxes. On occasion we received requested information at no charge and we appreciate that. She concluded by presenting Council with a copy of the FOIA policy that she printed at home.

5. Election of Vice Chairman

On motion by Councilman Rodine and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Councilman Coker as the Vice Chairman of County Council.

6. 2025 Budget Schedule

Administrator Anthony presented Council with the 2025 Annual Budget Schedule. He stated that the School Board has been removed from the Budget Schedule because they are no longer required to present their budget to Council.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Budget Schedule that was presented by Administrator Anthony for the year 2025.

7. Presentation

Deputy Administrator Anderson presented Council with a Proposed Draft Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy. She stated that Clarendon County has always responded to the Freedom of Information Act in according with South Carolina Law and State Statute. we are aiming to memorialize the policy that we currently have in place. We do not have a written policy this is why we are here to share with Council the policy that has been proposed by Administration and our County Attorney. This is just to set a uniform policy for the county and there has not been any change in the way our citizens make their FOIA requests.

8. Financial Report

Mrs. Tammy Rodvansky, CFO, began her report by stating the following:

- **The General Fund** expenses is 45% of the Budget. We have Expenditures of \$3,227,530 and Revenue was not available as of December 31, 2024. Revenue numbers should be available by next month.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$7,800 for the month ending December 31, 2024 and total Expenses were \$73,161. We do supplement the Weldon with Hospitality Fund. We have supplemented \$65,361 to date. The Weldon Auditorium ended the month of December, 2024 (after transfers) with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$768,516 for the month ending December 31, 2024 and total Expenses were \$439,354. After Depreciation and Bond Interest Expense, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month of December, 2024 with a Net Utility Income of \$14,666.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending December 31, 2024, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$10,483,958 of which \$6,045,462 has been committed to remaining local paving projects and State Proviso Funds. She stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$4,255,035 as of the end of December 2024. There are some more roads that are being reviewed now that are going through

the Engineering process and once those roads are finalized, that will leave an Uncommitted Balance of \$2,336,535.

9. 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-contractors have developed preliminary site plans and internal layout. The next step in the process is the development of completed plans and specifications for the facility. We hope to be 'moving dirt' by the fall of this year.

Turbeville Fire Station: Construction continues at a very brisk pace. Interior painting and flooring to be completed this week. We are expecting that the certificate of occupancy (CO) be issued in April.

Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal Control: The contract with Hawkins & Kolb has been finalized.

SCIIP Grant: We have contracted the drilling of a test well to start in early February. Bids for the storage tank have been received and we are finalizing the contract. We are designing the water mains internally. SC DHEC permits approved for water mains/lines and we have a few easements that need to be acquired.

Weldon Auditorium Renovations: Plans and bid documents are being prepared.

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; Bids are due the end of this week.

✓ **Other:**

Turbeville Library: The project architect has solicited a new civil engineering firm to perform site plan and project is again moving forward. Last month we received a check for \$1,750,000 from the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation.

North Shore Summerton Development Project: Engineering design and site work are moving forward as well.

Law Enforcement Joint Training Facility: The Memorandum of Understanding (MUO) with the City of Manning, Sheriff's Department, and the County to build the facility has been approved and bids are being prepared. Authorization from the City regarding designs and bids are being prepared.

Newman Branch Restoration Projects: We have begun to prepare scope of project parameter for the Newman Branch Restoration Projects and have solicited for an Environmental Engineering Firm to assist in further project development and management.

✓ **Recreation:**

- Basketball games begun this week.
- Baseball and softball registration opened this morning.
- We had an unfortunate situation arise at Taw Caw park over the holidays. A fire was started at the end of the boardwalk/on the boardwalk that caused extensive damage. We are in the process of getting quotes to effectively repairs as soon as possible.

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- Our county offices will be closed Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King Day.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman Johnson stated that he does not have a report this month.

11. Executive Session

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Ratification of the County Administrator's Contract.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss the Ratification of the County Administrator's Contract.

The Executive Session began at 6:29 pm

12. Open Session

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

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

The Executive Session ended at 6:54 pm

Chairman Johnson asked if there were any motion for action coming out of Executive Session.

Councilman Coker made a motion and it was seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to ratify the Administrator's contract as presented with one amendment to revise the date by which the Administrator's evaluation must take place in Section 5 of the contract to January 31 of each year beginning with January 31, 2026.

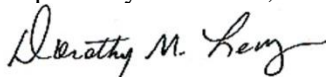
13. Adjourn

Chairman Johnson stated that we have come to the end of our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Chairman Johnson thanked everyone for coming out to the Council Meeting

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC