



Minutes
Budget Workshop and Special Meeting
Sumter County Council
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 - Held at 5:00 p.m.
County Administration Building -- Third Floor
County Administration Conference Room
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

Council Members, Staff, And The Public Will Be Asked To Wear A Facemask At The Meeting. Social Distancing Is Required At All Of County Council's Meetings. Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James R. Byrd, Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Eugene R. Baten,

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, Carley Spivey, Carolina Richardson, Laureatha McCants, Ernest Finney, III, Edgar R. Donald, Jr., Robert Baker, and Joe Perry.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelbie Goulding

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Of County Council – The Honorable James T. McCain, Jr., called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Member of Sumter County Council, Staff, Or The Public Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Announcement Of New Audit Company For Sumter County Government.

Mr. Mixon announced that the County has sent out requests for proposals for a change in the Accounting Audit firm for Sumter County Government. He stated that the Company that the County would like to hire is Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs and Advisors from Columbia, SC and have worked with Berkely, Beaufort, Florence, and Richland Counties. He noted that Mrs. Uvette Rogers, the County's Finance Director, is familiar with this company. Additionally, this company's audit fee is less than Webster Rogers by approximately \$70,000. The Administrator asked Council to confirm the acceptance of Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs and Advisors as the Auditing Company for Sumter County Council, effective according to the contract with the Company.

Chairman McCain called for a motion on this matter.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman James R. Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the engagement, through a contract, the hiring of Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs and Advisors from Columbia, SC to become Sumter County’s external Auditors effective June 30, 2022.

(2) Budget Presentations By Elected/Appointed Officials Concerning Budget Requests For Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

The County Coroner, Public Defender, and Solicitor presented their budget requests before Sumter County Council. (See information below.) The County Administrator and Mrs. Keysa Rogers also provided information to Council members concerning the personnel requests from the elected officials and other appointed officials. The entire personnel request is listed below.

The Solicitor emphasized that he cannot keep and sometimes cannot hire attorneys because of the low salary that is listed for Sumter County’s Attorneys in Sumter County. Council members discussed the need to ensure that the attorneys are paid a comparable salary. It was also suggested that Sumter County may need to revisit an employee study since the Pandemic. Several Council members noted that everything has gone up and it may be that the salaries of the County’s employees are behind not up to par with other surrounding counties. It was also mentioned by the Solicitor that his overall budget has not increased very much in the past five years.

The Clerk of Court also has asked for an increase in the Jury pay. This would be in line with all other juries.

DEPARTMENT	POSITION TITLE	REQUESTED SALARY	EST. SALARY & BENEFITS	POSITION STATUS	JUSTIFICATION FOR POSITION (Provided by the Dept Manager)
Coroner	Deputy Coroner	\$35,000	\$58,234	Full-time at 35 hrs/wk	New position- Increase in annual call volume. (State funding request)
Coroner	Deputy Coroner	\$8,730	\$11,427	Part-time 25 hrs/week	Increase pay and hours for PT staff.
Public Defender	Assistant Public Defender	\$50,000	\$75,187	Temporary Full-Time	New position-To help clear COVID Backlog (ARPA funds request) 3-years
Public Defender	Secretary	\$28,000	\$47,554	Temporary Full-Time	New position-To help clear COVID

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					Backlog (ARPA funds request) 3-years
Public Defender	Secretary	\$28,000	\$47,554	Full-time	New position-Sumter County Office is short staffed since Third Circuit Office is no longer in the Judicial Center
Solicitor	All staff	\$91,881	\$115,338	Full-time	7% increase in salaries for all staff – 4% difference from COLA
Probate	Clerk (3)	\$5,000	\$6,410	Full-time	Increase in salaries for staff
Probate	Clerk	\$22,880	\$41,752	Full-time	New position-Substantial increase in estates and other probate related matters over the last two years.
Register of Deeds	All staff	\$14,324	\$17,981	Full-time	Increase in salaries for all staff
Information Technology	Information Security Officer	\$65,359	\$97,971	Full-time	New position-Develop & support security initiatives, direct planning & implementation of IT system, and defenses against security breaches, etc.
Information Technology	All staff	\$10,500	\$13,743	Full-time	Increase in salaries for all staff
Recreation	Receptionist	\$0	\$0	Full-time	New position-Assist in front office, clerical duties, etc. - add to position control, shift in funding from other staffing changes

Totals		\$359,674	\$533,151		
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Mrs. Keysa Rogers, Human Resources Director, informed Council about the positions and/or salary increases that are being requested by Recreation, Information Technology, Register of Deeds, and Probate. Mrs. Rogers also noted that if the County gave the Solicitor the 7% increase and the increase in the Public Defender’s office, the financial costs could be an additional \$162,892 above the \$892,825 increase for the current Salary adjustments for the County. She also stated that if Council gave the entire workforce 7% salary adjustment it would be in excess of \$2,000,000.

Councilman Baten asked if the 3% increase is realist for the employees, especially since inflation has been going up for years. The Administrator and Mrs. Uvette Rogers stated that the inflation is approximately 7%; however, the three percent was never intended to totally compensate for the inflation rate. Yet it has been a mechanism to help employees to have their salary increasing each year for the dedicated work they are doing for Sumter County Government.

Councilman Washington also stated that the State Retirement funds are up for the employees at a rate of 9%, and the insurance costs are up as well. He added that he does not know what the solution is, but the employees are feeling the brunt of the increase.

Mr. Mixon stated that Capital Needs and ARPA Requests will be discussed at the next meeting on May 10, 2022.

- (3) It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Employment Matter, An Economic Development Matter, Or Receive A Legal Brief And Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session. Council May Need To Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter.

No executive session.

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) None

ADJOURNMENT

After all business, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to Council

Approved: May 10, 2022