

**Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 14, 2013, 6:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Regular County Council Meeting**

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**Those in attendance:**

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

**Press in attendance:** Sharron Haley, The Item-Clarendon Bureau, Jack Justice, Clarendon Citizen, and Erin Chandler, The Manning Times

**Others in attendance included:**

Lynden Anthony	Vickie Williams	Pat Goodwin
Nancy Cave	Linda Lemon	Lee Bledsoe
Sandi Tucker	John Truluck	Connie Bledsoe
Fred Tucker	Bob Dennis	Archie Lemon
Sharmane Anderson	Cynthia Mack	Charlotte Johnston
Deepal Eliatamby	And other citizens of Clarendon County	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting which was held on December 10, 2012 and the special called meeting which was held on December 17, 2012 with minor changes.

**V. Public Hearing**

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing at 6:04 pm for Ordinance 2012-04 – an Ordinance to amend the Clarendon County, South Carolina Ordinance No.:2011-07, The Procurement Code Regulations of Clarendon County.

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any discussions on this ordinance. He stated that if there were no discussions, the public hearing will close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:05 pm.

## **VI. Ordinance 2012-05**

Consideration was given to third and final reading on Ordinance 2012-04, - an Ordinance to amend the Clarendon County, South Carolina Ordinance No.:2011-07, The Procurement Code Regulations of Clarendon County.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to the third and final reading on Ordinance 2012-04.

## **VII. Transportation Committee**

Mr. Epperson presented the Transportation Committee with a request for authorization to spend \$7,500 to improve a section of Poston Lane.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to grant the request of the Transportation Committee.

## **VIII. Requests**

- i. Administrator Epperson presented council with an out-of-town travel request for Economic Development Director, John Truluck.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval to an out-of-town travel request for John Truluck.

- ii. Administrator Epperson presented council with an out-of-town travel request for the following individuals to travel to the Chamber's Retreat, which will be held in Savannah Georgia: Chairman Dwight Stewart, Administrator David Epperson, John Truluck, Patricia Pringle, and Sonya Mellerson.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to an out-of-town travel request for the following persons to attend the Chamber's Retreat in Savannah: Chairman Stewart, Administrator Epperson, John Truluck, Patricia Pringle and Sonya Mellerson.

- iii. Chairman Stewart presented council with a request to appoint Ms. Sharmane Anderson to the Wateree Community Action, Inc. Board.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval to appoint Ms. Sharmane Anderson to the Wateree Community Action, Inc. Board.



- iv. Vickie Williams, Grants Coordinator, requested Council's approval to submit a Grant to the Office of Justice Programs for a new Domestic Violence Investigator. She stated that this grant would provide 90% of the expenses needed for a full-time domestic violence investigator. She continued by stating that Clarendon County will have to provide the remaining 10%. She concluded by stating that the total expenses of \$59,227 will cover salary, uniforms, travel and training for one year.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval to Vickie Williams' request to submit a grant for a new Domestic Violence Investigator.

## **IX. Presentations**

- i. Ms. Nickie Toomes, USDA Rural Development, presented Council with a \$49,875 Community Facility Grant to secure a Compressor for the Summerton Fire Department.

Chief Frances Richbourg thanked Ms. Toomes and USDA. She stated that the Air Compressor was in service for a month and it's a wonderful addition to the fire department.

- ii. Ms. Charlotte Johnston, Director of Clarendon County Library, presented Council with an update on the new system that the library is using. She stated that South Carolina launched the SC Evergreen Network Delivery System in 2009 and today there are 19 counties participating in the service. She continued by stating that with this service, the library is guaranteed access to more materials. Ms. Johnston stated that the library has access to music CDs, books, magazines, downloadable audios, training videos, and eBooks. She concluded by stating that prior to joining SC Lends, the Clarendon County Library only sent out 4 items in a two-year period. Since joining SC Lends, 3 months ago, the Clarendon County Library sent out 759 items.

## **X. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Epperson stated that the General Fund had revenues of \$3,143,287 and expenses of \$1,442,353 for the month of December. He continued by stating that Water and Sewer had total operating revenues of \$343,356 and total operating expenses of \$239,954 for the first 6 months of the fiscal year which ended December 31, 2012.

Mr. Epperson stated that the Animal Control Shelter expanded the kennel by adding five kennels and one storage room. He continued by thanking the Animal Shelter for letting the county lease more space to house the animals.

Mr. Epperson continued by stating that Weldon Auditorium and the Community Center are doing well. He stated that the Community Center added more classes to include Kung Fu, Belly Dancing, Weight Training, and Zumba.

Mr. Epperson concluded his report by presenting the 2013/2014 budget schedule to council. The schedule will be as follows:

January 16, 2013	Distribute forms and guidelines
February 15, 2013	Budgets due back to Finance Department
February 18 – March 1, 2013	Departmental Meetings
April 8, 2013	Budget presented to Council – 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
May 13, 2013	Public Hearing & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
June 10, 2013	3 <sup>rd</sup> and Final Reading
June 21, 2013	Final Budget Packages Issued

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to accept the budget schedule as presented.

Councilman Blakely stated that we need to see if there are grants that we can get to add water throughout Clarendon County .

## **XI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that his vision is to provide water throughout the county. He continued by stating that many goals have been accomplished since 2003 and the courthouse renovation is currently in progress. He concluded by stated that the contractors are checking the outside of the courthouse for hidden dangers before the renovation begins.

## **XII. Executive Session**

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted unanimous approval to go into Executive Session. The Executive Session began at 6:48 pm.



On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted unanimous approval to come out of Executive Session and back into open session. The Executive Session ended at 8:06 pm.

### **XIII. Open Session**

- i. Chairman Stewart stated that no action would be taken on Economic Development (Project Rally).
- II. Chairman Stewart stated that action would be taken on the Contractual Matter (Water & Sewer). He stated that County Council made the decision to withdraw From the agreement that was made between Clarendon County and Lake Marion Regional Water Agency (LMRWA). Chairman Stewart stated that the agreement stated that LMRWA could not guarantee Water to Clarendon County by 2014, the county would have the option to withdraw from the agreement. He concluded by stating that LMRWA would not be able to provide water to Clarendon County until around 2018 or 2019.

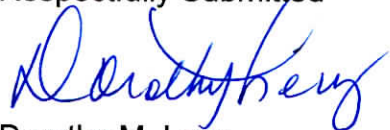
Administrator Epperson stated that the County paid \$145,374.39 in membership fees to Lake Marion Regional Water Agency over a 42-month period. He continued by stating that Lake Marion Regional Water Agency agreed to reimburse the county \$3,461.30 a month beginning July 1, 2013 for a period of 42 months.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, council voted unanimous approval to accept Lake Marion Regional Water Agency's offer.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson Council voted unanimous approval to adjourn the council meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

