



Clarendon County Special Called Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

Those in attendance:

Chairman John E. Johnson III
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
County Administrator, Walt Ackerman

Vice Chairman John P. Coker
Councilwoman Delaney Kay Frierson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Absent: Councilman Kurtis W. Rodine

Press in attendance: Alaysaha Maple, The Item

Others in attendance included:

Skippy Osborne
Peter Huggins
Yolanda House
Mike Streath
Patricia Pringle
And other Clarendon County Residents

Amanda Ridgeway
Kimberly Herbert
David Woods, Jr.
Angel S. Reed
Willie Briggs

Kathleen Gibson
Jacqueline Blackwell
Yolanda House
Clarita Jones
Fawn Pedalino

Frank Colclough
Linda P. Lemon
Stacy McKenzie
Hallie Conyers
Joe Pedalino

Deloris Moore
Tyra Johnson
Terry Streath
Phillis Way

Chairman Johnson called the Special Called Meeting to order at 6:00 pm by welcoming the newly elected Councilwoman Delaney Kay Frierson. He then asked her if she had anything to say. Councilwoman Frierson said, "Good evening, and I'm glad to see everyone." The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited in unison.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval of the Agenda for the Special Called Council Meeting for Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

2. Proclamation

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval of a Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of May as Mental Health Month.

3. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2026-08

Chairman Johnson stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2026-08 – An Ordinance Amending the Rental Fees and Charges for the Weldon Auditorium and Other Matters Related Thereto is now open. The public hearing opened at 6:02 pm.

- **Angel Reed** – asked what the changes are in the fees?
- **Administrator Ackerman** replied by stating that we are looking at changes in the fee schedule to allow for private schools within the county to have a limited number of usages at a reduced rate, and we have incorporated that. He continued by stating that, through our contact with the school district, we allow the public schools to use our facility twelve times per year at no cost because we use their facilities and they use ours. Each subsequent use after twelve is at a reduced rate, and now, we have added two uses per year for private schools at a reduced rate as well.

- **Angel Reed** – What would the fees be for other folks for personal use?
- **Administrator Ackerman** stated that the facility charges for utilizing the Weldon did not change. He continued by stating that we defined all day as 12 hours, which is \$2400, and any additional hours over 12 is \$200 per hour. We also have a half-day rental, which would be six hours, and a quarter-day rental. There are cleaning fees and a fee for our staff to monitor the building and keep the bathrooms clean.
- **Patricia Pringle** – asked how are you going to staff the Weldon, and whether we are going to use County Employees.
- **Administrator Ackerman** responded by stating that we will be using our custodial staff, and we also have some part-time employees on board.
- **Patricia Pringle** – Will there be a committee? If not, how do you get appointed to that committee?
- **Administrator Ackerman** responded by saying no, not at this time. I think some folks in the community are very passionate about that.
- **Patricia Pringle** – Where can you book the Weldon?
- **Administrator Ackerman** – responded by stating that you will have to contact the Recreation Department.
- **Jacqueline Blackwell** – stated that last year the Coroner’s Office sponsored a program, at the Weldon, called Clarendon Cares, where we honored all of the Decedents names that came through our office, and the families were invited. It was a big event and very successful. She stated that as a county employee, would she have to pay now to have that program annually?
- **Administrator Ackerman** – stated that he cannot answer for the Council, but he does not think that would be a problem.
- **Jacqueline Blackwell** – stated that if you do not have a technician to run the sound, she knows a certified person who would do it for free.
- **Hallie Conyers** – stated that she needed clarification on the hourly rate for the Weldon for funerals and other stuff.
- **Administrator Ackerman** – responded by stating that it’s \$200 per hour.
- **Willie Briggs** – When you said the private schools get half price, is that all private schools in Clarendon County?
- **Administrator Ackerman** – Yes, all private schools in Clarendon County.

Chairman Johnson asked if there were any other comments; hearing none, he stated that the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 6:18 pm.

4. Ordinance 2026-08

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval of the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-08 – An Ordinance Amending the Rental Fees and Charges for the Weldon Auditorium and Other Matters Related Thereto.

5. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2026-07

Chairman Johnson stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2026-07 – An Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget of the Clarendon County School District and Other Matters Relating Thereto is now open. The public hearing opened at 6:19 pm.

Chairman Johnson asked if there were any comments; hearing none, he stated that the public hearing would close. The public hearing closed at 6:19 pm.

6. Ordinance 2026-07

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-07 – An Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget of the Clarendon County School District and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

7. Ordinance 2026-09

Administrator Ackerman presented the Council with Ordinance 2026—09 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a Note Exceeding \$2,500,000 General Obligation Bond, In one or More Series, In One or More Years, with Appropriate Series Designations, Including a Tax-Exempt Series and a Taxable Series, If Appropriate, of Clarendon County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond; Authorizing the County Administrator to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Administrator Ackerman stated that the April payment was made out of the General Fund, and we need to refund the General Fund. He stated that several years ago, the County issued some installment purchase revenue bonds to fund the building programs that are going on. He continued by stating that right now it's about \$15,000,000, and because the County does not have a specific revenue source pledged for those bonds, each year the County has been issuing bonds to make the debt service payments.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker, seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-09-An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a Note Exceeding \$2,500,000 General Obligation Bond, In one or More Series, In One or More Years, with Appropriate Series Designations, Including a Tax-Exempt Series and a Taxable Series, If Appropriate, of Clarendon County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond; Authorizing the County Administrator to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

8. Budget Presentation

Mr. Gibbons, Finance Director, began his presentation by welcoming Councilwoman Frierson and congratulating her for winning the special election. He continued by stating that since the Second Reading of the Budget, we had a grand total of a net change of \$620.00. He continued by stating that there is no change in the Fire Service or the Library. Mr. Gibbons continued by stating that we have finalized a contract where we are going to be implementing a new timekeeping software. He stated that it will be an annual cost of \$13,500.

Mr. Gibbons continued by stating that we will be taking a look at our Revenue Projections because they are continuing to come in. We are still waiting for the Homestead Exemption. There are some items that we have budgeted for in Fiscal Year 2026/2027; we may go ahead and address those now if we can.

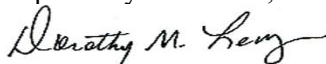
9. Adjourn

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting and Budget Workshop.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Special Called Meeting and Budget Workshop.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

