



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2014, 6:00 PM

Clarendon County Council Chambers

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Vice Chairman, W.J. Frierson, Sr.
Councilman, Billy G. Richardson
Councilman, Benton Blakely
Councilman, AC English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Press in attendance: Bobby Baker, The Manning Times, Sharron Haley, Clarendon Citizen

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Lee & Connie Bledsoe	Gregory Holliday	Leon Thomas
Nancy Cave	Shirley L. Black-Oliver	Paula D. Bryant	Randy Marshall
Princess Lang	Matt Evans	Jack Howle	Dennis Monroe
Percy Harvin	Tammy Rodvansky	Don Lane	Don Habrial
Scott Robinson	Tommy Bennett	Duncan Laney	Patricia Pringle
Loretta Pollard	Maggie Robertson	Linda Lemon	Vickie Williams
Archie Lemon	Kathy Geddings	Chip Finney	Sheriff Garrett
Hayes Samuels	And others Citizens of Clarendon County		

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm by welcoming all elected officials. Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

I. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting, which was held on March 10, 2014 with minor corrections.

On Motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Special Called Meeting, which was held on March 25, 2014.

II. Resolution

Ms. Vickie Williams, Grants Coordinator, requested Council approval of a Resolution declaring April 2014 as Fair Housing Month.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval of Resolution 2014-05, a Resolution declaring April 2014 as Fair Housing Month.

III. Requests

1. Ms. Vickie Williams, Grants Coordinator, requested Council approval on six (6) forms required for the new USDA-RD application for the rural water system modified Phase II construction project. She stated that more forms were required because \$2,640,000 was added to the water project.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the forms requested by Ms. Williams in reference to the modified Phase II construction project for the rural water system.

2. Appointment of Board Members

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Ms. Kathleen Gibson to the Clarendon County Disabilities and Special Needs Board for a term of four years.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to appoint Mr. Thomas L. Harvin to the Wateree Community Action Board.

IV. Mutual Aid Agreement

Administrator Epperson presented County Council with a Mutual Aid Agreement between Clarendon County Detention Center and the City of Myrtle Beach. He stated that this was an annual standard agreement based on state laws.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Mutual Aid Agreement between Clarendon County Detention Center and the City of Myrtle Beach, SC.

V. Presentation of Proposed FY2014-2015 Budget

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his presentation by thanking the Finance Department, Department Managers, Elected Officials, and everyone who participated in the budgeting process. He continued by stating that for first reading we have an out of balance budget. Mr. Anthony stated that we had to identify the needs and then set priorities. He continued by stating that this year's budget includes a local-option sales tax credit of 2.5 million dollars going back to taxpayers and a 2% cost of living increase for County Employees.

Mr. Anthony stated that there would be an increase in health insurance premiums beginning on January 1, 2015. He continued by stating that there is a \$305,000 increase in elected officials and other departments budget. Mr. Anthony further stated that this budget contains a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipating Note. He concluded by stating that there are several personnel related requests.

1. **Ms. Patricia Pringle**, Auditor, began by thanking Council for approving the Auditor's budget in the past. She stated that there is a 2.3% decrease in the Auditor's budget for this year.
2. **Ms. Beulah Roberts**, Clerk of Court, began by thanking Council for all that has been done for the Clerk of Court's Office. She continued by thanking the Magistrate's Office and County Council for allowing them to have court in the Council Chambers and in the Family Court Courtroom. Ms. Roberts concluded her presentation by stating that Clarendon County had been chosen as a Pilot County, for E-Filing, and she is very proud to have been chosen.
3. **Mr. Hayes Samuels**, Coroner, began by thanking Council for the transport Van. He continued by stating that he has never overspent his budget. Mr. Samuels stated that the Coroner's office transported 237 deaths last year, three of which were suicides. He further stated that the Coroner's office processed 68 permits for cremation. Mr. Samuels requested that his part-time clerk's position be changed to a full-time position. He continued by stating that his workload and amount of paperwork that his office has to process, requires a full time clerk. Mr. Samuels concluded by stating that he needs the morgue to be located inside the hospital where it would be more accessible to families.
4. **Ms. Kathy Geddings**, Probate Judge, began by thanking Council for everything that they have done for the Probate Office. She continued by informing Council that she did not make any major changes to her budget.

5. **Mr. Randy Garrett**, Sheriff, began his presentation by asking Council to please consider all of his requested line items. He stated that Officer Brandon Braxton received the honor of being recognized as the officer of the year at the national level.
6. **Mr. Matt Evans**, Treasurer, stated that the Treasurer's budget was the same as last year. He stated that the treasurer's office had stopped mailing receipts and that saved on postage and paper. Mr. Evans concluded by stating that this is the third year that the treasurer's office has been using the payment plan and it is working very well.
7. **Mr. Gregory Holliday**, Chairman of Clarendon County Voters Registration, and Election Board, along with members Ms. Nancy Cave, Ms. Paula Bryant, and Ms. Maggie Robinson presented their budget request to Council. Mr. Holliday began by requesting a full-time employee. He stated that with the combined board and the workload, a full-time employee is needed.
Ms. Nancy Cave, Board Member, stated that their budget would fluctuate depending on the number of elections. She concluded by stating that poll managers would be paid from the Voters Registration budget and reimbursement would be made by the State.
8. **Mr. Percy Harvin**, Magistrate, began his presentation by thanking Council. He stated that the magistrate office had not had an increase in employee salary since 2007. He continued by stating that the job descriptions have not been updated since 1997, and the employees of the magistrate's office have been paid based on the outdated job descriptions. Judge Harvin concluded by requesting that the employees in the magistrate's office wages be brought up to a level where it would be based on their job reclassification.
9. **Mr. Chip Finney**, Solicitor, began by requesting a \$15,000 increase over last year's budget. Solicitor Finney continued by stating that there are two attorneys, one full-time and one part-time. He continued by stating that his office does not have a security system, a night light, or bars on the windows. Solicitor Finney further stated that the Supreme Court mandated that cases be moved faster. He continued by stating that his office handled 600 cases and 450 warrants. Solicitor Finney concluded by requesting an increase in the Victim Advocate's salary, so it would fall in line with other counties.
10. **Mr. Jack Howle**, Third Circuit Public Defender, requested an increase in his budget of \$30,000 to hire a full-time public defender to assist the current public defenders.

Chairman Stewart thanks Elected Officials for presenting their budgets and he stated that balancing the budget would be a challenge, as always, but our goal is to have a balanced budget by June 30, 2014.

VI. Ordinance 2014-01

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2014-01, An Ordinance to provide for a levy of taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for Fiscal Year Beginnings July 1, 2014, and Ending June 30, 2015, 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, 2014, and Ending June 30, 2015.

VII. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his report by stating that for the first nine months of the Fiscal Year, the General Fund Revenue was \$14,259,139 and expenses were \$13,990,781. He stated that the Ad

Valorem Taxes are trending in a positive direction.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that Animal Control is over budget. He continued by stating that we closed on the 3.5 Million dollar Bond Issuance and the DSS building project is funded.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Revenue of \$486,853 and total Operating Expenses of \$329,753 for the month ending March 31, 2014. He further stated that after Depreciation, Interest Expenses, and Transfers, Water and Sewer had a Net Income of \$30,998.

Mr. Anthony stated that Weldon had total revenue of \$71,547 and total expenses of \$204,580. He further stated that the Weldon Auditorium had a deficit of \$18,033 after transfers.

Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that the C Fund Program had a Cash Balance of \$806,420 as of February, 2014.

VIII. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council an update on the renovation of the Clarendon County Courthouse. He stated that after the meeting with the Architectural Firm and the signing of the contract, the renovation would begin. He continued by giving Council an update on the USDA water projects:

Phase 1B – All permits have been submitted.

Phase 1C – All permits have been submitted.

Phase 2 - Additional funds were requested for an expansion.

Administrator Epperson further stated that the Fall road paving projects would begin later this year. He stated that beginning in September 2014; the following roads are scheduled for paving: Joyce Road, Club House Road, Lizzy Creek Road, and Dove Road. He continued by stating that Curtis Davis Architectural Firm (CDA), out of Columbia, SC was awarded the construction contract for the Department of Social Services Building.

Administrator Epperson concluded his report by stating that one debris removal site is currently still open and the State has resumed removing debris from the side of the roads.

IX. Chairman's Report

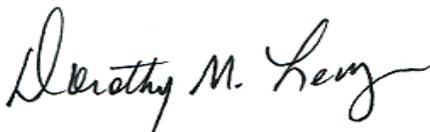
Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that we had a very successful Striped Bass and Pudding Swamp Festivals this year. He concluded by stating that the annual award that the Association of Counties gives to a deserving high school student each year was awarded to a student from Colleton County High School.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the council meeting. The Council Meeting ended at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

