

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting Monday, February 10, 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
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Absent: None

Press in attendance: The Manning Times

Others in attendance included:

Margaret Sorrell	George Frierson	John D. Bonaparte	Robert Falls	Cindy Falls
Cheryl Allen-Lint	Kevin Pollock	Ulysses Conyers	Ed Gamble	Susie Murray
Delvin Mooror	Diane D. Georgia	Bessie Harvin	Angela Reed	Clara Nelson
Sylvia L. Witherspoon	Patricia Pringle	Willie Briggs	Franklin D. Colclough, Jr	
Jacqueline Blackwell	Rosalie Newton	And Other Clarendon County Residents		

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm by welcoming everybody. Councilman Richardson 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 Rodine, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Regular scheduled Council Meeting for February 10, 2025.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, January 13, 2025.

3. Service Awards

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting Lynden Anthony, County Administrator stated that we had one employee to receive a service award for the month of February but he was unable to attend the meeting.

Stephen Sweikata 5 Years

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

4. Public Comments

- Mr. George Frierson – began by stating that he would like to recognize Mr. Levi Pearson and Mr. Harry Briggs, who were instrumental in the creation of Briggs vs- Elliott who were both born on February 10. Levi Pearson was born on February 10, 1892, and died on May 21, 1970. Harry Briggs Jr. was born on February 10, 1941, and died on August 8, 2016.

- Mr. John Bonaparte – began by presenting Clarendon County with information about House Bill 3792. He stated that the main provision in the bill is to divest fiscal autonomy from the district, transfer budget approval to the Clarendon County Council, and amend the method for the election of board members. He stated that the 9-member school board can manage the funding just as well as County Council. He concluded by asking County Council to consider the concerns of the Citizens of Clarendon County.

5. Presentation

- Mr. Robert Benefield – South Carolina Association of Counties Worker’s Compensation Trust Director of Insurance Services began by presenting Clarendon County with a plaque stating that Clarendon County came in first place in the Risk Management Program with an Experience Modifier of .66 which was the lower within the 43 Counties that participates in the Risk Management Program in South Carolina.
- Dr. Kevin Pollock and Mrs. Cheryl Allen-Lint, President of Central Carolina Technical College and Interim VP of Business Affairs, presented County Council with some of the highlights of the Clarendon Campus at FE Dubose. He stated that for the 2023-2024 school year, there were 378 students enrolled and 13 students were awarded \$25,561. Mr. Pollock continued by stating that the capital project investments are as follows:
 - Roof - \$1,655,590
 - HVAC - \$1,691,1217
 - Parking re-pavement - \$46,265
 - F.E. Dubose Building renovation -Over \$9 Million

Dr. Pollock concluded his presentation by stating that the Scholars program is expiring and he asked County Council to renew the scholar’s program because they serve 300 to 350 students a year. He stated that last year, they served 378 students from Clarendon County and the majority of the students are taking online classes.

- Vice Chairman Coker asked if the classes are open to the public
- Dr. Pollock responded by stating that all classes are open to the public.
- Councilman Frierson stated that about 25 years ago, we recognized that in order to be progressive and attractive to industries, we needed a college in our County. Under Chairwoman Betty Roper, we entered into an agreement with Central Carolina and it has been a beautiful relationship and guarantee it is one of the main things that have attracted industries to us and we thank you for everything that Central Carolina is doing for Clarendon County.
- Chairman Johnson thanked Central Carolina for what they are doing for Clarendon County.

6. Santee- Lynches Council of Government (COG)

Chairman Johnson stated that we need to appoint a Representative to represent Clarendon County as COG meetings.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Chairman Johnson as the representative representing Clarendon County as COG meetings.

7. Intergovernmental Agreement

Administrative Anthony presented County Council with an Intergovernmental Agreement between Clarendon County and the Town of Turbeville. He stated that this agreement would be to construct an outdoor stage in front of the future sight of the Turbeville Library. He concluded that the town of Turbeville and Clarendon County would have joint use of the outdoor stage.

On motion by Councilman Richarson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Clarendon County and the Town of Turbeville to construct an outdoor stage in front of the future sight of the Turbeville Library.

8. Board Appointments:

- On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Rodine, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Ken Wells, Robert Boykin, and Roger (Bubba) Flowers, Jr. to serve another term on the Development Board representing District 1.
- On motion by Councilman Rodine and Seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Barry Ham, G.G. Cutter and Matthew Prince to serve another term on the Development Board representing District 2.
- On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Steve C. Gamble and H. Blake Gibbons, Jr. to serve another term on the Development Board representing District 3.
- On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Rodine, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Beatrice McKnight to serve another term on the Clarendon County Behavioral Health Services Commission representing District 1.
- On motion by Councilman Rodine and Seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Beulah Roberts, Kathy Geddings, and Joan A. Barber to serve another term on the Clarendon County Behavioral Health Services Commission representing District 2.

9. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** expenses is 54% of the Budget. We have Expenditures of \$2,715,227 and Revenue was not available for the month ending January 31, 2025. Revenue numbers should be available by next month.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$8,200 for the month ending January 31, 2025 and total Expenses were \$85,578. We do supplement the Weldon with Hospitality Fund. The Weldon Auditorium ended the month of January 2025 (after transfers) with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$901,134 for the month ending January 31, 2025 and total Expenses were \$514,157. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, and Interest Income, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month of January 2025 with a Net Utility Income of \$21,878.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending January 31, 2025, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$7,890,941 of which \$6,582,333 has been committed to remaining local paving projects and State Proviso Funds. She stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$1,308,608 as of the end of January 2025.

10. 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. 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. We're making some site layout changes involving retention ponds but it should be moving forward again soon.

SCIIP Grant: Drilling of a test well has started and we're finalizing contract with above ground storage tank firm. Easement letters have gone out as well. Bid packages for the water mains and lines should be going out soon.

Weldon Auditorium Renovations: renovation 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 being received, and we are looking to reward the contract next week.

✓ **Other:**

Turbeville Library: The project architect has solicited a new civil engineering firm to perform site plan and project is again moving forward. We are setting up a site visit hopefully for next week.

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, Authorization has been received from the City regarding designs and bids are being prepared now for the building. Work on the actual firing range has begun.

Newman Branch Restoration Projects: An Environmental Engineering Firm has been selected and scope of project parameters for the Newman branch restoration project are being developed. Conversations with impacted property owners should have begun.

✓ **Recreation:**

- Basketball season is finishing up.
- Baseball and softball registration is closed, and we look forward to the games starting soon.
- The unfortunate situation at Taw Caw park over the holidays regarding the fire last month, our repairs have nearly been completed.
- We are continuing to rent out Weldon Auditorium with three events already scheduled this month.

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- Our county offices will be closed Monday, February 17th for Presidents Day.
- I would like to thank our staff, SC DOT and all of our first responders for their efforts in reference to the winter storm two and a half weeks ago. Also, special thanks to our citizens for staying safe.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman Johnson stated that he would like to thank everyone for helping him and Councilman Rodine. He stated that they are coming along and it's not as bad as some people made it out to be. He also thanked Lynden Anthony and Sharmane Anderson for their help.

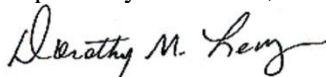
11. Adjourn

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 Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC