



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2023
6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, Sc

Those in attendance:

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

Vice Chairman W. J. Frierson, Sr.
Councilman A.C. English
Administrator David W. Epperson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Press in attendance: Ashley Miller, The Item

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Mary Huth	Freddie Huth	Connie Huth
Jacqueline Blackwell	Paul McCulloch	William Harvin	Julius Adger
Betty Joe Henry	Joey Henry	Tim Baxley	Julius Dukes
Johnny Wilson	Patricia Pringle	Latisha Geter	Sampson Pearson

And Other Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. 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 Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for February 13, 2023.

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 January 9, 2023.

3. Service Awards Recognition

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

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|------------------------|---------|---------------|----------|
| • Andrew Beasley | 5 Years | Candice Elms | 5 Years |
| • Shante Demary | 5 Years | Kimberly Hill | 10 Years |
| • Sophia Shelton | 5 Years | Freddie Huth | 15 Years |
| • Latisha Billie-Geter | 5 Years | Joey Henry | 35 Years |

4. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

- Ms. Jacqueline Blackwell – First I have two disclaimers; I am not here as the Coroner nor am I advocating for any business. I am here as a resident of the Alcolu Community. Her concern is in reference to Grasshopper Lane. She stated that there are elderly people, sick and shut-ins that lives on that road and when it rains, cars get stuck trying to get in or out. She concluded by asking Council to please put Grasshopper Lane on the road list to be paved.

- Mr. William Harvin - Owner of Harvin Haven, stated that he has pictures that was taken yesterday of the conditions of Grasshopper Lane. He stated that he had to close his business because people could not get to him. He continued by stating that he owns a family-oriented event hall and people come from out of state to his facility but when the road is wet, they are reluctant to come.
- Chairman Stewart – stated that part of our challenge is that a lot of the roads in the County was never in the county system and according to SCDOT standard, to pave one mile of road is about \$200,000. He stated that some of the roads may not have any drainage on it.
- Administrator Epperson - stated that he is familiar with the road and the road is in good shape. We have to check to see if the business is permitted corrected and the establishment is in regulation, and we had the County Engineer to look into it.
- Mrs. Terrey Streath – her concerns are with commercial duck ponds. She stated that she lives on Liberty Hill Road and there are six duck ponds on Liberty Hill and Bill Davis Roads. She continued by stating that she had to have her well dug 40 feet deeper in order to get drinkable water. Mrs. Streath continued by stating that when the ponds are drained, they cannot use their septic systems. The excess water is causing corrosion to the paved roads when the ponds are drained. She stated that no agency regulates these ponds. We have contacted DHEC, SCDNR, Clemson Extension, Sheriff Tim Baxley, Senator Tim Scott’s Office, Army Core of Engineering, and SC Department of Agriculture and no one will take responsibility. The duck ponds use farm raised ducks and whatever ducks are still living after the season ends, they end up in our back yards and that attacks coyotes.
- Chairman Stewart – stated that he will ask Administrator Epperson to look into it.

Chairman Stewart stated that this is the end of the public comments.

5. Board Appointment

- a. On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint the following members to the Clarendon County Planning Commission to serve another term: Louis Griffith, Lannes Prothro, Robert Gibbons, Steve Gamble, Jr, and Willie L. Durant.

Administrator Epperson stated that there is still one opening on the Planning Commission for District One.

- b. On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to re-appoint the following members to the Clarendon County Archives Advisory Commission to serve another term: Sherry Stewart, Carole Summers, Roberta Harrison, and Cynthia Mack.

Chairman Stewart abstained from voting on the re-appointments to the Archives Advisory Commission.

6. Request

Administrator Epperson made a request to approve and authorize the Execution of two (2) Service Agreements for the Clarendon County Library System.

- a. The first request is for authorization to set up finger printing once a month at the library. Administrator Epperson stated that he recommends that Council approve this request.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing the Library to set up finger printing once a month.

- b. The second request is for authorization to set up Work Force Training at the library for citizens from Sumter, Lee, Clarendon, and Kershaw Counties. The participants of this training will gain skills.

It would be a 3-month program and no more than 40 hours per week. He continued by stating that Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Government (COG) will sponsor training. He concluded by stating that participants must be between the ages of 17 and 24 and their wages and worker's compensation would be covered by the Work Force Training Program.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Library setting up a Work Force Training Program for participants between the ages of 17 and 24 for work force training.

7. Presentation – Mr. Paul McCulloch, Recreation Director

Mr. McCulloch began his presentation by congratulating everyone on their work anniversary and a special congratulations to Joey Henry for his 35 years of service at the Clarendon County Recreation Department. He stated that the Recreation Department offer programs as young as for a 3-year-old. Mr. McCulloch continued by stating that he is happy to announce that Clarendon County will be partnering with Major League Baseball this year and host a pitch, hit, and run competition for boys and girls from 7 to 12 years and a Junior Homerun Derby for boys and girls from ages 12 to 16 to help them advance to the next level.

Mr. McCulloch stated that this year the Recreation Department will be sponsoring an Easter Egg hunt at JC Britton Park on April 8, at 10 am. There will be three age groups for the Easter Egg Hunt. He continued by stating that about 56% of participants are using the online registration form. He concluded his presentation by stating that the Weldon Auditorium continued to be busy with rentals and the Archive staff continues to assist residents and visitors with whatever questions they may have in preserving the County's History. Mr. McCulloch stated that he is excited to be here and to do good things for the County.

Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. McCulloch for his update, and he stated that Clarendon County is glad to have him here.

8 Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$2,332,829 and Revenue figures were not available as of January 31, 2023.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$10,765 for the month ending January 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$72,020. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of January, 2023 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$792,199 for the month ending January 31, 2023 and total Expenses were \$487,565. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending January 31, 2023 with a Net Utility Deficit of \$119,346.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending January 31, 2023, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,260,384 of which \$1,968,748 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 \$4,291,636 as of the end of January 2023.

9. Administrator's Report

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

- **Water/Sewer**
 - ✓ Wyboo Wastewater Diversion Project – Construction has begun and is moving forward as planned.
- **Facilities:**
 - ✓ Project Clarendon (911/EOC Center, Turbeville Fire Station, Public Works Facility, Fleet Maintenance Facility and Law Enforcement Annex (animal control):

- Solicitations will be going out soon for an Architect (911/EOC) and Design Build Contractor (Turbeville Fire Station). We are in the process of performing engineering due diligence on an identified parcel for the Public Works Facility, Fleet Maintenance Facility, and Law enforcement Annex (animal Control).
- ✓ Harvin Clarendon County Library – Drive thru window project has been awarded to a contractor and work is close to starting. This feature will be an added resource for the library and its patrons.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - ✓ Basketball games have ended. The season went well with games being played in Summerton, Manning, and Turbeville.
 - ✓ Baseball and Softball Registration is continuing and will end February 17. Kids can register to play online or in person at JC Britton Park in Manning or Smith Field in Turbeville.
 - ✓ County Offices will be closed on February 20, 2023, for the Presidents Day Holiday.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that we are working hard to take care of our employees. He concluded by stating that there is a lot of growth throughout the county and the March Council Meeting will be held in Turbeville.

12. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter in reference to Elected Officials.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter in reference to Elected Officials.

The Executive Session began at 6:40 pm.

13. Open Session

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

The Executive Session ended at 7:15 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter in reference to Elected Officials and he asked Administrator Epperson to Draft a Plan to be presented to Council at the March's Council Meeting.

14. 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 Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy M. Levy

Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

