

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman A.C. English
Interim Administrator Lynden Anthony

Vice Chairman W. J. Frierson, Sr.
Councilman John P. Coker
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Anderson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Press in attendance: Ashley Miller, The Item

Others in attendance included:

Cindy Risher	Johnny K. Wilson	Elaine Wood	Moye Graham	Terry Streath	Mike Streath
James Conyers	Nehemiah Conyers	Maureen Calvo	Jose Calvo	Patricia Pringle	Matt Vining
Tim Harris	Demar Jenkinson	Barbara J. Miller	Moses Levy, Jr.	Larry Johnson	Troy Allan
Shannon Allan	Shannon Osteen	Joseph Osteen	Jacqueline Blackwell		
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 Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for the Regular scheduled Council Meeting for March 11, 2024.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the minutes for the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting which was held on February 12, 2024.

3. Public Comments

- **Ms. Cindy Risher** stated that she moved here in 2006 and getting to the main road, she has to dodge a lot of uncomfortable areas. She asked how she can get authorization to add Goslin Pond road to the road repair list.
 - **Mr. Lynden Anthony** stated that County Council has a list of roads on the repair list for this year and he will get with Mr. John Hardy and ask him to take a look at that road and I will check see if that road is on the list and if not, I will follow up with Mr. John Hardy.
- **Mr. Delmar Jenkinson** stated that he owns land that joins the solar farm in his community. Solar farms releases Carbon into the atmosphere faster that it can be captured with living plants. Solar Farms take away the lands ability to grow plants.
- **Mr. Moye Graham** stated that the Secretary of State has a list of boards, expiration dates, and opening for the boards for that State. Clarendon County always reappoints the same people to these boards and no information is given out to the citizens. Some people have been on these boards for 20 years, this does not give citizens the incentive to apply when everyone is always getting reappointed. Clarendon County has a lot of boards and there should be a list posted for others to see what boards have openings.

- **Mr. Lynden Anthony** stated that we are looking (in this budget process), at an application software that would track board members appointment, expiration date, and an application process if you would like to be considered for a board.
- **Mr. Moses Levy** began by stating that this year we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of Briggs vs Elliott on May 16, 2024 – May 19, 2024. He continued by stating that Briggs vs Elliott was one of the 5 cases taken to the Supreme Court in 1954. He stated that Briggs vs Elliott is a very important case not only to Clarendon County but always should be a National Celebration. Mr. Levy continued by stating that he hopes that Brown vs the Board of Education will be overturned and become Briggs vs Elliott, which was how it was originally filed. This case is important to Clarendon County and the United States.
- **Ms. Patricia Pringle** began by giving Council an outline of the proposed budget for the 70th Anniversary Celebration of Briggs vs Elliott. The Celebration has a total Budget \$43,059 in which the \$6,000 that was originally requested by Mr. Julius Adger is included. She stated that we are expecting visitors from around the world to attend 70th Anniversary Celebration of Briggs vs Elliott.
 - **Mr. Lynden Anthony** stated that since this request did not come in as an Agenda item, it is not actionable. It will have to be considered at next Regular Council meeting in April as an Agenda Item and this will give us time to see what items can be considered and what items will not be considered because of the restrictions.

4. Board Appointments

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Ms. Lakesha O. Meredith to serve on the First Step Partnership Board representing Clarendon County.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Cedric Allen Liqueur to serve on the Aeranautic Commission representing District One.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Cleveland Gore and Mr. Rommie L. Williams to serve on the Aeranautic Commission representing District Two.

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. William Chad Gibbons and Mr. John Richard Byrd to serve on the Aeranautic Commission representing District Three.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Ms. Lindsey Moberg and Ms. Arlene Ham and to appoint Ms. Meesha L. Witherspoon to Harvin Clarendon County Library representing District Two.

5. Proclamation

Mr. Lynden Anthony presented Council with a Proclamation Proclaiming April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to a Proclamation proclaiming April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

6. Request

Mr. Lynden Anthony presented Council with a Request in the amount of \$6,000 for the 2024 Puddin' Swamp Festival.

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request of \$6,000 for the Puddin's Swamp Festival.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to table the request from the NAACP until we get a list of items that would qualify under the Hospitality Fee Tax Fund.

7. Presentation – Mr. Trip Duke, Procurement Director

Mr. Duke stated the March 2024 is National Procurement Month. He stated that he wants to share the importance of Procurement and some of the responsibilities of the Procurement Office:

Week One: How procurement Yields Cost Savings

Week Two: Quality Assurance in Procurement Policies

Week Three: Transparency and accountability in Procurement

Week Four: Procurement Activities influence Economic Development.

Mr. Duke concluded by stating that he is looking forward to working with everyone and bringing transparency to life in Clarendon County.

8. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC) Mr. Lynden Anthony, Interim Administrator

Chairman Stewart stated that the CTC is now open. The CTC began at 6:33 pm.

Interim Administrator Anthony presented the Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC) with a request, requesting authorization to add Otter Lane to the road repair/resurfacing list. He stated that this is portion of road is 250 yards long and it was left off of the original list in December.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to add Otter Lane to the road repair/resurfacing list.

Chairman Stewart stated that CTC will now close. The CTC closed at 6:36 pm.

9. Ordinance 2024-01

On motion by Councilman Coker and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-01 - An Ordinance Adopting a Three-Month Moratorium on the Acceptance of Applications for Solar/Solar Farm Use, to Provide for an Immediate Effective Date, and To provide for an Extension of Ninety Days Hereto by Further Resolution of Council.

10. Ordinance 2024-02

Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, presented Council with Ordinance 2024-02 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #170-00-03-050-00 (PR); From General Commercial (GC) to Residential Multifamily (RMF) and Providing an Effective Date. She stated that this parcel will have a 48-unit multifamily apartment building that sits on 5.6 acres.

- Chairman Stewart asked if this parcel is located on the left side by Safe Federal Credit Union
- Ms. Hanna replied by stating yes
- Councilman Coker asked are there any problems from the adjourning Property Owners.
- Ms. Hanna replied by stating no problem

On Motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted

Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-02 – An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County’s Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #170-00-03-050-00 (PR); From General Commercial (GF) to Residential Multifamily (RMF) and Proving an Effective Date.

11. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$19,386,187 and Revenue was not available as of February 29, 2024.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$32,170 for the month ending February 29, 2024 and total Expenses were \$102,138. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of February, 2024 after transfers with a zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had total Revenue of \$953,541 for the month ending February 29, 2024 and total Expenses were \$711,988. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, Transfers, Interest income and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month of February 29, 2024, with a Net Utility Income of \$737,564.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending February 29, 2024, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$6,492,367 of which \$5,693,214 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 \$799,153 as of the end of February, 2024.

12. Administrator’s Report

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

✓ **Water System**

Wyboo Wastewater Treatment Plant Diversion Project: Project is 98% complete and we have started flow to Manning Treatment plant

Facilities:

EOC/Communication Center: Contract has been awarded to the architectural firm of Rosenblum Coe and project scope for these services is almost fully developed and design work has begun.

Turbeville Fire Station: Contract for design/build services has been awarded to Hawkins and Kolb. We expect work to start within a couple of weeks.

Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal control: We closed on the property and are scheduled to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for design/build services by the end of this week.

SCIIP Grant Phase V: We have executed our contract for engineering /design services and work has begun designing both the well and storage tank, We will soon contract for the drilling or our associated test well on the site.

Weldon Auditorium Renovations: No change from last month on Weldon Auditorium renovations: currently expect that design and specifications will be completed and bid packages ready in early May.

Other:

Palmetto Trails Foundation: Work continues on the Lake Marion Trailhead project at the foot of the old SR301 bridge. The fishing pier is complete and looks fantastic.

Turbeville Library: I have been told that we have our commitments for funding and expect to receive hard copies soon.

North Shore Summerton Development Project: Potential sites for the lift station have been identified and we hope to close soon so that engineering design and siter work can begin.

✓ **Recreation:**

- Basketball season has wrapped up.
- Baseball and softball registration are very strong this year with over 560 youth registered.

- Weldon Auditorium continues to be busy with pageants, fishing tournament activities and ongoing usage.

✓ **Planning Department:**

A big thanks to the Planning Department for hosting the Community Input session on the subject of Solar Farms

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- We will be hosting a community education event here on Wednesday morning the 27th on Opioid trends and associated issues starting at 8:30 am.
- A budget update: our first reading of the proposed FT25 budget will be at the next regularly scheduled meeting in April. In attendance and presenting their respective budgets will be our elected officials.
- Constitutional Carry law – a brief update.

✓ **County Holiday:**

The County Offices – will be closed on Monday, Friday, March 29, 2024, in observance of Good Friday.

13. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart stated that we have hired a search firm, Find Great People, to fill the position for a new Administrator. He stated that we will be meeting next Tuesday in reference to the candidates for the administrator's position. He continued by stating that Councilman English has decided not to run for re-election because of health issues and his age.

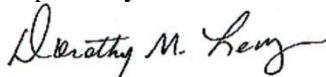
14. Adjourn

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

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC