



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2023
6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, Sc

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman Pat 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: None

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony Moye Graham Jennie Lee Ronnie Rhodes
Johnny Wilson Barbara Ferrell Jamie Welch William Harvin
Patricia Pringle McRagin Merrick Robert McFadden Jacqueline Blackwell
And Other Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm by welcoming our new Councilmember, Councilman John Patrick Coker, representing District Three. 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 January 9, 2023.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting which was held on December 12, 2022.

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

3. Service Awards Recognition

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting Administrator Epperson and Chairman Stewart, presented four employees with service awards.

- Christopher Jones 5 Years Harold Morris 10 Years
- Daishawn McFadden 5 Years Terrance Levy 10 Years

4. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

- Senator Kevin Johnson gave comments, he congratulated the new Elected Councilman Coker and the Re-Elected Councilman Frierson and Richardson. He apologized for not attending the swearing in ceremony. He stated that he had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend. He concluded by stating that he is looking forward to working with all elected officers to move Clarendon County forward.

- Mr. Cecil Hodge – His concern is the \$75,000 that is being requested for the Bass Master Elite Series. He stated that this is unnecessary spending, and the Administrator should be assigned to investigate these department that are not doing anything for the people.
- Chairman Stewart asked Administrator Epperson to explain what Hospitality Funds can be used for.
- Administrator Epperson stated that Hospitality Funds are monies that the County received for prepared food and beverages. He stated that the County received one cent sales taxes on all sales from business for prepared food and beverages and that money can only be used to promote tourism. He continued by stating that the Bass Master Elite will bring more tourists to Clarendon County for lodging, meals, and shopping.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any other public comments. Hearing none, he closed the public Comments session.

5. Board Appointment

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Anthony Keith Grice to the Clarendon County Behavioral and Health Services Board to serve a four-year term.

6. Presentations

- Mr. Jesse Surette, Director of Tourism Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce, began his presentation by requesting \$75,000 to host the Bass Master Elite for 2023. He stated that Clarendon County hosted the event in 2020 and the event will be returning to Clarendon County in March of 2023.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request that was made by Mr. Jesse Surette for \$75,000 to host the 2023 Bass Master Elite Series.

- Ms. Holly Cockfield, Director of the Library, gave Council an update on the Library. She stated that the Library has 15,000 visits so far this fiscal year and various other services that are free to the public. She stated that the only thing that is required is an active library card. Ms. Cockfield continued by stating that the Library have a SC Works Center every Thursday from 9 am – 4 pm as well as Copying, Faxing, and Notary Services. She continued by stating that the Library offers online resources for resume writing, studying, learning new skills, reading, and more. Ms. Cockfield concluded her presentation by stating that the Library also provides free taxes preparation, and the Library is working on a drive through window project for this year.

7. Request

Consideration of a request to review the compensation and wages of Clarendon County Elected Officials.

Sheriff Tim Baxley thanked Council for the Salary Study for employees, and he stated that the Elected Officials were not included in the Salary Study. He continued by stating that the Elected Officials did not get a pay increase and there isn't a Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Elected Officials compared with surrounding counties. Sheriff Baxley continued by stating that all Elected Officials salaries should be considered.

Chairman Stewart asked what is the will of Council, he asked does Council want to give Administrator Epperson authorization to compare Elected Officials Salaries with surrounding Counties salaries.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval giving Administrator Epperson authorization to compare Elected Officials Salaries with surrounding Counties Salaries.

8 Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,966,536 and Revenue figures were not available as of December 31, 2022.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had income of \$9,912 for the month ending December 31, 2022 and total Expenses were \$55,153. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of December, 2022 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** – had total Revenue of \$667,086 for the month ending December 31, 2022 and total Expenses were \$387,281. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month ending December 31, 2022 with a Net Utility Deficit of \$99,766.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending December 31, 2022, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,268,723 of which \$1,669,745 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 \$4,598,978 as of the end of December 2022.

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.
- **Barrineau Recycling Center** All items related to the center have been installed. The site opened on Friday, January 6. Its hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 7am – 7 pm and on Sunday from 2 pm-7pm.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - ✓ Basketball games have started. Games will be played in Summerton, Manning, and Turbeville. Baseball and Softball Registration is scheduled to start by the end of January. Please check the County's social media sites for more information.
 - ✓ County Offices will be closed on January 16, 2023, for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that he attended the swearing in Ceremony, and he welcomed Councilman Pat Coker.

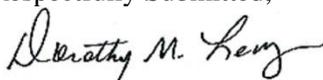
11. Adjourn

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 6:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

