



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026
6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

Those in attendance:

Chairman John E. Johnson III
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Administrator Walt Ackerman
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman John P. Coker
Councilman Kurtis W. Rodine
Deputy Administrator Sharmane Y. Anderson

Absent: None

Press in attendance: Manning Times, Melissa McCoy

Others in attendance included:

George Frierson	Sip Osborne	Pat Goodwin	Legear McCabe	Marie Dukes
Charles S. Dukes	Terry Streath	Mike Streath	Kathleen Gibson	Deloris Moore
Gregory Madry	Kimberly Herbert	Daryl Wilson	Linda P. Lemon	Jason Dennis
Tony Spigner	Jennifer Powell	Melissa McCoy	Delaney K. Frierson	Bea Simon
Patricia Pringle	Michele Day	Daniel Demery	Willie Briggs	Angela S. Reed
Jacqueline Blackwell	And other Clarendon County Residents			

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited in unison.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the Agenda for the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting for February 9, 2026.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously approving the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on January 12, 2026.

3. Service Awards

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council meeting, Leonard Lowery, HR Director, had two employees for service awards for January.

Casey R. Connors	5 years	William A. McCoy	5 years
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Chairman Johnson thanked everyone for their years of service to Clarendon County.

4. Public Comments:

George Frierson - stated that he had a different opinion from the Chairman of the Election Commission. He stated that he was told that if he was going to speak during the Public comments, it had to be related and restricted to voter registration. Mr. Frierson stated that he asked the chairman to show him the policy, and the chairman told him they did not have a policy. Mr. Frierson stated that he told the chairman that if you don't have a policy, you can't enforce the policy. Just that simple. He stated that February is Black History Month, and three young men were gunned down at South Carolina State, and the President of South Carolina State College is a Clarendon County Native, Colonel Aleander Conyers.

5. Board Appointment

- On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously approving the appointment of Sonam Kuber Cogdill to serve on the Harvin Clarendon County Library Board.
- On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the amendment to revise the expiration dates of terms for previously appointed Board Members to comply with Act 79, which requires staggered terms for members of the Clarendon County Aeronautics Commission:

	<u>Revised Term Date</u>
• Cedric A. Liqueur	March 31, 2025
• Cleveland Gore	March 31, 2026
• Rommie L. Williams	March 31, 2027
• John Richard Byrd	March 31, 2028
• William Chad Gibbons	March 31, 2029

Administrator Ackerman stated that, with the revised term dates, one member's term has expired, and it is now up to the Legislative Delegation to appoint a new member.

6. Request – Hospitality Fund

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker, seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to allocate \$7,000—rather than \$10,000—to the Turbeville Business Association, in conjunction with the Puddin' Swamp Festival Committee, to assist with advertising for the Puddin' Swamp Festival.

7. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CTC)

Chairman Johnson stated that he needed a motion to convene the Clarendon County Transportation Committee.

On motion by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to convene the CTC. Vice Chairman Coker recused himself. The CTC meeting began at 6:11 p.m.

Administrator Ackerman stated that Seloc Road is a state-maintained road. It was not evaluated by the County. This order came down from the State Department of Transportation, and we can only spend the state C Fund on state roads as directed by the state. Therefore, we are requesting to spend up to \$1,610,000 on the widening and resurfacing of Seloc Road (near the new Walker Gamble School).

On motion by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously to authorize spending up to \$1,610,000 for the widening and resurfacing of Seloc Road.

On motion by Councilman Rodine, seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously to end the CTC. The CTC ended at 6:17 pm.

8. Ordinance 2025-16

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimous approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-16, an Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina, to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #140-00-04-002-00 Agriculture II (AG-II) to General Commercial (GC) and Providing an Effective Date.

9. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2026-01

Chairman Johnson stated that the Public Hearing is open for Ordinance 2026-01 - An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tap Map

Parcel # 347-00-02-011-00, From Agriculture I (AG-I) to Residential Conservation (RC) and Providing an Effective Date. The public hearing opened at 6:19 pm.

Chairman Johnson asked if there were any comments on this Ordinance. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 6:20 pm.

10. Ordinance 2026-01

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously in approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-01 - an Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tap Map Parcel # 347-00-02-011-00, From Agriculture I (AG-I) to Residential Conservation (RC) and Providing an Effective Date.

11. Ordinance 2026-02

Administrative Ackerman presented the Council with Ordinance 2026-02 – an Ordinance Amending and Restating Ordinances Establishing a 1% Local Hospitality Tax on the Sales of Prepared Meals and Beverages Sold in Clarendon County, South Carolina, and other Matters Relating Thereto. He stated that we have found a two-fold problem with the existing Ordinance. The existing Ordinance does not require any documentation to be submitted along with the money that was submitted. The amendment requires the businesses to submit a copy of their monthly State Sales Tax return.

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-02, an Ordinance Amending and Restating Ordinances Establishing a 1% Local Hospitality Tax on the Sales of Prepared Meals and Beverages Sold in Clarendon County, South Carolina, and other Matters Relating Thereto.

12. Ordinance 2026-03

Tabitha Hanna, Planning Director, presented the Council with Ordinance 2026-03 – an Ordinance Amending the Clarendon County Unified Development Code to Authorize and Implement a Flexible Design District Zoning Designation. She stated that this amendment gives the County a new tool to allow better design development while still maintaining the full county oversight and control. Ms. Hanna continued by stating that the current zoning regulations heavily rely on fixed standard developments like lot sizes and setbacks, which work for smaller developments but make it difficult for larger and more complex projects to design efficiently and attract higher quality investment.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously in approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-03, an Ordinance Amending the Clarendon County Unified Development Code to Authorize and Implement a Flexible Design District Zoning Designation.

13. Finance Report

Mrs. Tammy Rodvansky, CFO, presented Mr. Nelson Gibbons, Deputy Chief Finance Director, who began his report by stating the following:

- **The General Fund** expenses were 63% of the Budget. We had Expenditures of \$2,321,201, and Revenue was not available as of January 31, 2026.
- **Weldon Auditorium** – there was no report for the Weldon because the Weldon is being renovated.
- **The Water and Sewer Department** had a total Revenue of \$940,597 for the month ending January 31, 2026, and total Expenses were \$519,871. After Depreciation, Bond Interest Expense, and Interest Income, the Water and Sewer Department ended January 2026 with a Net Utility Income of \$1,728.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending January 31, 2026, The C-Fund program had a Cash Balance of \$8,940,121, of which \$4,274,733 has been committed to remaining local paving projects and State Proviso Funds. She stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$4,530,387 as of the end of January 2026.

- **Fire Rescue** – expenses were 53% of the Budget. We had Expenditures of \$722,241, and Revenue was not available as of January 31, 2026.

14. Administrator’s Report

Administrator Ackerman began his report by stating that the past month has been one of severe weather events. We experienced an ice storm one weekend, followed by a snowstorm the next. I want to commend everyone for their actions during these events. Our public safety divisions all did an excellent job in planning, preparing, and executing during both events. Please thank them for all their hard work and dedication if you have the opportunity.

I also want to recognize SCDOT for the fantastic job they did keeping our roadways open during the snowstorm. Their efforts greatly reduced traffic incidents, which lessened the impact on our public safety staff. Special thanks also go out to the school district for providing both transportation and sheltering resources during the snowstorm. Most of all, I want to thank the citizens of Clarendon County for heeding the advice to stay off the roads. During the worst of the event, we only had seven vehicle accidents that required a response from our crews. This allowed them to focus their efforts on other vital areas.

We also received some great news this month. Our request for grant dollars to upgrade JC Britton Park was awarded for \$1 Million. The application was for nearly \$1.8 Million, so the scope of the project will need to be reduced. We are in the process of revising those plans and will present them as soon as they are completed. He continued by stating that he wanted to welcome our new Chief for Clarendon County Fire Rescue, Jason Dennis. He stated that Jason Dennis began his role on February 3, 2026.

Administrator Ackerman continued by giving the Council an update on the following:

✓ **Facilities:**

- **EOC/Communication Center:** Design and Engineering by Caplea Coe Architects, Inc. Construction by Pyramid Contracting \$9,044,848 base bid. Pyramid’s Subcontractor is still working on the building pad, the parking lot, and site work.
- **SCIIP Phase V:** Engineering by Alliance is in process, with Adam Hogan managing. AC Schultes to install a well pump. Pittsburg Tank is still erecting the tank. B&B has finished their portion of the project and will submit a pay app to reduce the retainage. Barwick Construction had a base bid of \$99,249, alternate 1 - \$359,590, and alternate 2 - \$197,650.
- **Public Works, Fleet Maintenance, Animal Control:** Hawkins and Kolb have the Public Works building framed, with roofing and siding complete. They will begin framing the interior and start electrical and plumbing. C. Simmons has started with the site work for the road and parking lot
- **Turbeville Library:** Project funded by the S.C. Legislature and the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation. David Dixon has stated that the Bruce and Lee Foundation has approved the plans. Chamber & Associates has a base bid of \$2,750,000. Discussion for a start date will be based upon the SCDES permit and the County permit.
- **North Shore Summerton Project:** The Development Board is handling engineering through Alliance Consulting Engineering for the project. State Funding of \$700,000 for this project, and the bid came in at \$622,000 with a change order of \$5,200. Barwick Plumbing has installed the wet well. Waiting on electrical components. Pumps for the North Shore and KOA pump stations have been delivered and installed.
- **Clarendon Community Complex Renovations** – Exterior Building Services has finished the painting in the auditorium, and they have begun to remove the scaffolding. EBS is working on the outside of the building to finish up a few things with tuck pointing and gutters.
- **Newman Branch Restoration Projects:** We received \$950,000 for this project. The project has been awarded to Ecological Associates, Inc. They have removed 82 beavers and have a total of 33 dams. They have identified about 6-7 Dams and plan to bring in equipment to remove the Dams. They saw some areas where beavers have returned, and they are going to set traps again. We are waiting for the mechanical clearing permits before we can move the equipment in.
- **Fire Station on MW Rickenbaker Road, Station #10:** We received \$550,000 for this project, and the site has already been obtained by the County. Hawkins and Kolb received the CO of the project.

We are waiting for a few items that remain incomplete. Once complete, the final pay request will be approved upon project completion.

- **2026 Legislative Funding Targets for Capital Projects**: JC Britton Park is adding a Skate/BMX park and enlarging the Building. Our Grant's Coordinator is submitting this project to Congressman Clyburn, which has been approved and is waiting for funding. The project has been approved, and we have received funding for one million dollars.
- **Sheriff's Building at Manning Firing Range** – The one-time appropriation of \$373,819 allowed for protective riot gear, a moving target system, and a new building. Currently, the riot gear and moving target systems are complete. This leaves an estimated balance of \$178,233 for the building. The Sheriff has decided to sub-out each portion of this project to remain under budget.
- **Drainage Projects** – Hudson Road and Deal Street need to obtain easements, and Padgett Highway, David Chalmers Road; the smaller projects are ready for bid.

15. Chairman's Report

Chairman Johnson stated that he wanted to thank all of the first responders and everyone who worked to keep operations running and the wheels turning. He continued by noting that, with the appropriation from Congressman Jim Clyburn, the County is also working with Representative Pedalino to secure additional appropriations to renovate Turbeville Park and possibly the park at Walker Gamble on the upper end of the county. He concluded his report by thanking Kathleen Gibson for opening the shelter, stating that she and her staff kept it open for individuals who had nowhere else to go.

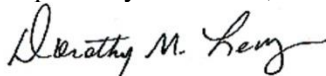
16. Adjourn

Chairman Johnson stated that we are at the end of our agenda and asked for a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously in approval to adjourn the regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC