



**Minutes**  
**Sumter County Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 25, 2021 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Sumter County Administration Building**  
**Third Floor, County Council Chambers**  
**13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC**

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*Social Distancing Is Required At All of County Council's Meetings And Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjiqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Eugene R. Baten, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Carlton B. Washington.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Helen Roodman, David Shadoan, Les Vandevander, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Allen Daily, Valerie Brunson, and two Sheriff Deputies.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** Approximately 19 members of the public attended the meeting.

**MEDIA PRESENT:** The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Councilman James T. McCain, called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Councilwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led By Veteran William "Bill" Hartley, From Council District #3 -- Retired US Marine Veteran William "Bill" Hartley served our country for 20 years. He served in the Korean War and received the Occupation Forces Medal from WWII. He currently enjoys working with the Sons of the American Revolution, The VFW, The DAV, The AM Vets, The Knights of Columbus and he is the Commander of the Marine Corps League here in Sumter. He is a widower and has 2 daughters Mary and Karen, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild. He currently lives in District 3. Thank you for your Service.



**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk if there were any changes to the agenda; Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes to the agenda. Then Chairman McCain called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2021, and Budget Workshop Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion concerning the approval of the minutes for Council's regular meeting held on May 11, 2021, and Council's Budget Workshop held on May 11, 2021.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of Council's Budget Workshop and Council's Regular Meeting held on May 11, 2021, as presented.

#### LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

##### Planned Development/Rezoning Requests - None

*NOTE RZ = Rezoning Of Property As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

*AC = Agricultural Conservation As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

*NC = Neighborhood Commercial As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

*LI-W = Light Industrial-Warehouse As Applicable in Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

- (1) **RZ-21-04 -- 4035 US Hwy. 15 South (County) - Second Reading/Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone +/- 1.72-Acres Of Land From Agricultural Conservation (AC) To Neighborhood Commercial (NC). The Property Is Located At 4035 US Hwy 15 South And Is Represented By Tax Map # 221-14-01-049. (Council Will Take Action On This Rezoning Request Immediately After Public Hearing.)**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director, presented this proposed rezoning request to Council for second reading and public hearing. She stated that this request, if approved, would allow for approximately 1.72 acres of land to be rezoned from Agricultural Conservation to Neighborhood Commercial to allow for the construction of a general merchandise store at the corner of Country Springs Road and 4035 U. S. Highway 15, South. Currently, the area is predominately residential. The property is in the Rural Development Planning area. Normally, a commercial development would not be allowed in this area; however, commercial development is supportive at an intersection such as this current rezoning request.

The development will be for an 11,000 square foot building, or less, at the aforementioned location, if this request is approved. The Planning Commission does recommend approval of the request. The lot is .22 acres larger than is needed. The applicant was present on behalf of the request.

Councilman Edens recused himself from discussion on this matter due to a conflict of interest.

The Chairman convened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the rezoning request. No one spoke to this matter; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and asked for a motion concerning second reading to this rezoning request.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval to this rezoning request.

- (2) **RZ-21-08 -- 1045 Cockerill Rd. (County) - Second Reading/Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone +/- 18.99-Acres Of Land From Heavy Industrial (HI) To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Located At 1045 Cockerill Rd And Is Represented By Tax Map #'S 208-00-03-056, 208-00-03-016, And 208-00-03-022. (Council Will Take Action On This Rezoning Request Immediately After Public Hearing.)**

Mrs. Roodman stated that the applicants were present at this meeting. She further stated that the Brown Family owns the 18.99 acres of land that is before Council to consider rezoning from Heavy Industrial to

Agricultural Conservation. This property is located in the Live Oak Industrial Park; also, the residential development in this area predates the Countywide Zoning. During 1999 when Countywide Zoning was implemented, this area was assigned as Heavy Industrial, although it was residential in use at the time of the new designation. Residential Zoning is prohibited in Heavy Industrial; however, since this family has been in this area the entire time before countywide zoning was enacted, the Planning Commission has recommended approval of the rezoning request. Staff also notes that the request for the AC zoning designation is less impactful to adjacent HI zoned properties that are developed, or maybe developed in the future, than compared to a request for a defined residential zoning district.

After Mrs. Roodman's presentation, Councilman Edens asked if any of the industries had a problem with this proposed rezoning request. Mrs. Roodman stated that she spoke with the Development Board about the proposed change and the Development Board has no concerns about the rezoning request. Also, Mrs. Roodman stated as a requirement, the Planning staff sent out letters of notification concerning the proposed rezoning to all property owners within 500 feet to the request. However, there were no responses about the rezoning request.

Afterward, Chairman McCain convened a public hearing on this proposed rezoning request. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the rezoning request. No one spoke to this matter, therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and asked for a motion concerning second reading for this rezoning request.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval to this rezoning request.

- (3) *(NOTE: Prior To Discussion And Action On Third Reading Of RZ-21-06, There Will Be A Motion To Rescind The Prior Action Taken At The Meeting On May 11, 2021, To Defer Third Reading On This Item.) -- RZ-21-06 -- 6815 Claremont Lane -- (County) - Third Reading -- A Request To Rezone +/- 1.99 Acres Of Land From Agricultural Conservation (AC) To Neighborhood Commercial (NC). The Property Is Located At 6815 Claremont Lane And Is Represented By Tax Map #073-00-05-025.*

The Chairman introduced this matter and called on the County Attorney, Mr. Johnathan Bryan to present this matter. Mr. Bryan stated that Section 6-29-720 of County Carolina Code is the enabling legislation that allows local governments to engage in zoning. That section requires that the zoning regulations be uniform for each class or kind of building, structure, or use throughout each zoning district. That section also provides that one method that may be used in a local government zoning ordinance is "conditional uses" that imposes conditions, restrictions, or limitations on a permitted use that are in addition to the restrictions applicable to all land in the zoning district. However, the conditions, restrictions or limitations must be set forth in the text of the Zoning Ordinance.

Neither the enabling legislation nor the County's Zoning Ordinance contains a requirement that a zoning applicant meet with the adjoining property owners. Consequently, adding a requirement that one particular applicant hold a meeting with the adjoining property owners exceeds the authority delegated to the County Council by the General Assembly through the enabling legislation.

After Mr. Bryan's statement, the Chairman called for a motion to rescind the prior action taken at the meeting on May 11, 2021, to defer third reading on this item.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd and seconded by Councilman Baker to rescind the prior action taken at the meeting on May 11, 2021, to defer third reading on RZ-21-06.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, the following dialogue took place.

Prior to calling for the vote on RZ-21-06 to rescind prior action, Councilman Washington asked the County Attorney why he, Johnathan Bryan, did not contact him, Councilman Washington, prior to action being taken on May 11, 2021, concerning RZ-21-06. Mr. Bryan stated that while he was at the meeting on May 11, 2021, he was unaware that an applicant should not be required to hold a meeting concerning the rezoning. Mr. Bryan also stated that the legislation concerning this caught him by surprise. He said that his instincts told him that something was not right about the request; however, after the meeting, he spoke to Mrs. Roodman as it relates to contract zoning. However, the request did exceed the authority of Council as delegated by the General Assembly.

Councilman Washington asked Mr. Bryan why he did not contact him to let him know about this issue. Mr. Washington further stated that because Mr. Bryan did not contact him it was unprofessional and disrespectful. Councilman Washington further stated that he does not believe the Counsel for Sumter County should operate in that fashion.

Attorney Bryan addressed the Chairman and stated that for the record it is his understanding that Councilman Washington and Mrs. Blanding were on a phone call and she tried to connect the two of them; however, Mr. Bryan was not at his desk when Mrs. Blanding tried to connect the call. Later, Mrs. Blanding told Mr. Bryan that Mr. Washington would contact him, since the call was missed by Mr. Bryan. Councilman Washington stated that Mrs. Blanding did a very good job in trying to explain a legal situation, and Mrs. Blanding may practice law outside of County Council, but that is not what she does for County Council. Councilman Washington stated that Counsel should have contacted him and that is what he expects of Mr. Bryan, especially if it is a matter in his Council District.

Councilman Washington also said that he was not trying to kill the rezoning request; he could have asked for it to be tabled, postpone the request to an indefinite date, but he asked for a soft approach so that matters could be worked out between those involved. He further stated that Counsel should have contacted him; and to have Mrs. Blanding contact him about a legal issue is absolutely unacceptable.

Mr. Bryan said for clarification, he did not ask Mrs. Blanding to contact Councilman Washington. Mr. Bryan further stated that he was informed by Mrs. Blanding that she had a conversation, with Mr. Washington, she tried to connect me with Mr. Washington, but Mr. Bryan said he was out of the office. During Mr. Bryan's statement, Councilman Washington injected the statement "that is not true." Councilman Washington began to speak and said that Mrs. Blanding asked if he wanted Mr. Bryan's telephone number and that since he did not talk with Mrs. Blanding and hear the conversation, Mr. Bryan did not know what Mrs. Blanding said, and Mr. Bryan was out of order. However, Mr. Bryan stated that he had the floor and the Chairman used the gavel to get order and informed Councilman Washington that he was out of order because Mr. Bryan had the floor and the Councilman could speak after Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan continued his statement by saying that Mrs. Blanding said that she had a conversation with Councilman Washington and she tried to connect me with Councilman Washington; however, Mr. Bryan was out of his office at the time of the call that Councilman Washington would get in touch with Mr.

Bryan. Councilman Washington stated that the statement by Mr. Bryan was not true; however, Mr. Bryan confirmed that his statements were true. It was further stated by Mr. Bryan that he cited the conversation that he and Mrs. Blanding had. Councilman Washington said that the statement was not true. He further stated that Mrs. Blanding asked if he wanted Mr. Bryan's number. He declined receiving Mr. Bryan's phone number because Councilman Washington felt that it was Mr. Bryan's professional responsibility to contact him and that is what he expects from Mr. Bryan.

The Chairman then recognized the County Administrator; Mr. Mixon stated that he was familiar with that conversation by the Clerk to Mr. Bryan because he was with Mr. Bryan when the statement was made. Mr. Mixon said he and Mr. Bryan were anticipating a conversation from Councilman Washington so that if he had any questions they could answer them. Mr. Mixon further stated that he takes full responsibility for any miscommunications because the intent was to clarify any questions or concerns Councilman Washington may have about "rescinding the action of May 11, 2021." By not receiving any communication from Councilman Washington, Mr. Mixon said that he and the Attorney assumed that Mr. Washington was fine with the upcoming action to be taken at this meeting. Mr. Mixon added that there was intention no to leave him out of any conversation; we felt that we reached out and opened the door for communication.

Councilman Washington stated that he wants to be clear, if there is an issue in his district, and it has a legal connotation to it, he wants to hear from the County Attorney. He said that he always enjoys his conversations with Mrs. Blanding and she has good advice, but in this case, legal counsel should have reached out to him; bottom line.

Councilman Washington then asked for additional time to report on the meeting he had with the community concerning this rezoning request. He stated that the community did meet with the developer for this rezoning request and progress was made. The community expressed a number of things that they would like to be done at the location to reduce any issues that may arrive as a result of Dollar General being located in this area. The Chairman asked Councilman Washington to wait to give his report when it was time to act on third reading since a motion is already on the floor to rescind actions taken at the May 11, 2021, meeting. The Chairman continued with the motion on the floor.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to rescind the prior action taken at the meeting on May 11, 2021, to defer third reading on RZ-21-06, until such time that the Developer meets with the Community.

Then Chairman McCain asked for a motion on third reading of the proposed rezoning request RZ-21-06.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading to RZ-21-06.

Prior to the motion being carried, Chairman McCain recognized Councilman Washington so that he could give a report on the meeting that was held between the developer, the community members from north and west of the proposed development, and Councilman Washington. The Developer met the people that would be most impacted by this development; Mr. Googer brought with him drawings, plans, and pictures of other locations. The community members were able to look at the pictures of other locations and stated what they liked and what they did not like about the different sites. Councilman Washington stated that it was a good meeting once it progressed.

The things that the community requested of the developer are as follows:

1. The store hours would be from 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
2. The lighting around the store would be adjusted to downward position instead of outward position so that it will not affect the private homes.
3. Evergreen trees would be planted around the back fence of the property so that the property would be blocked from view of the homes to the store.
4. The property would have sod in the front.
5. The location would be a brick location.
6. The store front that faces Highway 261 and the Sonoco Station which is opposite of Claremont Road, would have a six-foot fence with green liners in it.
7. The store should not have one of the large pole signs with "Dollar General" on it. The Developer stated that he is not sure if this request can be granted, but he will work on the request. The community feels that this request is very important to maintain the integrity of the community.

Councilman Washington said that these are the details that were worked out between the Developer and the Community; also, Councilman Washington recognized the developer, Mr. Googer, who was present at this meeting.

Councilman Washington also referenced an email that Council members received from Mrs. Floyd which states that the person "that owns the property, Ms. Charlene Avant, attended the meeting and felt that it was a conflict of interest. The community members felt that Ms. Avant has been misleading. Mrs. Floyd also wrote in her email I don't know the procedures and rules by which Council operates in accepting "testimony." There should be evidence to back up claims made by those who "testify." County Council makes decisions on what is said by others without fact checking. People's lives are affected by these decisions."

Councilman Washington asked that the statement about "the procedures and rules" be passed on to the Public Safety Committee, which is chaired by Councilman Washington, in order to figure out if some things can be put in place to address the concerns of the community.

Vice Chairman Byrd stated that the Developer for Dollar General has been a good steward in working with the community in District #3 and working out concerns of the community. Vice Chairman Byrd stated that there are now two stores in his council district right next to residents; one has already been approved and one is going through readings for approval.

#### **OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- (1) **Ordinance #21-952 - An Ordinance Authorizing The Conveyance Of An Interest In Property To The State Of South Carolina And Then Grant An Easement For Ingress And Egress To The State Of South Carolina. (Council Will Take Action On Third Reading Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

The County Attorney introduced this item for public hearing. He stated that this proposed ordinance will allow for the County to extinguish an option on some property that the State of South Carolina desires to obtain. Also, if the ordinance is approved, it will allow for ingress and egress on property owned by the Council on Airport Road, and to release the property from a restrictive conveyance. After Mr. Bryan's comments, the Chairman convened a public hearing.

Chairman McCain asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the rezoning request, no one spoke to this issue; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on third reading listed under Old Business.

- (2) **Ordinance #21-951 - An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$3,500,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bonds; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bonds; Providing For The Payment Of The Bonds And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

The County Administrator, Mr. Gary Mixon, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for public hearing. Mr. Mixon stated that this ordinance is what is know as the County's Capital Equipment Ordinance which is funded through General Obligation Bonds which is a part of the County's Budget projections for the County's 2021-2022 expenditures.

Description	Amount
Public Buildings	\$1,775,000
IT	591,103
Library	114,126
Recreation	95,276
Register of Deeds	65,000
Voter Registration	52,140
Emergency Management	50,000
Crystal Lakes	32,167
Detention Center	25,428
Sheriff	19,000
Vehicles - Sheriff	630,760
Vehicles - Other	50,000
<b>Total Capital Request FY 2022</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>

After the Administrator's presentation, the Chairman asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to this proposed ordinance. No one spoke to this issue; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading listed under Old Business.

- (3) **Ordinance #21-950 -- An Ordinance To Provide For A Levy Of Taxes For County Purposes Of Sumter County, S. C., (Known As The Budget Ordinance) For The Fiscal Year Of Said County Beginning July 1, 2021, To Direct The Expenditures Of Said Taxes And Other Funds Of Said County, And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Chairman McCain introduced this ordinance; then the Administrator, Mr. Gary Mixon briefed Council and the public on the essence of the budget ordinance. Mr. Mixon said that Council is receiving a balanced budget of \$52,477,365 of general funds revenue and expenditures. With this being a reassessment year, there is rollback from 86.3 to 80.9; with a mill value equaling \$311,893. There are two additional mills in the budget, one for the new Litter Program and one mill for additional staff.

Major Impact Items On Budget:

- a. 3% COLA resulting in additional \$350K in salaries
- b. 1% increase in retirement or approximately \$40K
- c. 2.6% increase in health insurance or approximately \$90K
- d. Gas and diesel costs increase of \$30K
- e. IT maintenance and upgrades of \$128K
- f. Other Agencies of \$3,110,432 which is an increase of \$61,672

After comments from the Administrator, the Chairman convened a public hearing. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the budget. No one spoke to this issue; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading which is listed under Old Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- (1) It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Employment Matter, An Economic Development Matter, A Legal Briefing, Or Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session, And Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter If Required.

No executive session was held.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- (1) Ordinance #21-952 - Third Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Conveyance Of An Interest In Property To The State Of South Carolina And Then Grant An Easement For Ingress And Egress To The State Of South Carolina.

Chairman McCain along with the County Attorney introduced this ordinance for third reading consideration. After the public hearing was held; Council acted on third reading of this ordinance.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval of this ordinance as presented by the County Attorney at third reading.

- (2) Ordinance #21-953 - Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Amend Sumter County Ordinance 09-691, Previously Amended By Ordinance 11-732, Relating To The Sumter County Solid Waste Disposal Fee. (Public Hearing Will Be Held At Third Reading.)

The Chairman introduced this item and informed everyone that the public hearing on this matter will be held at third reading on June 8, 2021. After introduction of this ordinance, Council took action on second reading.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval of this ordinance as presented.

- (3) Ordinance #21-951 - Second Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of



Not Exceeding \$3,500,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bonds; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bonds; Providing For The Payment Of The Bonds And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Chairman McCain along with the County Administrator introduced this ordinance for second reading consideration. After the public hearing was held; Council acted on third reading of this ordinance.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval of this ordinance as presented by the County Administrator at second reading.

- (4) Ordinance #21-950 - Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Provide For A Levy Of Taxes For County Purposes Of Sumter County, S. C., (Known As The Budget Ordinance) For The Fiscal Year Of Said County Beginning July 1, 2021, To Direct The Expenditures Of Said Taxes And Other Funds Of Said County, And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto.

The Chairman along with the County Administrator introduced this ordinance for second reading consideration. After the Administrator's explanation of the ordinance, the Chairman convened a public hearing. After the public hearing was held; Councilman Baker asked the Administrator to explain the rollback as it relates to the action on second reading of this ordinance. The Administrator stated that because of the Reassessment and the Local Option Sales Tax the taxpayers will probably not see an increase in their taxes because the rollback of the mills from 86.3 to 80.9 which balance the two new mills that were added because of the new Litter Program and the new five new employees added to the employee roster.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Washington, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval of this ordinance as presented by the County Administrator at second reading.

Prior to carrying the motion, members of Council discussed the following matters.

- Councilman McGhaney asked if the revenue which is received by the Community Centers, is it included in the budget to balance the budget. The Administrator said yes, it is included. She also asked about the process of renting the community centers, especially in the Shiloh Community and the amount of funds that are being charged for the different facilities throughout the rural areas and Patriot Park Sportsplex. Councilman McGhaney stated that the rental process on the computer is very difficult and would be even more difficult for senior citizens (She gave an example of what it takes to rent a facility and the problems encountered by a senior that was unable to rent the facility that the senior want.) Councilman McGhaney stated that she does not know what the solution is, but that something needs to be done to help those that are seniors; Council and staff need to look at the difference in the pricing for use of the facilities. Lastly, Councilman McGhaney asked that Council not project the budget on the fees that are being charged for rental of the Community Centers. She stated that because people are having such a problem with trying to rent the centers, the revenue will probably be down next year due to the high rental cost and because of the cumbersome rental process.

- Councilman Washington also commented on the concern of registration, rental cost, and security fees for the Rafting Creek Community Center. He also stated that many of the seniors in District #1 do not have broad-ban and they too have problems trying to rent the facility in his district. Councilman Washington asked the Chairman to consider changing this process at this meeting to allow the community persons to reserve use of the Community Centers at the Center instead of coming to town to register at the Recreation Office which is currently at Magnolia Place.
- Councilman McGhaney stated that when policies are being changed as it relates to rental fees and how to rent a facility, those matters should be addressed with County Council's input.
- Councilman Edens asked if the Administrator could be given some time to review these concerns and bring a report back to Council. Then Councilman Washington stated that he is of the opinion that there are certain things that Council can and should take care of and not pass it off to the Administrator. Councilman Washington further stated that he would agree to allow the Administrator to bring this matter back to Council after he has reviewed the issue.
- The Administrator then stated that he does not want to correct Council members in public; however, there is not a flat rate at the Mill Creek facility. Most of the rentals at Mill Creek are at a cost well over \$1,000; there are additional charges because there is no full-time staff person at Mill Creek; thereby the additional charges are added to Mill Creek rental. There are also different charges for the Community Centers based on space available for similar type facilities. Mr. Mixon said that he and staff will work on providing the information to Council concerning these matters. The revenues in the budget as it relates to the Community Centers are conservative figures. Mr. Mixon also stated that if Council wants to make any changes at any time to these practices can happen at any time. However, he asked if Council would allow the professional staff that manages these matters to be able to come before Council and explain the processes and practices and then Council can make a decision.

Mr. Mixon stated that he previously talked with Councilman McGhaney about her concern with the registration process. Subsequently, he tried to register online too and ran into the same problem. After talking to the IT Department Head, Mr. Mixon learned that a person must use Google Chrome to process the rental. The County's IT Director is working on a different process to make it simpler for everyone involved. Also, there should be the option that a person can go to the Community Center to reserve use of the facility. Each of these concerns are currently being worked on.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) Budget Workshop/Special Meeting Held On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 5:00 p.m. Held In The County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (All Council Members Are To Attend The Budget Workshop.)

No additional information was presented concerning the budget workshop since this was discussed during the public hearing and second reading of the budget ordinance as listed above.

- (2) Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.

Councilman Baten reported on the Deaths of Veterans since the last meeting of Council on May 11, 2021. He stated that 111 veterans have died in the last 168 days, since December 8, 2020. He further stated that every day and one-half or 36 hours a veteran dies. Councilman Baten also said that 12 veterans died since Council's last meeting and two of those veterans that died were very close to him. They served in the Vietnam War and were members of some of the same Veteran Organizations that Councilman Baten is a member of.

Councilman Baten stated that he is so very glad that Council has agreed to add an additional staff person in the Veterans Affairs Office and that there will soon be a Veterans HealthCare Center in Sumter County.

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

- Sheriff's Office
- COVID-19 Report
- South Carolina Association of Counties Conference and Institute Classes

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT -- Citizens Desiring To Speak Are Limited To No More Than Three (3) Minutes; Comments Are To Be Made Through The Chairman Of Sumter County Council.

- **Ms. Charlene Avant** spoke to Council concerning a rezoning request pertaining to Dollar General; the rezoning was at the direction of the Planning Department. She further stated that the rezoning request received first reading, and there was no strong opposition during the public hearing at second reading. However, third and final reading was stopped by Councilman Washington so that a meeting could be held with the surrounding community to discuss the plans prior to final approval. Therefore, a meeting was arranged on Mrs. Avant's property on May 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. She stated that she showed up for the scheduled meeting because it was being held on her property and she felt that she had an interest as a party because it involved her land and it would have an impact on her contract. Before the meeting, Councilman Washington informed Ms. Avant that she was not welcomed to the meeting and that it was a private meeting. She further stated that Councilman Washington asked her to leave her own property; Ms. Avant said that she respected his wishes and left her property. She said that she did not believe that it was the appropriate action for a Council member, nor was it legal to call a meeting on her property and then not allow her to attend the meeting. Ms. Avant said that she was at the May 25, 2021, meeting to make sure that the entire Council and Chairman McCain and Attorney Bryan were made aware of these actions towards her. She stated that she is a Sumter County citizen, and she lives in the same area. She thanked Council for allowing her to speak.

#### ADJOURNMENT

After all business of Sumter County Council and comments, motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*James T. McCain, Jr.*

*Mary W. Blanding*

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Chairman or Vice Chairman  
Sumter County Council

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Clerk to County Council  
Sumter County Council

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of these minutes will be considered at Council's Meeting on 6-8-21

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I certify that public and media notification of the above-mentioned meeting was given prior thereto as follows required by Freedom of Information:

Public Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agendas posted on Television first floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: Friday, May 21, 2021

Media Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agenda Information is listed on Sumter County's Home Page, and E-mailed to The Item, The Chamber, WIS-TV, WBTW, and Time Warner Cable.

Date Notified: Friday, May 21, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary W. Blanding*

Clerk to County Council  
Sumter County Council

Approval of these minutes will be considered at Council Meeting on 6-8-21