

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2025
6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

Those in attendance:

Chairman John E. Johnson III	Vice Chairman John P. Coker
Councilman Billy G. Richardson	Councilman Kurtis W. Rodine
Councilman W.J. Frierson, Sr.	Administrator Lynden D. Anthony
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Y. Anderson	Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Absent: None

Press in attendance: None

Others in attendance included:

Chuck Dukes	Marie Dukes	George Frierson	Diane Georgia	Donald Davis
Robert Pegram	Tammy Hicks	Skippy Osborne	April Conyers	Gill Frierson
Bobby Ridgeway	Terry Streath	Mike Streath	Laura Thomas	Julius Dukes
Debra Billie	Susan Murray	Annie Robinson	Patricia Pringle	Willie Briggs
Jennifer Powell	Kathleen Gibson	Sylvia Witherspoon	Alfreda Langhorne	
Michael A. Johnson, Jr.	Franklin Colclough, Jr.		And other Clarendon County Residents	

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Frierson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Agenda for the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting for June 9, 2025.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, and the minutes for the Special Called Council meeting, which was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

3. Service Awards

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council meeting, Leonard Lowery, HR Director, Chairman Johnson, and Administrator Anthony presented service awards to 6 employees for June:

Steven Smith	5 years	April Conyers	10 years
Crystal Miller	5 years	Hampton Barrineau	15 years
Keishawna McFadden	10 years	Bertia Carter	35 years

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

4. Public Comments

- Mrs. Marie Duke –She began by stating that she witnessed an elderly woman who fell at Town Hall in Turbeville and hit her head on the cement. Turbeville 911 was called, and no ambulance was there. The ambulance had to come across Black River. She stated that she would like to suggest that County Council,

Fire Department, Medical Department, those personnel on the front line, and concerned citizens come to the table and discuss solutions. She stated that we are losing a lot of employees because they are tired, and the raises are not happening. She suggested that the County form a plan to purchase new ambulances on a rotation basis. Grants are available; please pursue them. This new Council should be problem solvers.

- **Mr. George Frierson** – Being a historian, he wants to share some things that are specific to Clarendon County. On June 7, 1979, President James Earl Collins, Jr., noted the month of June a Black Music Month. On June 7, 2025, there was unrest in California where members of the military were deployed to California for unrest. The US Military is not for domestic security; they are for international security. June 5, 1995, there was a situation in New Zion, SC, where a 9-year-old child was beaten by some adults and two young people. His name was Dwight Miller, Jr. Anyone that joins the military now joins on a voluntary basis. There are some people who joined voluntary, but did not make it back home. One of them being Councilman Frierson’s brother Kenneth Frierson.
- **Mr. Willie T. Briggs** – stated that he is representing Dr. Tindal and the Light House Foundation. They will be having Juneteenth Celebration on June 19th in Summerton from 4 pm to 8 pm. The parade starts at 4 pm. There will be fun for the kids as well as Gospel Singing. He concluded by asking Council to make a donation for the June 19th Celebration.
 - Councilman Richardson stated that the request that Dr. Tindal made must be done in writing and he must present a budget.

5. Request for Fund Support for “Inspire Me”

Ms. Linda Jackson made a request for \$5,000 to support the 2025 Juneteenth Community Celebration, a celebration of history to bring our community together, to be held at the Walker Gamble Park in New Zion, SC on June 19, 2025. She stated that there will be live performances, food vendors, cultural exhibits, children’s activities, and other activities. She concluded by inviting everyone to attend.

On motion by Councilman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Request of \$5,000 to support “Inspire Me” 2025 Juneteenth Community Celebration.

6. Infrastructure Right of Way Maintenance Agreement

Deputy Administrator Anderson presented the Council with an Infrastructure Right of Way Maintenance Agreement between Deercreek Plantation at Wyboo (HOA) and Clarendon County.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Infrastructure right-of-way maintenance Agreement between Deercreek Plantation at Wyboo (HOA) and Clarendon County.

7. Request Authorization to accept roadways into the Clarendon County Road System

Deputy Administrator Anderson presented the Council with a request authorizing roadways to be accepted in the County Road System: Deercreek Subdivision – Deercreek HOA, Blue Heron Point Drive, and a portion of Deercreek Drive.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to approve the acceptance of roadways into the County Road System: Deercreek Subdivision – Deercreek HOA, Blue Heron Point Drive, and a portion of Deercreek Drive.

8. Request from the Clarendon Business Development Corporation (BDC)

Mr. George Kosinski, Development Board Director, presented the Council with a request; he stated that there was an amendment to the Master Agreement governing the Clarendon County Industrial Park, enhancing support for economic development. This amendment, which was adopted in 2017, would allow 20% of all new Fee

in Lieu of Tax (FILOT) agreements to be deposited into the Fund for Economic Development. He stated that the speculative buildings #9, #10, and #11 are under construction, and to date, BDC has invested nearly \$1.2 million in this project. He concluded by requesting that the Council consider allocating the current balance of the Infrastructure Fund, which is approximately \$269,000, toward the remaining project costs.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously to approve the request from George Kosinski to allocate the current balance of the Infrastructure Fund, which is approximately \$269,000, toward the remaining project costs of the speculative buildings #9, #10, and #11 which are under construction.

9. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC)

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to go into the Clarendon County Transportation Committee meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Frierson, the Council voted unanimously to go into the Clarendon County Transportation Committee meeting. Vice Chairman Coker recused himself. The CTC began at 6:28 pm.

- Mr. Donald Davis, Clarendon County School District, requested authorization to use C-Fund for the Walker Gamble Elementary Roadway Project. A Right of Way accusation in an amount not to exceed \$443,640.
 - Chairman Johnson asked if this road is on the property where the school is.
 - Mr. Davis responded by stating that no, this is a highway road to the school

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously in approval of the request from Donald Davis for Roadway repairs for Walker Gamble Elementary Roadway Project in an amount not to exceed \$443,640.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to end the Clarendon County Transportation Committee Meeting and to return to the Regular Council Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously in approval to end the Clarendon County Transportation Committee Meeting and to go back into the Regular Council Meeting. The CTC ended at 6:35 pm.

10. Presentation of Proposed FY2025-2026 Budget – Tammy Rodvansky

Ms. Tammy Rodvansky, CFO, began her presentation by stating that to open this evening, please join me in thanking the staff of the Finance department, our department managers, elected officials, and members of the public who have assisted in producing the balanced budget before you. As you well know, this has been another challenging year in terms of planning for the upcoming year and prioritizing resources. I'll summarize where we are:

- The budget that we are submitting for Third Reading contains 2 mil decrease for County operations through the General Fund.
- As required under our Classification and Compensation policy, we have included a salary increase of 1.6% for our employees and elected officials across all operating Funds. Total General Fund revenues and expenses are anticipated to be a little more than \$32 million.
- In terms of intra-fund transfers, we are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund provide its level of operational support for Weldon at \$21,590; as well as a \$10,000 transfer to the General Fund again this year.

- With regards to the Library, we originally had a 2 mill decrease budgeted. It was explained to me that for us to continue to receive State Aid Funding, “Local library support shall not be less than the amount actually expended for library operations from local sources in the second preceding year (2024). Based on the current value of a mil (130,922), reducing the Library from 5 mil to 3 mil would not meet the State requirement for funding aid. I have recalculated and found that we can only reduce the Library by ½ mil and still be able to meet the State requirement for funding based on the actual expenses of 2024. Adjustments have been made to ad valorem and expenses to reflect these changes. The library budget is now balanced at \$804,000.
- With regards to the Fire Rescue service, the budget submission before you reflect a 0-mil increase. We have made several changes to the Fire Budget for the third Reading:
 1. Ad Valorem taxes increased
 - a. Real estate \$40,000
 - b. Vehicle \$9,300
 - c. Delinquent \$20,000
 - d. Watercraft (adding back) \$57,700
 - e. EMS collections \$28,950
 - f. And an investment of \$50,000
 2. Fire expenses had a decrease in salary and related costs of (\$130,350), Capital was increased by \$250,000 for a remount ambulance, and personnel increased by \$86,600.
- As a result, the Fire Rescue budget is also balanced at \$9,566,250; supported through tax collections within the Emergency Services Special Tax District.
- We would like to include in Third Reading our request that a \$2 million TAN be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. While we do not anticipate the need, it is part of our annual planning process.
- No changes have been made to our Enterprise fund budgets from the last reading; that would be Weldon Auditorium and the Water and Sewer System.
- This year we have two (2) separate borrowing requests.
- The first is a lease purchase issuance in January- March 2026 would be in the amount of \$700,000 to acquire a new fire engine/pumper; a five (5) year lease.
- Lastly, we have the General Obligation issuance associated with the debt service requirements on the Courthouse and 2022 Facilities Corp IPRB projects, to close in February of 2026.

For purposes of this Third reading, I would like to “formally” state that we have the following expenses contained within the FY2026 Budget:

General Fund	\$ 32,012,840
General County Debt	1,972,201
FE Debose VoTec	345,435
Fire Rescue	7,257,300
Fire Debt	311,087
Emergency Services	2,308,950
Emergency Svcs Debt	89,100
Library	<u>804,000</u>

Total Appropriations	\$ 45,100,913
Admin Complex Debt svc	492,475
Courthouse Debt svc	180,319
Capital Proj. Series 2022	<u>1,035,863</u>
Total IPRB Bonds	\$ 1,708,657
Water & Sewer (op ex)	\$ 1,207,670
Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	\$ 107,110

11. Ordinance 2025-07

Consideration was given to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-07 – An Ordinance to provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026, to Direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be followed during Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Frierson, the Council voted unanimously to approval the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-07 -An Ordinance to provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026, to Direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be followed during Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026.

12. Public Hearing

Ordinance 2025-08 – An Ordinance Amending the Clarendon County Unified Development Code Regarding the Regulation of Tiny Homes and Other Matters Relating Thereto. She stated that Tiny Homes have grown and have reduced housing costs. They are 400 square feet or less; there can be up to 4 Tiny Homes per acre of land without public sewer, and 17 Tiny Homes per acre with public sewer, and must have two parking spaces.

Ms. Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, stated that Tiny Homes have grown and have reduced housing costs. They are 400 square feet or less; there can be up to 4 Tiny Homes per acre of land without public sewer, and 17 Tiny Homes per acre with public sewer, and must have two parking spaces

Chairman Johnson stated that the Public Hearing is now open. The Public Hearing opened at 6:48 pm. He asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 6:49 pm.

13. Ordinance 2025-08

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-08 – An Ordinance Amending the Clarendon County Unified Development Code Regarding the Regulation of Tiny Homes and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

14. Ordinance 2025-10

Mr. George Kosinski presented the Council with Ordinance 2025-01 – An Ordinance Authorizing, Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and a Company currently known to the County as Project Latitude, Acting for Itself, One or More current or Future Affiliates and Other

Project Companies (Collectively, “Company”); Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; and Other Matters. He stated that a building became available in the Industrial Park, and The Latitude Company purchased the building because it was already equipped for office space that they could use for their headquarters. Instead of amending the agreement that was drafted in 2023, we drew up a new agreement, and the spec building #8 will be used for manufacturing only.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously in approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-10 – An Ordinance Authorizing, Pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, the Execution and Delivery of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and between Clarendon County, South Carolina, and a Company currently known to the County as Project Latitude, Acting for Itself, One or More current or Future Affiliates and Other Project Companies (Collectively, “Company”); Providing for a Special Source Revenue Credit; and Other Matters.

15. Financial Report

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

- **The General Fund** expenses were 90% of the Budget. We had Expenditures of \$2,378,611, and Revenue was available as of today.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$30,350 for the month ending May 31, 2025, and total Expenses were \$143,343. We do supplement Weldon with the Hospitality Fund. The Weldon Auditorium ended the month of May 2025 (after transfers) with a Deficit of \$12,993.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had a total Revenue of \$1,471,693 for the month ending May 31, 2025, and total Expenses were \$901,804. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, and Interest Income, the Water and Sewer Department ended the month of May 2025 with a Net Utility Loss of \$21,497.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending May 31, 2025, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$8,275,579, of which \$5,640,507 has been committed to remaining local paving projects and State Proviso Funds. She stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$2,635,072 as of the end of May 2025.
- **Fire Rescue** – expenses were 85% of the Budget. We had Expenditures of \$8,902,765 and Revenue of \$7,760,831 as of May 31, 2025.

16. Administrator’s Report

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

✓ **Facilities:**

EOC/Communication Center: The Plans are currently in the Planning Department to review modification requests, and the bid opening is scheduled for June 20, 2025. We hope to be ‘moving dirt’ by the Fall of this year.

Turbeville Fire Station: We expect the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) to be issued in the next 2 weeks. We are anticipating a ribbon-cutting ceremony mid-July.

Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal Control: The contract with Hawkins & Kolb has been finalized, and the plans have been approved. We look to start construction in the next couple of weeks.

Davis Station Well and Tank: Drilling of a test well is completed, with final designs approved by SC DES, and we continue to move this project along briskly.

Weldon Auditorium Renovations: We have issued the Intent to Award notice and have scheduled the pre-construction meeting for later this week.

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, the firm of Hawkins and Kolb was awarded the contract, and construction is expected to start in July.

✓ **Other:**

Turbeville Library: Our architect is finishing up interior design work and is looking to review the plans and specifications in-house this week.

North Shore Summerton Wastewater Development Project: Pre-construction meeting was held last week, and we anticipate work to begin at the end of this month..

Law Enforcement Joint Training Facility: Bids have been received for the project, and they came in greater than our project budget for the building. The facility is being re-evaluated and we hope to re-bid shortly.

Newman Branch Restoration Projects: An Environmental Engineering Firm has been selected, and the scope of project parameters for the Newman branch restoration project is being developed. Beaver removal via trapping has commenced; interesting note, they have also removed several alligators as well.

- An update on the Newman Branch restoration project: To date, we have removed in excess of 85 beavers and at least one alligator. Twenty-eight (28) dams have been broken up, and clearing of the stream has begun.

✓ **Recreation:**

- All Star Baseball and softball tournaments are just around the corner
- Food Truck Wednesday through the summer at J.C. Britton Park- come out and enjoy yourself throughout the day.

✓ **Fire Rescue:**

- Fire rescue response times have become a hot topic lately. I just wanted to share some information with you:
 - Fire response times from dispatch to arrival on-scene in minutes (on average)
 - April 6:41 May 6:15
 - EMS response times from dispatch to arrival on-scene
 - April 10:12 May 9:30

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- **We will be having a Special Called Meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025**
- Our offices will be closed this Thursday, June 19th, in observance of Juneteenth.
- Friday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.

17. Chairman's Report

Chairman Johnson stated that the average response times for Fire and EMS are pretty impressive and people make it more complicated by spreading misinformation. He concluded by stating that before you spread misinformation, do your research first.

18. Executive Session

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for two Personnel Items: One in Fire Rescue and the other in Administration.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously in approval to go into Executive Session for two personnel items: Fire Rescue and Administration.

The Executive Session began at 7:08 PM

19. Open Session

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

On Motion by Councilman Frierson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

The Executive Session ended at 8:26 pm

Chairman Johnson stated that no action will be taken on the Personnel Issue in Fire Rescue.

Chairman Johnson stated that he would like Administrator Anthony to explain the Personnel Issue in Administration.

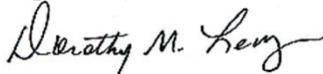
- Administrator Anthony began by reading a prepared Letter of Resignation stating that this decision was not taken lightly and, with much reflection and prayer, he will be retiring from his position effective Friday, August 8, 2025. He stated that we, as a County, have accomplished so much in the twenty-three-plus years he has been here. He stated that it has truly been an honor serving the citizens of this wonderful county. Administrator Anthony continued by stating that he would like to thank County Council, both past and present, the many dedicated and professional co-workers over the years, and the community as a whole for their support, guidance, and encouragement. He concluded by thanking everyone he has worked with, worked for, and the shared experiences he had over these many years.
- Chairman Johnson thanked Administrator Anthony, and he asked for a motion to adjourn.

20. Adjourn

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC