



Minutes  
Sumter County Council  
Budget Workshop

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 - Held at 4:30 p.m.

County Administration Building, Third Floor  
County Council Chambers -- 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** James T. McCain, James R. Byrd, Artie Baker, Eugene Baten, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Chris Sumpter.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ACALL TO ORDER** - The Honorable James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman of County Council, called the meeting to order.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Mixon, Johnathan Bryan, Denise McLeod, Joe Perry, James Michaelson, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, Valerie Brunson, Solicitor Finney, Susan Howard.

**MEDIA PRESENT:** The Item

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Approximately ten members of the public were in attendance.

**INVOCATION:** Councilman Edens gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** All in attendance repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**ACTION ON AGENDA:** Chairman McCain asked Council members to please consider amending the agenda by changing the amount of the Capital Bond listed in Ordinance 19-909 from \$2,500,000 to \$2,800,000.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Recap/Update On Budget Discussions Concerning Sumter County's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Revenue And Expenditure Projections, Personnel Request From Two Departments, And Possible Actions Taken, If Necessary.

The County Administrator gave the following recap on expenditures and revenues.

### General Fund Recap

The following table updates the current version of the General Fund Budget:

	April 30 Version	May 14 Version	May 21 Version
Estimated Revenue	\$50,541,170	\$51,612,920	\$51,908,042
Expenditures			
Personnel Services (wages, payroll taxes, fringe benefits)	30,947,649	30,985,149	30,985,149
Operating Expenditures	<u>20,534,752</u>	<u>20,896,853</u>	<u>20,922,893</u>
Total operating expenditures	<u>\$51,482,401</u>	<u>51,882,002</u>	<u>51,908,042</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over operating expenditures	(941,231)	(268,082)	0

The increase in revenue for this version of the budget is a result of increasing tax revenue based upon valuation estimates from the Assessor, \$31,149 increase in the local government fund based upon the house version of the budget and increases in service revenue and charges, licenses and permits and other revenue based upon current trends.

Expenditures were adjusted to accommodate the existing other agencies request for additional funding.

- a) Solicitor’s Staffing Request – Solicitor Finney spoke on behalf of his office. He stated that he has been successful with four new attorneys’ and four new staff positions. The Solicitor conducted a survey of how many other Circuits of Sumter’s size such as Orangeburg, Aiken, and Florence having more Investigators, Victim Advocates, and Administrative Staff persons than his office currently has at this time.

Solicitor Finney stated that Williamsburg and Clarendon Counties will fund a new Investigator position in each of the respective Counties. He also said the part-time staff person that he currently has in his office could be hired full-time to help manage the cases that come in to the office on a daily basis.

Solicitor Finney said that he needs an Investigator, A Victim Advocate, an Administrative staff person, and one additional part-time Administrative staff person to help with the management of the cases. He also informed Council that the lack of space is a big issue, salary increases for senior people is also a big issue. Yet the Solicitor stated that he has not asked for those funds and space for his staff.

- b) Veterans Affairs Staffing Request -- Valerie Brunson thanked Council for allowing her to speak to them about her needs. She asked Council to consider providing her with one additional administrative person to help the veterans of this County. Additionally, Ms. Brunson said that her office sometimes, approximately 10 percent of the time, help veterans from other counties because the office would never turn away a veteran who is seeking help. Ms. Brunson also said that if the County cannot help her with a full-time person, she would be glad to have a part-time person. Additional help is very much needed.

**NOTE:** Chairman McCain asked that staff bring to them the cost for funding these positions so that Council can vote them up or down.

## New Position Requests

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The Sheriff's Office has requested a new position to fill the security slot for the Treasurer's office. The Treasurer's office security officer has been accommodated in the FY 2020 budget as a continuation of the status already in place.

The Voter Registration/Elections office has 34 temporary part time slots requested and has funded the slot with State aid to cover costs

The Veteran's Affairs office has requested one new position estimated to cost \$40,000.

The Coroner's office has requested one new position that the state is not funding.

The Solicitor's office has requested 4 new non-attorney positions estimated to cost an additional \$280,000.

## New Position Requests Action Items

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Veteran's Affairs Position

Coroner Position

Solicitor's Office Positions

It was asked by Councilman Baker whether or not the positions that are to be considered at the next budget workshop would include the Coroner's position. Chairman McCain stated that although the Coroner has stated that the requested position will be funded by the state next year; Council can consider all positions which would be the positions as listed below.

After additional discussions concerning the positions that are requested this year, the following motion was taken by Sumter County Council.

### **NEW POSITIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020:**

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and carried by Council to approve the motion to deny all new requested positions in this year's budget. Council members Byrd, Edens, Baker, Chris Sumpter, voted in the affirmative. Council members Baten, McGhaney, and McCain, voted in opposition. The motion carried.

### 2. Discussion On 2019 Capital Needs And Possible Actions Taken, If Necessary.

The County Administrator, along with the County Finance Director, updated Council on the needs for the Capital Bond for 2019. Also, they updated Council concerning information from the Bond Attorney.

## Capital Items Funded by \$2,800,000 Bond

The following table details the items requested for FY 2020:

Item	Estimate	Recommended
Sheriff's Department Fleet rotation (15 plus equip)	\$623,023	\$623,023
Assessor's Office 5 vehicles	150,000	
Fire Department Airpacks	989,000	989,000
Document scanning/indexing service	68,410	68,410
Fire Department Tanker	287,000	
Detention Center SUV, Charger and Van and equip only	112,835	52,635
Patriot Hall, Bathrooms etc	575,000	
Patriot Hall HVAC	800,000	
EMS 4 Ambulances	540,000	135,000
EMS 4 Power Stretchers	70,000	17,500
Fire Department Engine	342,000	
Opticoms	30,000	30,000
30 Sets Personal Protective Fire Gear	70,000	70,000
Van for Fire Department	28,800	
2 Fleet vehicles (full size)	56,400	56,400
1 Fleet vehicle (compact)	20,000	20,000
PW Fuel farm tank replacement	165,643	165,643
Technology – Replace Windows 7 PC's out of life	183,294	183,294
Rec Track update	17,173	17,173
Backup solution	100,000	100,000
CAMA	234,000	
Animal Shelter		250,000
Landfill Compactor	687,166	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,150,144</b>	<b>\$2,778,078</b>

3. 19-909 – First Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019a, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$2,800,000; 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. Title Only

The Administrator presented each Capital request to Council with a brief explanation. He informed Council that not all funding for each request is being considered for approval. The recommended funding is what is being considered in this ordinance which is \$2,778,078. After review of the proposed list of purchases, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading for this proposed ordinance by Title Only.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading approval of Ordinance 19-909 as presented by Title Only, but will include the recommended items as presented by the Administrator at this meeting.

4. Discussions Concerning Other Agencies' Budget Requests For Fiscal Year 2019-2020 And Possible Actions Taken, If Necessary.

## Other Agencies

Agency	FY 2019	Change	Requested for FY 2020
Legislative Delegation	\$40,000		\$40,000
Planning Commission	478,082	25,138	503,220
Building Department	502,598	43,754	546,352
Sumter SBDC	10,000		10,000
Animal Shelter	30,000		30,000
Santee Wateree MHC	29,160	20,840	50,000
United Way/Diamonds	25,050	2,200	27,250
Sumter United Ministries	5,000	2,500	7,500
Fatherhood Coalition	31,000	500	31,500
American Red Cross	5,000		5,000
Sumter Senior Services	19,565		19,565
Soil and Water Conservation Commission	29,549		29,549
Clemson Extension	50,410		50,410
Base Defense	34,500		34,500
Santee Lynches COG member fee	98,911	(11,899)	87,012
Santee Lynches COG building	0	113,879	0
Sumter County Museum	60,000		60,000
Sumter County Library	1,183,379	10,600	1,193,979
Sumter Little Theater	10,000	15,000	25,000
Historical Commission	15,425	1,500	16,925
Genealogical Society	4,800		4,800
Sumter Green	5,000		5,000
Gallery of Art	55,000		55,000
Santee Wateree RTA	150,000		150,000
Scholar's Program	50,000		50,000
First Steps		12,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,922,579</b>	<b>236,012</b>	<b>\$3,032,562</b>

The Planning Commission, Building Department and Library amounts are included in the May 14, 2019 Workshop version of the budget.

## Other Agencies Action Item

New funding request – First Steps.

The County Administrator presented the “Other Agencies” budget requests. Also, the Chairman noted that there is a program that is called “From Cradle to Career.” This program, if implemented next year, will include the needs of the First Steps program. With that in mind, the Chairman stated that it is recommended by County staff that the First Steps Program be removed from the request.

It was also discussed that the Building Project for Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments would not receive funds from the State this coming fiscal year; however, most likely, the COG will receive the funds next year from the State for this project. The City of Sumter has provided property for the COG’s building to be built on.

### 5. Other Funding Projections For Fiscal Year 2019-2020 And Possible Actions Taken, If Necessary.

Council members and the Administrator, Mr. Mixon, discussed the need to increase the Road User Fee in Sumter County. It was stated that Sumter County has one of the lowest Road User Fees in the State for Counties that have a Road User Fee.

After all comments, Council took the following actions on the increase in the Road User Fee.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney to increase the Road User Fee by \$7.50 per year for the next two years which will increase the

Road User Fee to \$22.50 for 2019-2020, and \$30.00 per year for 2020-2021; no action was taken on this motion.

Chairman McCain offered a substitute motion.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Chairman McCain, seconded and Councilman Vivian McGhaney to increase the Road User Fee by \$15.00 effective Fiscal Year 2019-2020; changing the fee from \$15.00 to a total of \$30.00 per year. The motion did not carry. Council members Baker, Byrd, Edens, and Sumpter voted in opposition.

**NOTE:** Councilman Sumpter was concerned as to who and how would it be determined which roads would receive priority for paving or repair with crusher run material. Mr. Mixon stated that the Public Works department has a policy as to how they work the roads, i.e. which roads require the most maintenance work and other details.

Another motion was offered.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilman Baten that the County increase the Road User Fee by \$7.50 for fiscal year 2019-2020. The motion did not carry; Council members Baker, Baten, and McGhaney, voted in the affirmative. Council members Byrd, Edens, McCain, and Sumpter voted in opposition.

A final motion to reconsider a previous motion was offered.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Chris Sumpter to reconsider the motion to increase the Road User Fee to \$30.00 for fiscal year 2019-2010, seconded by Councilman Baten; the motion carried with Council members Sumpter, Baten, McCain, and McGhaney voted in support of the motion. Council members Baker, Byrd, and Edens voted in opposition.

## Other Funds

The appropriations by fund for the County's other funds are listed in the following table:

Solicitor Fund	2,545,386
Less portion funded by the General Fund	(483,479)
Net funded by special revenue	2,061,907
Public Defender	1,215,361
Less portion funded by the General Fund	(225,000)
Net funded by special revenue	990,361
Title IV-D	427,261
Orthophotography	12,000
Victims Assistance	184,360
"C" Funds	2,000,000
Sheriff Drug Unit	184,000
Hospitality Tax	350,000
Sumter County CDC	173,300
Solid Waste	5,834,546
Road User	2,140,652
Stormwater	1,130,771
I-95 Sewer Plant	133,130
Shiloh Water	169,019
Wedgefield Water	364,798
Capital Improvement Fund	265,000
Debt Service Fund	11,211,440

The other capital projects and Infrastructure Funds are budgeted on a project basis and are authorized to continue during FY 2020 to the extend funding is available.

6. **Executive Session:** It May Be Is Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Economic Development Matter, A Legal Briefing, Personnel/Employment Matter, Or To Discuss Other Items Appropriate For Executive Session And Take Actions Thereafter.

No executive session was held.

7. Additional Agenda Item:

There were no additional agenda items.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

After all business for this meeting, MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary W. Blanding*

Recorded By, Denise McLeod

Transcribed by *Mary W. Blanding, Clerk to County Council*

Approved: May 28, 2019