



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building
Third Floor, County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Gary Hawkins, Valerie Brunson, David Shadoan, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 35 members of the public attended the meeting.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman James T. McCain, Jr., called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led By Sumter, SC Combat Veterans Group

The Sumter South Carolina Combat Veterans Group operates as a non-profit organization established February 2011. The purpose of the Sumter South Carolina Combat Veterans Group is to establish with a promise to ourselves and area Veterans that made it home from the Battlefields of Wars and Conflicts **to Never Let People Forget and Forever Recognize US.** As an official association to give moral support and encouragement when needed, to be a **Good Samaritan** to our area Veterans, and our Faith Based Community. The members live all over Sumter County! Thank you all for your Service!



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk if there were any changes to the agenda; Mrs. Blanding said that there were no changes to the agenda. Then the Chairman said he would entertain a motion to take action on approval of the November 23, 2021, agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Special Meeting Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Chairman McCain asked for a motion on the Minutes of November 9, 2021, both the Special Meeting and the Regular Meeting of Sumter County Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes the Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021, as presented.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:
Planned Development/Rezoning Requests:

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-21-20 -- 6830 Fish Road (County) - Second Reading/Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone +/- 2.71-Acre Tract From Agricultural Conservation (AC) To Residential-15 (R-15). The Property Is Located At 6830 Fish Road And Is Represented By Tax Map # 093-00-01-115. (Prior To Action On Second Reading, Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Rezoning Request.)**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, Planning Director, stated that this request is from Mrs. Charlene Avant, the property owner. She hopes to rezone this property from Agricultural Conservation to Residential-15 to allow for the construction of approximately four residential homes. Ms. Roodman said that the property is located at the corner of Fish Road and Highway 261.

The property at 6830 Fish Road is undeveloped; however, the proposed development would allow for approximately .65 acres of property to be used for the individual homes. Mrs. Avant is requesting that the rezoning occur based on the fact that to subdivide the property for the houses would require that the homes be constructed on one acre lots as Agricultural Conservation Zoning; however or Residential-15, the property could be divided to allow for four homes and would need to perk for septic tank usage on the property in question.

Mrs. Roodman showed Council members and the public an aerial view of the property and homes and other property around the property that is being requested to be rezoned. She also provided a layout of the proposed division of the property if the rezoning is approved. It was also stated by Mrs. Roodman that the Planning Staff recommended rezoning the +/- 2.71 acre tract to R-15 zoning. This recommendation was made due to the locational characteristics of the property. The property is located



at the intersection of two collector roads. Additionally, the existing pattern of development around the subject site includes single family residential lots as small as 0.65 acres. Given the absence of public sewer service in the area, new lot sizes for the subject site are not anticipated to be less than 0.5 acres, and in fact, the applicant is considering dividing the property into +/- 0.67 acre lots. Mrs. Roodman further stated that based on zoning districts established by the County, R-15 zoning is the least intensive zoning district that allows for lot single family residential lot sizes of less than one acre in size. While not expressly supported by the 2040 Comp Plan, the request is practical and consistent with the existing pattern of development near the subject property.

After Mrs. Roodman's presentation, the Chairman asked if any Council member had any questions. Councilman Washington asked Mrs. Roodman if she had any aerial pictures of the houses that will be near the homes that would be developed. He also asked if she knew the size of the home. Mrs. Roodman stated that by the aerial photography of the top of the house, and if it is a single story house, it looks to be approximately 2,500 square feet. Councilman Washington said the home is 3,000 square feet. She also stated that the property (homes) across the street from the proposed rezoning range from approximately 1,500 square feet to 2,000 square feet.

Councilman Washington stated that the homes across the street are owned by Mr. Spann and Mr. Hopkins. Councilman also asked if the Planning staff had any conversation with either of these gentlemen about the proposed rezoning. Mrs. Roodman stated that Planning staff does not generally speak directly to adjacent property owners. She further stated that direct contact happens when public notices are mailed out for the public hearings. Mrs. Roodman said that she has only heard from Dr. Ora Spann who she talked to extensively.

Councilman Washington also asked Mrs. Roodman that when the Planning Commission took action on this rezoning request was the entire Planning Commission membership present? Mrs. Roodman stated that she did not recall; however, Councilman Washington said that according to the Minutes from the Planning Commission Meeting, the entire Commission members were not present. He said that the Commission member from the area was not present due to the illness of his mother, which is Chris Sumpter. Councilman Washington said that he was curious as to whether or not Mr. Sumpter had an opportunity to weigh in on this issue and why was this matter was not delayed since Commissioner Sumpter was not at the meeting. Mrs. Roodman stated that Planning Commission Members are appointed as at-large service members; they represent the entire community. Mr. Sumpter was mailed notices of the meeting a week before hand with the staff report and he was called the day before the meeting to confirm attendance, he did not come to the meeting. Mrs. Roodman also stated that the Planning Commission is a nine member body; a minimum of five members must be present to take place. The Commission is simply a recommending body concerning rezoning actions and other Land Use Matters. Once the Commission makes a recommendation, it is taken to Council (City or County) so that that body can have deeper discussions and receive information about constituency concerns or issues. The Planning Commission meets regardless if there are one, two, three, or four members absent.

Councilman Washington restated that it is his thought that it would have been nice if the meeting was postponed until Mr. Sumpter could attend since Mr. Sumpter had prior knowledge of this rezoning and he could have possibility provided additional information concerning the community's concerns.

Chairman McCain stated that he does his due diligence in rezoning and other sensitive matters relating to County Council's actions. Having talked to some of the residents in the area, he was informed that

the former owner, Mr. George M. Sanders, of the property across the street placed a restrictive conveyance on the property and the property cannot be subdivided less than an acre without permission. Mr. Sanders. Some of the property owners across the street from Mrs. Avant's property are concerned that they cannot subdivide their property, therefore, Mrs. Avant should not be able to subdivide the property she owns. Chairman McCain further stated that he believes that is where the problem lies within the neighborhood.

Councilman Washington then stated that the deeper point in conjunction with what the Chairman stated is that this community did not want to be developed like it is being proposed; especially if those that review the history of this community back in 1982. Councilman Washington said that in order for this rezoning to happen, there must be a zoning change, because the property does not currently allow this type of development that is being proposed. He further stated that what is interesting to him is that rural communities are the areas that people want to experiment with the rural folks. It was also stated by Councilman Washington that this request should have never gotten out of the Planning hands. The request is not in compliance with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan; Councilman Washington had a copy of the plan with him.

Councilwoman McGhaney commented that she too went to the area to visit the community and to review the request from that vantage point. She further stated that the gentleman that lives in the home that will be next door to the proposed rezoning request complied with the land restrictions and the County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan which would require that he placed his house on a one-acre lot; however, the homeowner went an extra mile and place his home on two acres. He is humbly asking Council to comply with the existing requirement of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Then the Chairman convened a public hearing for this rezoning request. He stated that those in opposition of the request would be heard first, then those that are in support of the request will be heard. The following persons spoke in opposition to the request.

IN OPPOSITION OF REZONING REQUEST

- **Mr. Gwendolyn Maxine Floyd** stated that she is in opposition of this request because it does not fit what the community wants. The community wants recreation and things that are good for the children and for the older people. Ms. Floyd also said that this area needs a safe place where the community members can walk and have other recreations in the area. Ms. Floyd also said that there is a traffic hazard at Fish Road and Highway 261; just beyond that intersection is a hill. When 18 wheeler trucks come around the hill, it will be a problem for those that are trying to come out of that area due to the fact that trucks cannot stop on a dime. She restated that she is against this rezoning request.

- **Dr. Ora Spann** spoke on behalf of her brother (Mr. Ransom Spann) and herself. She stated that she lives on Highway 261 and has been there all her life. She spoke in opposition to the request. She asked Council to allow the Comprehensive Plan to be followed and require that the property owner adheres to the requirements of the Plan. Dr. Spann informed Council about a development on Dinkins Mill Road near Easy Street. She said that this Council allowed for a development to come in that community with chickens on one end and \$250,000 homes on the other end and all on a dirt road. Therefore, the property is open for wild hogs, etc. Council needs to step back and look at what really needs to be done. Dr. Spann also showed Council a plan that she and the community developed and

Council requested that there be one-acre lots in the development which is on Highway 521. Additionally, she stated that there is property that can be developed in the area with one-acre lots. She asked Council to stick by the Comprehensive Plan for the sake of her brother and for the sake of people such as herself that have been required to use the development requirement of “1 acre lots” and at times “1.6 acre lots.” Dr. Spann also stated that the community is not against development; but want to stick with what has been required in the Comprehensive Plan.

- David Rivers said that he has lots of family members along Fish Road. Mr. Rivers also said that Fish road is accident prone and if this area is developed near this intersection, there will be problems with 18-wheeler trucks and other vehicles. Mr. Rivers said that he as well as his mother have lived along Fish Road for many years. He also stated that his grandmother had an accident near the area where the hill is located on Fish Road. Mr. Rivers said that development along this area will be a problem with traffic. He asked Council to reconsider allowing this property to be rezoned.

IN SUPPORT OF REZONING REQUEST

- Mr. Frank Shuler, Attorney for Charlene Avant, spoke in support of this rezoning request. He stated that he has been practicing law in Sumter for over 29 years. Mr. Shuler stated that Mrs. Avant is owner of Avant And Associates Real Estate Company and Avant Construction Company. He stated that Mrs. Avant’s son heads up her construction company and would be working on this project if approved. Mr. Shuler also stated that the reason that he is speaking is to find out whether or not Mrs. Avant will be held to the constraints of the Comprehensive Plan. He also said that the Comprehensive Plan is not an order, it is a guide that Council uses to help put their best foot forward for Sumter. As they do develop the property, they will be doing it in a thoughtful logical purpose. He stated that Mrs. Avant is trying to do just that; she is trying to use this property to construct four homes (pictures were previous shown of the proposed homes) at a price point that is affordable for a family that cannot afford the \$300,000 or \$400,000 homes. He further stated that as a real estate attorney, he knows that Sumter County has a hole in its market for these type of houses at this pricing. Mr. Shuler said this project is something that would be beneficial to the entire community. He said that things that were brought up about the restrictive covenants Mr. Shuler said he did the title work for Mrs. Avant; there are no restrictive covenants on the property that is listed in this rezoning request. He added that before, there were restrictive covenants on the property that is across the street and the covenants did provide for one acre lots. Mr. Shuler said that on the corner of Kings Highway and Fish Road the property across the street is ranging from .86, .71, .74 acres of land which is less than one acre of property. Mr. Shuler said that there are those in the audience that would like to speak in support of this rezoning request with the type of house with less than one acre lots. He also said that it is not the entire community on Fish Road that is in opposition to this rezoning request. The homes have been shown and they are not new mod homes, but the homes are principle constructed homes with brick and siding on the homes and good curb appeal which will allow for the property values to go up. Mr. Shuler said that Mrs. Avant could put two houses on the property; however, to place four houses at this location will double the amount of taxes that will be paid to the County for operations. Also, Mr. Shuler said that the safety issues are no different that what other neighborhoods experience, and the traffic issue should not be something to not allow this project to go forth. Also the person in the house that will be next to this development is in a 2,883 square foot home, with a tax assessment of \$215. The price point for these proposed homes is around \$160,000. Also, the proposed homes would be of greater value than the homes across the street from the proposed development. Lastly, Mr. Shuler said about a mile and one-half down the street, there is a development with one-half acre lots; however, if Mrs. Avant is restricted from constructing these

homes, Council would be prohibiting Mrs. Avant from using her property for the highest and best use. He said that Mrs. Avant is trying to provide a product that people can afford. Mr. Shuler asked Council to approve the request.

Councilman Washington asked the Chairman if Counsel (Mr. Shuler) could take any questions from Council. Chairman McCain said no. Councilman Washington said that he would like to raise some issues at a later time.

- Mike Ross spoke in support of this rezoning request. He said that a good friend of his has a daughter at his sister's day care and the person is a single parent. She hopes to purchase one of Mrs. Avant's homes through the Rural Development Loan. If she is able to receive the loan she will be owning the house versus renting a mobile home that she is now paying \$700 per month. He further stated that it is a no brainer to him – getting a nice brick homes instead of renting a mobile home. Mr. Ross said he lives out in this area and there are many homes in the area that are one-half acre or less. He said if approved this would give the young people an opportunity to get a nice home. He asked Council to support this request.
- Mr. Leroy Campbell spoke in support of the request. He told Council that he can see no problem with Mrs. Avant trying to develop these homes. He said that he lives right across the street from the Development. He also said that he has no problem with the traffic from this area; he has a home business and he leaves his home between 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. in the mornings and there is no problem with the traffic. Mr. Campbell said that he cannot see a problem with building nice homes in the area; there are airmen that want to live in nice homes in this area. Mr. Campbell's last statement was that when the houses come, it will allow the area to be nicer and he too will make upgrades to his home.

The Chairman asked if anyone else wished to speak during public comment, no one spoke. Therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing. Councilman Washington asked the Chairman if he could make a few more comments.

Councilman Washington said that there were some statements that he wanted to make in reference to what the Counsel (Mr. Shuler) said and that he made some assertions and made statements about constituents in his district that he has to clear-up. One statement is that "there are nice looking homes that will be built in the area." Councilman Washington said that he appreciates Mr. Shuler thinking that but that opinion should be restricted to the residents that live in the area. He further stated that it is not appropriate for someone outside of the District to tell rural folks in the District that these are nice homes. That is approaching disrespect. Councilman Washington also said that Mr. Shuler asserted the 2040 Plan was not in stone; therefore, again, we must avoid the guide in District One; people do not want to use the guide in a rural area, they want to avoid it in District One. Councilman Washington said that Mr. Shuler said the development would be beneficial to the community; he also said the Community has expressed their concerns. Then Councilman said that he heard one resident talked about living across the street from the proposed development; he also mentioned that he hoped that he could have questioned this person because there seems to be some conflicting concerns about whether someone lives at the property and whether the property is being used as a business, and whether or not there has been a home purchased in another area. Councilman Washington restated that he is sorry he cannot receive those answers from the resident at this time. Also, the Councilman ended his statements by saying that he concurs with Dr. Spann that this Community is in favor of development. Councilman Washington

said that he and the community would like to sit down with Mrs. Roodman and the Planning Commission to discuss how they would like to see the Community Developed. It was also stated that Mr. Leonard Hopkins, Ms. Courtney Padgett, and Mr. Ransom Spann could not attend the meeting this evening and requested that Councilman Washington to inform Council about their concerns.

Councilman Baker asked who would be building the proposed homes; is it a local builder. It was stated that Mrs. Avant's construction company would be building the homes. Then Councilman Baker said that the raw material needed for the homes would be purchased from the Sumter businesses which would help local businesses. Councilman Baker also asked the question as to what is the type of Loan and the Chairman stated that it is a USDA Loan. Councilman Baker asked for further clarification about how this loan works for rural citizens. Mr. Shuler explained the USDA Loan and its opportunities and restrictions.

Then Councilman Washington stated that he appreciates Councilman Baker's questions and comments which go to the heart of what this community is saying about development opportunities. He further stated that Mrs. Roodman also stated that the homes that are proposed to be developed are in the range of \$160,000; whereas, other homes is in the area value at over \$200,000. Councilman Washington stated that he appreciates the fact that Councilman Baker was able to ask the Counsel his questions; however, he would have liked the opportunity to do the same. He then said that he would yield to the Chairman on that request.

The Chairman permitted Councilman Washington to ask Mr. Shuler questions. Councilman Washington said to Mr. Shuler that Mr. Shuler wanted to avoid the 2040 Plan, Counsel Shuler said he did not say that. However, Councilman Washington said he wrote the statement down. Then Councilman Washington asked Mr. Shuler had he ever avoided the 2040 Plan in any other Community. Mr. Shuler said that he has not had the opportunity to work with another client concerning the 2040 Plan. Councilman Washington asked for a yes or no answer; however, Mr. Shuler continued to speak and said that the 2040 Plan is not an order, it is a guide. Additionally, per Mr. Shuler, there are other subdivisions in the area that have allowed for there to be less than an acre and even across the street from the proposed development because the 2040 Plan is a guide.

Chairman McCain stated that the only reason the lots from across the street were less than one acre is because the property owners received permission from the previous landowner and not because of any Land Development Plan.

Councilman Washington also asked Mr. Shuler if it was a personal opinion or survey of the community that the homes are "nice looking homes." Mr. Shuler replied that the aesthetics of the homes are pleasing to the eye and he did not think that was a negative response.

Councilman Baten said that he is concerned this County has taken a lot of time, effort, and money to develop a Comprehensive Land Use Development Plan. The Plan was developed and updated periodically because the City and County, as well as the Planning Commission want to do what is best for Sumter County. He also said, he understands that the Plan is a guide, but when we as a Council start allowing people to violate the Plan and come up with their own reason for doing something then the Plan is really no good. Councilman Baten said his concern is why was the Plan developed when Council is not going to accept it. He further stated that Council has listened to many people that have come before Council concerning developments in their community; and when they talk about how the

development is going to negatively affect their life, Council listened to them. He also mentioned that Council has made decisions to not grant the request because of the requests from the community. Councilman Baten said that he has been involved in such a land use request when someone wanted to do something that would negatively affect his community; however, Council voted it down. He also said that it appears that these community members are not against development, they just want the development to enhance the community and not take away from the community.

The Chairman called for a motion on this proposed rezoning request.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker to grant second reading approval.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Washington to table second reading, Councilman McGhaney seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote To Table:

- *In Favor Of Tabling Second Reading:* Councilman Eugene Baten, Councilman Vivian McGhaney, and Councilman Carlton Washington.
- *In Opposition Of Tabling Second Reading:* Councilman Baker, Vice Chairman Byrd, Chairman McCain, and Councilman Edens.

The Motion failed; therefore, the Chairman restated the first motion, and asked for a roll call vote on the motion as listed below.

Roll Call To Approve Second Reading:

- *In Favor Of Approving Second Reading:* Councilman Baker, Councilman Byrd, and Councilman Edens,
- *In Opposition Of Approving Second Reading:* Councilman Baten, Councilman Vivian McGhaney, Councilman Carlton Washington, and Chairman McCain.

The Motion failed; therefore, second reading to the rezoning request was denied.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Ordinance #21-967 - First Reading - An Ordinance To Repeal All Ordinances Regarding The Sumter County Cultural Commission.

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance to Council listed as first reading consideration. Mr. Bryan informed the public that during Council's Special meeting earlier today, that Council agreed to postpone this ordinance and allow for the Commission to continue to

operate for six months to a year for Council to reevaluate the progress of the Commission and then a decision will be made about the Commission. After all comments, Council acted on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to deny first reading of this ordinance as presented and that Council will reevaluate the progress of the Cultural Commission within six months to a year from this date. After reevaluation, Council will decide how it will continue with the Commission.

(2) **Ordinance #21-968 – First Reading – An Ordinance To Adopt A Revised Business License Ordinance In Accordance With The Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No. 176) -- Title Only**

Mr. Bryan stated that Sumter County and other Counties that have Business License Ordinances have been directed by the General Assembly to revise their Business License Ordinances. This information was provided to the County late last week. Therefore, in order to meet the deadline of January 1, 2022, the ordinance is before Council in Title Only. Mr. Bryan also stated that he will develop the ordinance and have it reading for second reading and third reading before the end of the year.

The Clerk to Council, Mary Blanding, announced that Council will need to hold a special meeting to complete the three readings and asked Council to allow for the meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in Council's Conference Room. Council is also scheduled to meet at 6:00 p.m. at Liberty Charter School on the same date.

After all comments, Council took action on first reading.

(3) **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 #21-965 -- Second Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing (1) Pursuant To Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement, By And Between Sumter County, South Carolina And A Company Known To The County As Project Honey, As Sponsor, And One Or More Sponsor Affiliates To Provide For A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive And Certain Special Source Revenue Credits For The Benefit Of A Project In The County; (2) The Enlargement Of The Boundaries Of An Industrial Park Previously Created By Sumter County And Lee County To Include Certain Property Located In Sumter County, South Carolina Now Or To Be Hereafter Owned And/Or Operated By Project Honey, Or One Or More Companies Related Thereto; And (3) Other Related Matters. (Public Hearing For This Ordinance Will Be Held At Third Reading On December 14, 2021.)**

Mr. Bryan informed Council that the Attorney for this proposed Project has requested that Council defer second reading to the ordinance until December 14, 2021, and then third reading will be held in January. After all comments, Council acted to defer second reading at this meeting.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to defer second reading of this ordinance until December 14, 2021.

(2) **Ordinance #21-966 -- Second Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing An Option To Lease Property To FTC Communications, LLC. (Public Hearing For This Ordinance Will Be Held At Third Reading On December 14, 2021.)**

Mr. Bryan stated that this ordinance is for an option to lease property to FTC Communications, LLC, behind the County's Library on Wesmark Boulevard here in Sumter. Mr. Bryan stated that this is not the Lease, but it is only the option to Lease. He also stated that there have been no changes since first reading.

Councilman Edens asked if the Lease for the property has been prepared; Mr. Bryan said he does not have the length of the lease, but within the option, FTC Communications is prepared to pay \$400 per month with a 2% escalate. Councilman Edens asked that the particulars of the lease be provided to Council prior to action on third reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to defer second reading of this ordinance until December 14, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(1) **Special Meeting Of Sumter County Council Scheduled For Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at 4:45 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (All Council Members)**

Mr. Mixon gave a report on the Special meeting of County Council held at 4:45 p.m. today.

- **Redistricting of County Council Districts:** Staff has contacted S. C. Research and Statistics concerning the impending redistricting. As information is received from the State, it will be shared with County Council and the redistricting process should begin after the information is received from the State. Sumter County has the software to work through the redistricting process; therefore, Staff and Chairman McCain has chosen Option #2 to work through the redistricting of County Council Lines. Option #2 was chosen since the County has the computer software concerning demographics and mapping of each Council District. The entire process should be completed prior to March 2022.
- **Cultural Commission** was discussed earlier; Ordinance 21-967, was denied first reading.
- **Mini-Grant** through ARPA funding was discussed today. There were 79 grant applications received. 48 Grants were approved equaling \$500,000. Those that submitted applications were notified by mail whether they were awarded a grant or denied. Council will receive additional information on this once the letters are received by the applications.

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

Councilman Washington acknowledged the passing of Senator Hugh Leatherman, who was instrumental in maintaining the State Employee Retirement System. Councilman Washington further stated that County Employees are in the same retirement program as State Employees and Senator Leatherman lead the charge and worked tirelessly to ensure that the retirement program remained in place. Senator Leatherman was a champion for state and county employees. He will be sorely missed.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- (1) COVID Report
- (2) Public Works Monthly Report
- (3) Chamber Retreat 2022 – January 28-30, 2021
- (4) Dinner for Council on Monday, December 13, 2021
- (5) Capital Project Sales Tax Community Meetings – December 6 – December 20, 2021
- (6) Christmas Tree Lighting, Friday, December 3, 2021 – Cherryvale Elementary School, Rafting Creek Elementary School, Lemira Elementary School, and Furman Middle School
- (7) Liberty STEAM Charter School Tour, Tuesday, November 30, 2021
- (8) Special Meeting of County Council November 30, 2021

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

No Report given.

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.

- (1) Amy Vaughn stated that she is present on behalf of the Genealogical Society. She stated her concern about how the historical documents are being handled and not stored properly.
- (2) Dr. Brenda Williams stated that her organization applied for the Mini Grant and she has not received any correspondence. Chairman McCain stated that the letters were just mailed and she should receive it soon. Dr. Brenda thanked the Chairman for the information and proceeded to inform Council that she is concerned about the lack of safety on the Manning Avenue Bridge, in Sumter.
- (3) Ms. Cheryl Moyer spoke to Council about the Cultural Center and stated that it is imperative that Sumter County hires an executive director which is a full-time position. The Cultural Commission members are volunteers and the Commission needs to have the full-time position of the Cultural Center Director. She also said that she has been doing some of the work of the Director, she has been handling the Small Grants Program, and other matters. Ms. Moyer said that the Commission is very active and have many events that will be held next year. She said that the Commission was promised that the position would be filled by November of this year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. after a motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. McCain, Jr.
Chairman or Vice Chairman
Sumter County Council

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council

Approved: December 14, 2021

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 bulletin board on third floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: November 18, 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: November 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council