



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, July 13, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC 29102

Those in attendance:

Chairman John E. Johnson III
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilwoman Delaney K. Frierson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman John P. Coker
Councilman Kurtis W. Rodine
Administrator Walt Ackerman

Press in attendance: None

Others in attendance included:

Kathleen L. Gibson	Julius Adger	Charles Dukes	Marie Dukes	Kimberly Herbert
George Frierson	Lucille Thomas	Albert Thomas	Skip Osbone	Donald Ricks
Linda K. Grant	Gary Mitchum	Bobbie Scott	Cheyene Way	Jeff Scot
Jacqueline Blackwell	Becky Way	Terrey Streath	Mike Streath	Carl Summers
Johnny Wilson	Tamilla Green	Eliza Reid	Patricia Pringle	Michelle Demery
Daniel Demery	Bessie Harvin	Claritha Jones	Phyllis Way	Joe Calvo
Maureen Calvo	Deloris Tindal	Alice Logan	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 Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously approving the Agenda for July 13, 2026, Regular Scheduled Council Meeting with the following changes:

- The Service Award Recognition will be postponed to August.
- Item No. 18 – Ordinance 2026-12 will be removed from the agenda.
- The Executive Session will expand to include Legal Advice.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on June 8, 2026.

3. Public Comments:

Julius Adger – stated that Adger Road, Laceleaf Circle, and 2300 Ferris Road need to be fixed. He stated that he served his country for over 20 years and can't get a decent road going to their houses, and this is bad. An older lady is living on Ferris Road, and she was told that she has to fix the road herself. He stated that the older lady can't fix a road herself. He continued by stating that for years, he has been trying to get a few things done. The motor grader came out and made it look real smooth. I've been with the government long enough to know that we rob Paul to pay people, and I know we do this. Please tell me who can or which one of you I can get with and work with to get these matters taken care of.

Alice Logan – she stated that she lives on 1520 Porter Road. She was told years ago by Mr. Frierson and Mr. English that the County would fix Boyd Road first, and then they would fix Porter Road. Boyd Road was fixed a couple of weeks ago. The guy who scraped the road removed too much dirt, and now the pipes are showing. She stated that Porter Road had been on the books since 2018, and now every time it rains, everything floods out, and the water runs in her yard.

George Frierson – began by stating that Senator Lindsey Graham passed on Saturday, and Governor Henry McMaster appointed his sister to finish out his term. And let us hope that she knows what she’s doing because He doesn’t know that she ever held public office. He continued by stating that if someone is speaking for him, he wants them to know what they are talking about. He stated that he is a historian and an elected official of 25 years. He stated that the first A.M.E. bishop born in Clarendon County, Bishop Ronnie Brailsford, was in the county last night, and the only black governor in the United States who was also a military veteran, Governor Wesley Moore will be in Florence tonight. He concluded by saluting all who have served.

4. Board Appointments

- On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously approving the appointment of Betsy Rhodes Owens to the Disabilities and Special Needs Board.
- On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the reappointments of Kathleen Gibson, Alan L. Gibbons, Connie Gamble, and Nelson Walker to the Disabilities and Special Needs Board.
- On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously approving the reappointment of Louis Griffith, Lannes Prothro, and Steen Carl Gamble, Jr., to the Clarendon County Planning Commission.
- On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the reappointment of Donald Bethume, Justin Bailey McArthur, Bon Gardner, and Julie Rickenbaker to the Clarendon County Assessment Appeals Board.
- On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the appointment of Kyle Austin Meree to the Clarendon County Building Board of Appeals.

5. Special Recognition

Clarendon County All-Star Baseball Teams were recognized for their successful season.

6. Presentation - Donna Prince, Clarendon County Assessor

County Assessor Donna Prince explained:

- State law requires reassessment every five years using the comparable sales from the fourth year to establish the market values for Real Estate.
- Each property that is valued over a thousand dollars will be sent an assessment notice.
- Property values will be based on 2025 market sales.
- Property owners will have 90 days to appeal assessments.
- Most residential property increases are capped at 15% unless substantial improvements were made.
- Administrator Ackerman explained that although assessed values will increase, county millage rates must be rolled back under state law so the county does not receive a tax windfall solely because of reassessment.

7. Hazard Mitigation Plan

Jeff Parkey, Santee Lynches Regional Council of Government, presented the Council with the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He stated that the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a plan that the COG prepares every five years for the four-county region. He stated that it is done in partnership with FEMA and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

Mr. Parkey stated that the Santee Lynches Regional Council of Government received approval from FEMA for this five-year iteration. He continued by stating that we are in the local adoption phase, where we’re coming around to all the participating jurisdictions with a Resolution for Adoption. He stated that the plan is basically to help get the County prepared for Natural Disasters or Natural Hazards that occur in our region. There is about a dozen different

hazards that this plan takes into account: Flooding, Wildfire, Drought, Severe Storms, Winter Weather, Tornadoes, Hurricanes. Also, things like Backup Power, Generators, Critical Infrastructure Protection and Inspection, Emergency Sheltering Plans, and other things of nature. He concluded by stating that once all local Jurisdictions have adopted the Resolution, this will make everyone eligible for future FEMA Grant Funding.

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution.

8. Easement

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously approving the Duke Energy Progress, LLC Easement to provide electrical service to the new Emergency Operations Center.

9. Proclamation

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously approving a Proclamation proclaiming July 17th as Summerton Rotary Day in Clarendon County in Observance of their 20th anniversary.

10. Ordinance 2026-09

On motion by Vice Chairman Coker and seconded by Councilman Rodine, the Council voted unanimously approving the Third and Final 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 Bonds; 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; 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.

11. Public Hearing - Ordinance 2026-10

An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #239-00-05-003-00; From Industrial II (IND II) to Agriculture II (AGII) and providing an effective date.

Chairman Johnson stated that the public hearing is open for Ordinance 2026-10. The public hearing opened at 6:43 pm. Hearing no comments, the public hearing closed at 6:44 pm.

12. Ordinance 2026-10

Ms. Tabitha Hanna stated that this is a request to amend the Official Zoning Map of the property located at 5494, Greeleyville Highway. It contained approximately 61.99 acres and is owned by Diane Jones and others. The applicant is Mr. Mitchell. The rezoning is to allow the placement of a manufactured home on the property, which is permitted in the agricultural district.

On motion by Councilwoman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-10 - An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County, South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #239-00-05-003-00; From Industrial II (IND II) to Agriculture II (AGII) and providing an effective date.

13. Ordinance 2026-11

Chairman Johnson presented the Council with Ordinance 2026-11 – An Ordinance Adopting (1) Policy

Regarding Requests for Public Records under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act; (2) A fee schedule for responding to requests under the Freedom of Information Act; and (3) Other Matters Related Thereto.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously approving the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-11 - An Ordinance Adopting (1) Policy Regarding Requests for Public Records under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act; (2) A fee schedule for responding to requests under the Freedom of Information Act; and (3) Other Matters Related Thereto.

14. Ordinance 2026-13

Chairman Johnson presented the Council with Ordinance 2026-13 – An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No. 2025-07, Which Approved and adopted the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget for Clarendon County, South Carolina.

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-13 - An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No. 2025-07, Which Approved and adopted the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget for Clarendon County, South Carolina.

15. Ordinance 2026-14

Chairman Johnson presented the Council with Ordinance 2026-14 – An Ordinance to Provide for the Implementation, Effective January 1, 2027, of the Reduction in the Taxable Value of Boats, Watercraft, and Affixed Outboard Motors by Forty-Two and 86/100 Percent as Authorized by Section 12-37-220(B)(54) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously approving the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-14 - An Ordinance to Provide for the Implementation, Effective January 1, 2027, of the Reduction in the Taxable Value of Boats, Watercraft, and Affixed Outboard Motors by Forty-Two and 86/100 Percent as Authorized by Section 12-37-220(B)(54) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

16. Ordinance 2026-15

Chairman Johnson presented the Council with Ordinance 2026-15 - An Ordinance to Amend the Property Tax Millage Rates as Adopted as Part of the FY 2026/2027 Budget.

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously approving the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-15 – An Ordinance to Amend the Property Tax Millage Rates as Adopted as Part of the FY 2026/2027 Budget.

17. Finance Report

Nelson Gibbons, Finance Director, began his report by stating the following: This is the first meeting of our new Fiscal year. I want to thank all the department heads for their patience, and I want to thank our Finance team for all of their help. As part of the budget, we passed the salary increases for all our employees. I have to thank Dorothy Levy, our Payroll Coordinator, because with our payroll system, all increases had to be manually entered for every single one. It took a lot of time and a great deal of effort.

- **The General Fund** - we had expenses of approximately 92% of the Budget. We had Revenue of about 90% of the budget as of June 30, 2026.
- **Weldon Auditorium** – there was no report for the Weldon Auditorium.
- **The Water and Sewer Department** – operating income remained positive.
- **The C-Fund Program** - for the month ending June 30, 2026, The C-Fund program balance remained over \$6.8 million with approximately \$4 million uncommitted.
- **Fire Rescue** – revenues at approximately 96% of budget as of June 30, 2026.

18. Administrator's Report

Administrator Ackerman began his report by stating that June is behind us and we have started our new fiscal year. That does not mean that we will be slowing down, but just the opposite. This is the time of year when folks are not only working in the current fiscal year, while simultaneously closing out the old. Departments and finance staff will begin our annual audit process in earnest during July.

The Archives preservation and relocation project has been started. We have been relocating some records and items to their new temporary home and have prepared a considerable number of records for scanning. The records being scanned should be picked up by the company hired to do the work this week. Once digitized, the records will be made available to the public through our website.

Many of our capital projects have made tremendous strides towards completion over the last month. One notable change is the EOC/Dispatch facility. The following is a listing of the most active capital projects, including a summary of their status. Special thanks to Hunter Denny for compiling the summaries.

✓ **Facilities:**

- **EOC/Dispatch Communications Center** – Design and Engineering by Caplea Coe Architects, Inc. Construction by Pyramid Contracting with a base bid of \$9,044,848.00. Pyramid's subcontractor Continues working on steel construction and roof decking. Metal studs are on site, and the inside framing will begin soon. Duke Power is working on providing service to the front of the building and a secondary power from the rear of the Sheriff's office. Estimated completion Date 12/18/2026.
- **SCIIP PHASE V** – Engineering by Alliance with Adam Hogan managing. AC Schultes will be submitting the final payment in July. Pittsburg Tank is complete and has submitted the final payment. B&B Construction is complete and has submitted the final payment.

Barwick Construction had a base bid of \$996,249. Barwick Plumbing submitted pay app #2. They are continuing to work on the well house and ordering other materials. Substantial completion 9/1/2026, and the final completion 10/1/2026.

- **Public Works/Fleet Maintenance (PW/FM)/Animal Control (AC) Facility** –Hawkins and Kolb contract NTE 5.2 MD. The shop area needs windows in the office and electrical items. Met with GC about new equipment and move and old equipment over. Waiting on Duke Power to install conduit to finish site work. Animal control Building: the contractors are continuing to work on electricity, plumbing, etc. Contractor is projecting to have the PW project finished by August/Sept. Contact Completion date 11/24/2026.
- **Turbeville Library** –Project funded by the S. C. Legislature and the Doctors Bruce & Lee Foundation. Chamber & Associates has a base bid of \$2,750,000. Chambers has received the metal studs and will begin framing in the first part of July. David Dixon and his team are ready to begin the ordering process for the furniture and shelving. Completion date TBD.
- **Newman Branch Clearing Beaver Dams and Restoring Flow** – We received \$950K for this project. Project has been Awarded to Ecological Associates, Inc. They are still trapping and continuing to maintain the stream. We are waiting for permits from the Army Corps of Engineers. Completion date extending to 01/27/2027.
- **JC Britton Park** – Senator Clyburn's office approved a \$1 million grant. A development team has been organized to work on the design of the project, and they have several ideas as follows. Pickle Ball courts, Tennis Courts, and New Track Lighting. New Restrooms will be near the courts. Also adding additional Parking. We are currently waiting for funding. Completion date TBD.

- **The Patriot Road Well Infrastructure** - Connecting the water systems through the first water and installing an elevated 250,000-gal tank. Vickie is working with Senator Lindsey Graham's office to determine the correct grant to apply for. Completion date TBD
- **Sheriff's Building at Manning Firing Range** – The one-time appropriation of \$373,819 allowed for protective riot gear, moving target system, and new building. An estimated balance of \$178,233 for the building. The concrete lab is complete. We have ordered the building and are waiting for delivery. Completion date TBD.
- **Drainage Projects**-Hudson Road and Deal Street need to obtain easements.

19. Chairman's Report

Chairman Johnson stated that the Summerton Rotary Proclamation ceremony will be held on the steps of the Courthouse on July 7, 2026, at 9:30 A.M.

20. Executive Session

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for a Contractual matter and to receive Legal Advice.

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Councilman Richardson, the Council voted unanimously in approval to go into Executive Session for a Contractual matter and to receive Legal Advice. The Executive Session began at 6:59 pm.

21. Open Session

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

On motion by Councilman Rodine and seconded by Vice Chairman Coker, the Council voted unanimously in approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 7:48 pm.

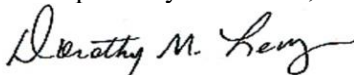
Chairman Johnson stated that no action would be taken out of Executive Session.

22. Adjourn

Chairman Johnson 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 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC