



**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 9, 2012 6:00P.M.
Clarendon Community Complex
Meeting Minutes**

Those in attendance:

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

Absent:

Councilman A. C. English

Press in attendance: Sharon Haley, The Citizen, Jason Lesley, The Manning Times, and Bobby Baker, The Item.

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Cynthia Mack	Pat Goodwin	Joe Witt
Fred Tucker	Linda Lemon	Randy Garrett	Tammy Rodvansky
Sandi Tucker	Sam Levy	Patricia Pringle	Nancy Cave
Lee Bledsoe	Connie Bledsoe	Carrie Trebil	John Truluck
Archie Lemon	Martha Jones	Randy Marshall	Linda J. Taylor
Dwayne Howell	Don Habrial	Other County Residents	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Following brief introductory remarks from Chairman Stewart, Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stewart stated that items XI & XII needed to be switched on the agenda. He also stated that Item VII, the wording should be changed to reflect the first reading of Ordinance 2012-01, an Ordinance to adopt the county FY 2012-13 Budget. On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimously approval to the agenda with the stated changes.

V. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimously approval to the council meeting minutes for Regular Meeting on March 12, 2012 and Special Called Meeting on March 26, 2012.

VI. Presentation from Mr. Mike Briggs, President and CEO, from Central SC Alliance.

Mr. Briggs stated that the Central SC Alliance works very closely with Economic Development getting jobs to South Carolina. He stated that companies want to come to South Carolina because South Carolina has some very strong sites. He stated that Clarendon County has available properties off I-95 that are ready to be shown. Mr. Briggs stated that Central SC Alliance also provides labor analysis for companies that are ready to come to South Carolina. He concluded by stating that Clarendon County has one of three mega sites in South Carolina and that Central SC Alliance is spread across nine counties and four congressional districts.

VII. Ordinance 2012-01 – FY2012-2013 Budget for Clarendon County

Consideration was given to First Reading of Ordinance #2012-01 to adopt the FY2012-2013 County Budget. Mr. Lynden Anthony, County Controller, stated that the proposed budget for FY2012-2013 is 2.3% higher than FY2011-2012. He also stated that there is a cap on the Millage rate. Mr. Anthony stated that beginning January 1, 2013 Health Insurance Premiums would be going up 4.6%. He stated that there would be an increase in the rate for retirement contributions for the county as follows:

Law Enforcement	1 %
Regular Retirement	1.1%

Mr. Anthony concluded by stating that the proposed budget contains a 2% cost of living increase for county employees.

Vice-Chairman Frierson asked what was projected by the state and Mr. Lynden's response was 2% for state and school districts.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimously approval to first reading of Ordinance 2012-01 to adopt the FY2012-2013 County Budget.

VIII. Proclamation – Peace Officers' Memorial Day

Interim Administrator Epperson gave council a synopsis of this proclamation in which Congress and the President of the United States have designated May 15, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in memory of law enforcement officers, who through their courageous deeds have made an ultimate sacrifice in service to their community. He concluded by stating that on May 15, 2012, all flags on state building will be flown at half-mast.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimously approval to the Proclamation declaring May 15, 2012, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

IX. Resolutions

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimously approval to Resolution 2012-07 authorizing the purchase of real property off Highway 527 on Subdivision Rd.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimously approval to Resolution 2012-06 declaring April 2012 as Fair Housing Month in Clarendon County.

X. Policies Adoption

Ms. Vickie Williams presented Council with eight policies for adoption for the USDA Letter of Conditions for Phase 1-b of the Rural Water System Project.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimously approval to adopt the eight policies presented by Ms. Vickie Williams.

XI. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Ms. Vickie Williams gave Council a synopsis of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in which there is a \$12,627 grant available that can be used to upgrade the camera system in cars for Law Enforcement. The cameras can be upgraded to a digital system.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimously approval to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

XII. Public Hearing

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing at 6:58 pm to get comments on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:00 pm.

XIII. Request

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Michael K. Huizenga to the Clarendon County Aeronautics Commission.

XIV. The American Red Cross

Ms. Martha Jones, a representative from the Sand Hill Chapter of the American Red Cross, located in Sumter, South Carolina asked council to support the Red Cross. She stated that the Red Cross requested a grant and she is asking Council's support in obtaining the grant. Ms. Jones stated that in fiscal year 2011, the Red Cross had 13 blood drives and collected 424 pints of blood. For this year, the Red Cross had 15 blood drives and collected 558 pints of blood. She also stated that for every pint of blood collected, three lives are saved. Ms. Jones concluded by stating that the Red Cross spends a lot of money assisting with fire services and disaster preparations.

Interim Administrator's Report

Mr. Epperson thanked the Fire Department and Sheriff's Department for assisting with controlling the traffic on highway 261 during the gas leak.

Mr. Epperson stated that the Water and Sewer Department has a net income of \$ 6,639. He stated that the citizens of Clarendon County saw a 68% reduction in their water bills since receiving metered services, and only a few customers saw an increase of less than \$ 10.00 in their water bills.

Mr. Epperson stated that he granted Clarendon School District II the request that they made in reference to presenting their budget on April 30, 2012.

XIII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart informed council that he had a meeting with Senator John Land and Representative Kevin Johnson on April 19, 2012. Chairman Stewart also asked LeBon Joye, Recreation Director, to give council some comments on the Clarendon County Community Complex.

Mr. Joye stated that the Community Complex can be used as a storm shelter, it is handicap accessible for all handicapped citizens as well as equipped with a 911 center. Mr. Joye concluded by stating that the funds for the renovation of the Community Complex came from a FEMA grant.

XI. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimously approval to go into Executive Session at 7:27 PM.

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimously approval to come out of Executive Session at 8:34 PM.

Chairman Stewart stated that actions were taken on the two items on the agenda for the executive session.

i. Administration – Contractual

- a. Chairman Stewart stated that an agreement was made with the buyout of the remaining two years and five months of Administrator Houser's contract. He stated that the payout lump sum amount would be \$243,243.10 to be paid out on April 30, 2012. Chairman Stewart stated that the payout amount would be paid out of the unassigned fund balance.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted unanimously approval to pay Mr. Houser the lump sum amount of \$243,243.10.

ii. Administration – Personnel

- b. Chairman Stewart stated that the second item on the agenda for executive session was a replacement for Mr. Houser. He stated that council was looking for someone with experience and someone who would be here long term. Chairman Stewart stated that the number one choice was David Epperson. He stated that Mr. Epperson is an attorney, he has a lot of experience, and is a local person.

Chairman Stewart stated that council offered the job to David Epperson on a 4-year contract with yearly reviews and Mr. Epperson accepted. He stated that the terms of Mr. Epperson's contract states an annual salary of \$98,500. Chairman Stewart also stated that Mr. Epperson would be holding a dual role as the county administrator and county attorney. Chairman Stewart stated that Mr. Epperson would also receive \$750.00 monthly car allowance, \$100.00 monthly cell phone allowance, and a one-time fee of \$150.00.

Chairman Stewart stated that the decision to offer the job to Mr. Epperson would save the county \$80,000 a year. He concluded by stating that Mr. Epperson's wife works for the county, but she works under LeBon Joye, and there would be no direct supervision by Mr. Epperson so there should not be any conflict.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimously approval to offer the administrator's job to David Epperson.

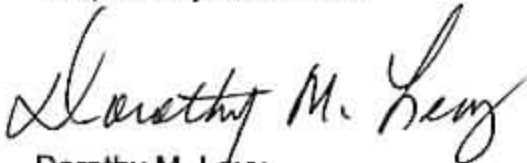
Chairman Stewart stated that council has confidence that David Epperson can handle the job and they are looking forward to Mr. Epperson taking over as Administrator of Clarendon County.

Vice Chairman Frierson stated that eventually council would be looking for an assistant to Mr. Epperson.

XVI. Adjournment

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted unanimously approval to adjourn the council meeting. The meeting ended at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

