



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 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, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Gary Hawkins, Valerie Brunson, The Honorable Laureatha McCants, Les Vandervander, Kathy Ward, Major Randall Steward, Patricia Ray, Detention Center Director, Chanea Lumpkins, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 21 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 Harry L. Thompson, Council District #3 U.S. Marine Corp Veteran Harry L. Thompson served our Country in Vietnam, he was wounded in battle in 1968, and received the Military Purple Heart medal. He continued to serve for over ten years and received an honorable discharge. He is now the commander of the military order of the Purple Heart Chapter #817 in Sumter. He is married to Odell Harvin Thompson for over 50 years, and they have one son, one daughter-in-law, and one beautiful granddaughter who is the joy of his life. He currently lives in County Council District 3. Thank you for your Service!



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Chairman McCain asked if there were any changes or deletions to the agenda. The Clerk to Council, Mary Blanding, asked Council to allow for item #1 under New Business to be moved up on the agenda immediately after action on the minutes of August 24, 2021. The Chairman called for a motion on the agenda as recommended by the Clerk to Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and approved by Council to move Item #1 under New Business immediately after action on minutes of August 24, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, August 24, 2021, and Special Meeting of County Council, August 24, 2021

Chairman McCain asked for a motion on approval of the Minutes of Council's Regular Meeting and Special Meeting held on August 24, 2021.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and approved by Council to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and the Special Minutes of Sumter County Council of August 24, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Recognition Of Lt. Audrey Benjamin as S.C. Jail Administration Supervisor Of The Year.

Director Patricia Ray of the Sumter County Detention Center read the information provided to the S. C. Jail Administration that was used to consider Lt. Audrey Benjamin for the award of S. C. Jail Administration Supervisor of the Year. (See information below). After Director Ray read the

information, Chairman McCain presented Lt. Benjamin with a gift from the County and took pictures with the Lieutenant.

SUPPORTING NARRATIVE: *Lt. Audrey Benjamin is assigned as the Lieutenant to oversee Delta Shift. She was promoted to Lieutenant in November 2020 and has taken this responsibility as a top priority as she works diligently each day with her shift members in order to ensure a safe, secure and humane environment for the inmates that are being housed at the Detention Center. Lt. Benjamin has tackled this role head on and has not shied away from her assigned duties. She demonstrates a take charge attitude when it comes to her leadership style and she is always one of the first persons leading the charge if there is an incident in the facility. She does a superb job and demonstrates accurate and responsible attention to detail during the performance of her duties. Her communication skills are superb as she deals well with her fellow co-workers and citizens alike who frequent the Detention Center. Lt. Benjamin works tirelessly in order to assist her fellow co-workers by working overtime on the opposite shifts and she is at the forefront of always making personal sacrifices of her time to make sure that the safety of Officers comes first. I would like to add that Lt. Benjamin comes in before her normal operating hours to prepare for the day making sure every task at hand runs smoothly and without error. She is always pleasant, dependable, willing to lend a helping hand and has a great deal of respect and passion for the profession of Corrections. Lt. Benjamin has been instrumental over the years in the on-the-job training of countless number of Officers who have been employed with our agency and she takes pride in being able to contribute in this manner. She is weapons certified, NCIC certified, Taser certified, has her CPR certification, attended a victim support services training and she has attended various training classes over the years with one being mid-level management. These are all the reasons why I have nominated Lt. Benjamin for Supervisor of the Year. All of these characteristics embody the standards set forth by the Sheriff's Office and I wholeheartedly believe that she is a wonderful representation of such.*



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-21-14, 614 Floride St. (County) - Third Reading --A Request To Rezone +/- 0.62-Acres Of Land From Residential-9 (R-9) To Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W) Zoning. The Property Is Located At 614 Floride St. And Is Represented By Tax Map # 203-05-03-028.**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director presented this proposed rezoning request to Council for third reading. She stated that there have been no changes to this request since first reading. Therefore, the Chairman called for a motion from Council to act on third reading approval.

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

- (2) **OA-21-04, Minimum Setback Requirements For Communications Towers And Antennae In Residential Zoning Districts (County) - Third Reading - (#21-958) -- Amend Article 5, Section 5.B.E.10.A. & Article 5, Section 5.B.F To Allow Engineered Fall Zones For Communication Towers And Antennae In Residential Zoning Districts And To Correct Conflicting And Duplicative Provisions.**

Mrs. Roodman also presented this proposed ordinance to Council for third reading approval. She stated that there were no changes to this ordinance since first reading. The Chairman called for a motion concerning third reading of this ordinance amendment.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval of the ordinance amendment as presented.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) Ordinance #21-959 – An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of A Waterworks System Refunding Revenue Bond (Wedgefield-Stateburg Rural Community Water District), Series 2021, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$1,300,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bond; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bond; Providing For The Payment Of The Bond And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)

Ms. Frannie Heizer, Bond Attorney, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading consideration and public hearing. She stated that the ordinance is before Council for consideration to issue a water works revenue bond that will refinance existing debt for the Wedgefield-Stateburg Rural Community Water District. Ms. Heizer stated that several years ago, at different intervals, County Council took out USDA Loans (1996, 2002, 2003) because the County took over the water district. The loan with USDA at that time was favorable; however, since that time, the interest rates have reduced. Therefore, the County hopes to reduce the interest rates, which will allow for the length of the loan to be reduced, and consolidate the previous loans. Although, the payments will be approximately the same, the County will be saving approximately \$300,000 gross savings and approximately \$200,000 net savings. There will be more efficiency in the operations and this will also be a Revenue Bond and not a General Obligation Bond.

Ms. Heizer also asked Council, if second reading is granted, would Council consider deferring third reading for one or two meetings until such a time that a request for proposal can be prepared and sent out to the banks for the Revenue Bond? After all comments by Ms. Heizer, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this proposed ordinance. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. No one spoke to this issue; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council to action on second reading listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- (2) Sumter County Hazard Mitigation Plan Yearly Progress Report. (Jeff Derwort)

Ms. Roodman presented this proposed yearly progress report to Council. She said that the City and County's Hazard Mitigation Plan has been provided to the South Carolina ISO Auditors who will review the hazard Mitigation Recertification Plan. The report is to come before Council for review; but no action needs to be taken. A copy of the plan is on the City's website under the City County Planning Commission for review by the public. This was presented to Council for information only.

- (3) Annual Update Of Midlands Fatherhood Coalition (Terrence Whitfield and Andrew Coston)

Mr. Terrance Whitfield, Site Manager for the Local Fatherhood Coalition and Mr. Andrew Coston said that he is the data person. They presented a PowerPoint to Council. Mr. Coston stated that as far as employment and employability, they were able to work with the fathers and 489 of these fathers gained employment or a better pay job. Also, 282 completed job skills training.

Also, for family Outcome data, 212 fathers increased time spent with child, and 183 improved relationships with the mother. During 2019, 42 fathers participated in DSS programs. And 41 fathers participated with successful outcomes of the DSS programs.

The total number of participants included 958 that were served and 2,437 children were positively impacted. Lastly, the child support paid and money saved totaled \$656,564 of child support paid, and \$5,160,960 saved in ATI program.

ACTION: Received as information.

- (4) Ordinance 21-960 -- Sumter County Council Declaration Of Public Safety Emergency In Response To Discovery Of One Or More Discrepancies In The Sumter County Zoning And Development Standards Ordinance And The Implementation Of A Moratorium On Applications For "Drinking Place" Uses Under Standard Industrial Classification Code Section 5813 And "Special Event Facility" Uses Under Standard Industrial Classification Code Section 7299 Effective September 14, 2021.

Mr. Johnathan Bryan, the County Attorney, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for considerations.

Mr. Bryan provided information that showed the definition of Drinking Places and Special Event facilities. He also stated that Special Event facilities are not clearly identified in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual. Staff has seen an increased number of Business Licenses for Special Event Facilities. Some Special Event facilities seem to be operating as Night Clubs. People are frequently visiting the facility which seems as though it is not for a birthday, wedding, baby shower, etc. which is the type of event for a Special Event facility. Although the business may not be selling alcohol, the patrons are consuming alcohol at the facility because it is advertised as a BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle). Council members were given several flyers that had “BYOB” on the flyer for a Special Event facility application. Mr. Bryan added that there is a loop-hole in the County’s Zoning and Development Standard Ordinance which allows people to open up as a Special Event, charge people to enter the facility, and permit the persons to bring their own bottle of alcohol.

Mr. Bryan said that the staff would like for Council to put a moratorium on Drinking Places and Special Event places until such a time (60 days) that the staff can provide clear guidelines for each of these places. The process would allow for the Planning Staff to present this information to the Planning Commission and then back to Council for consideration and approval.

Major Stewart from the Sumter County Sheriff’s Office provided information to Council and stated that the Sheriff supports the Planning Commission in asking Council to place a moratorium on these facilities until a better description definition can be provided which will aid the Sheriff’s Office in patrolling these facilities. Major Stewart handed out some information showing how these businesses are acting as a Defector Night Club.

Vice Chairman Byrd stated that he would like to have this item go to the Land Use Committee prior to making any decision. Councilman Edens asked when would this request be sent to the Planning Commission. It was stated that this item will be on the next Planning Commission meeting which will be prior to the next meeting of Sumter County Council. After discussion by Council and staff and Major Stewart, the following motion was presented and acted upon.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council, to grant approval of the emergency ordinance as presented and directed the staff to schedule a Land Use Committee Meeting to discuss this matter among Council and staff.

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance allows “Drinking Place” uses under Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code Section 5813 as a special exception in the Neighborhood Commercial (NC), Limited Commercial (LC), General Commercial (GC), Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W), and Agricultural Conservation (AC) zoning districts; and

WHEREAS, applications for any special exception require approval by the Sumter City/County Board of Zoning Appeals so the procedure for obtaining any special exception is a stringent approval process that requires a public hearing with proper public notification; and

*WHEREAS, “Drinking Place” uses are subject to the following supplementary requirements:
The use shall not be within 300 ft. (measured in a straight line from structure to structure) of a residential use, church, school, or public playground on a separately platted parcel.
A six-foot fence that is a visual screen must be installed to separate this use from residential uses; and*

WHEREAS, “Special Event Facility” uses are classified under SIC Code Section 7299 – Miscellaneous Personal Services, Not Elsewhere Classified - and are permitted uses in the NC, LC, and GC zoning districts and are conditional uses in the Professional Office (PO), LI-W, and AC zoning districts; and

WHEREAS, approval reviews for conditional use applications are usually performed administratively at the staff level by the Sumter City/County Planning Staff and obtaining approval for a “Special Events Facility” use is significantly easier than obtaining approval for a “Drinking Place” use; and

WHEREAS, the Sumter City/County Planning Staff has observed that several businesses have obtained approval to operate as a “Special Events Facility” but each essentially operates as a night-club/social club and each circumvents state licensing requirements for on-premises alcoholic beverage sales by allowing patrons to bring their own beverages onto the premises for consumption; and

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance does not contain a definition for “Drinking Place” uses or “Special Events Facility” uses. Currently, the definition for

“Drinking Places” is derived from wording in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual (1987) (SIC Manual) which provides that such establishments engage in the retail sale of alcoholic drinks, such as beer, ale, wine, and liquor, for consumption on the premises and the sale of food frequently accounts for a substantial portion of the receipts of these establishments. This wording provides a loophole for a Bring-Your-Own-Beverage (BYOB) establishment which is a more intense use of the property than is appropriate in most instances due to public safety issues associated with BYOB establishments; and

WHEREAS, the SIC Manual does not contain any descriptive wording for “Special Events Facility” and the lack of a definition provides a loophole for a BYOB establishment which is a more intense use of the property than is appropriate in most instances due to public safety issues associated with BYOB establishments; and

WHEREAS, Sumter County Council desires to impose a moratorium on applications for “Drinking Place” uses and “Special Event Facility” uses to allow time to develop specific definitions for both “Drinking Place” uses and “Special Event Facility” uses and to determine the appropriate application procedures for those uses in the various zoning districts described in the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance so that applications for those uses will not be permitted as a matter of right and will not be reviewed for either a conditional use or a special exception prior to the effective date of the proposed ordinance amendments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, in accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws Title 4, Article 9 Section 130, Sumter County declares that a public safety emergency exists, conditions exist which pose a threat to human life and extraordinary emergency measures are deemed necessary to prevent those conditions from coming to fruition and thereby creating unacceptable risk to human life. Sumter County hereby implements the following moratorium on applications for “Drinking Place” uses and “Special Event Facility” uses.

- 1. No applications for a Special Exception for a “Drinking Place” under SIC Code Section 5813 shall be reviewed by the Sumter City-County Board of Zoning Appeals.*
- 2. No applications for a “Special Event Facility” under SIC Code Section 7299 either as a matter of right Permitted Use or as a Conditional Use Review shall be processed or approved.*
- 3. This Ordinance shall remain in force until emergency conditions associated with the discrepancies in the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance have been resolved through proposed amendments which specifically define “Drinking Place” uses and “Special Event Facility” uses and which prescribe the appropriate application procedures for those uses in the various zoning districts described in the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance and the proposed amendments have been implemented by Sumter County Council after review by the Sumter City-County Planning Commission and the threat to public safety has been mitigated, or upon the sixty-first (61st) day after the effective date of this emergency declaration.*

Effective the 14th day of September 2021, in the County of Sumter, South Carolina by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of Sumter County Council present at the regularly scheduled meeting for this date.

(5) **R-21-08 – A Resolution Supporting The Reaffirmation Of The FILOT Agreement, Between Sumter County And Porter’s Group, LLC, Which Is Now Maysteel Porter’s LLC.**

County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed resolution to Council for consideration of approval. He stated that Poter’s Fabrication Sumter, LLC has a FILOT agreement in affection since November 14, 2006. Several years ago, Porter Fabrication merged with Maysteel Industries, LLC; therefore, the Company would like for the County to reaffirm the FILOT Agreement with the name of Maysteel Porter’s LLC.

After all comments, Council took action on adopting the resolution.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council, to grant approval of the resolution as presented and directed the Chairman and the Clerk to Council to execute and deliver the resolution on behalf of the County.

WHEREAS, Sumter County entered into a negotiated Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement with Porter’s Fabrications Sumter, LLC (“the FILOT Agreement”) with an effective date of November 14, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Porter's Fabrications Sumter, LLC was a subsidiary of Porter's Group, LLC, a North Carolina Limited Liability Company; and

WHEREAS, Maysteel Porter's LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company filed an Application for a Certificate of Authority to Transact Business in South Carolina with the South Carolina Secretary of State on December 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Porter's Group, LLC merged with Maysteel Industries, LLC into Maysteel Porter's, LLC on December 23, 2019, and the two sheet metal manufacturing firms now operate as Maysteel Porter's, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the FILOT Agreement provides in Section 10.3:

Binding Effect. *This Fee Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the County and the Company and their respective successors and assigns.*

and

WHEREAS, Maysteel Porter's, LLC is the successor by merger to Porter's Fabrications Sumter, LLC,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sumter County Council re-affirms the FILOT Agreement, previously referenced, with the effective date of November 14, 2006.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Sumter County Council acknowledges the assignment of the interest of Porter's Fabrications Sumter, LLC to Maysteel Porter's, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company as a legal consequence of the merger.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Sumter County Council affirms the validity of the FILOT Agreement, according to the original terms contained therein, so that Maysteel Porter's, LLC has the benefit of the FILOT Agreement originally derived by Porter's Fabrications Sumter, LLC. This Resolution is adopted by the Sumter County Council this 14th day of September, 2021.

(6) **Ordinance 21-961 – First Reading -- An Ordinance To Require Individuals To Wear Face Coverings In The County Of Sumter, South Carolina And Providing For Severability And An Effective Date. (Title Only)**

Councilman Baten stated that the current number of COVID-19 cases are 14,011. There is are 544 hospitalized in South Carolina with COVID-19, and 254 deaths. He also gave Council members other statistical information concerning the effects of COVID on children since school has been in session and masks are not required in the school.

Councilman Baten said that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) our Country still lists getting vaccinated and wearing masks are the most actions need to protect ourselves from this virus. Sumter County Council should consider passing a Mask Mandate Ordinance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to unvaccinated people.

Councilman Baten also mentioned that Council had a meeting today with the Public Safety Committee. As a result of that Committee Meeting, it was determined that there are some legal matters that need to be cleared and discussed before Council moves forward with this ordinance. Then Councilman Baten offered the following motion for the ordinance to be deferred.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to defer this ordinance until additional information is provided as it relates to this ordinance.

(7) **Ordinance 21-962 – First Reading -- An Ordinance To Require Employees Of Sumter County To Receive The Available Vaccination Against The Covid-19 Virus Prior To January 1, 2022. (Title Only)**

No action was taken.

(8) **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 #21-959 - Second Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of A Waterworks System Refunding Revenue Bond (Wedgefield-Stateburg Rural Community Water District), Series 2021, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$1,300,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bond; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bond; Providing For The Payment Of The Bond And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

The ordinance was presented to Council during Other Public Hearings by Frannie Heizer. After discussion on this matter, the Chairman convened a public hearing. Once the public hearing was closed, Chairman McCain called for a motion on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council, to grant second reading approval of the ordinance as present and to allow Sumter County Council to defer third reading for several meetings until an RFP is received from banks for the Revenue Bond.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) **Public Safety Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 3:45 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Washington, Baten, and Byrd)**

The Chairman of the Committee, Councilman Washington, stated that the Committee met and received information from the Sheriff's Office concerning matters relating to Mask Mandates in connection with COVID-19 increase in cases.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed among the Committee Members to explore this issue more and have the County Attorney bring information back to the Committee in order for the Committee members to come to some conclusion information which will guide Council with further actions.

- (2) **Internal Affairs Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Byrd, Baker, and McGhaney) The Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Will Begin Immediately After The Internal Affairs Committee Meeting Concludes Or At 4:45 P.M.)**

Chairman of the Committee, Vice Chairman James Byrd, stated that the Committee Members had recommendation for Council's action. The Committee recommended to appoint R. Kevin Robinson on the Crystal Lakes Golf Course Advisory Board. (Note: Mr. Robinson will replace a member that is now deceased.)

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to appoint R. Kevin Robinson to the Crystal Lakes Golf Course Advisory Board.

- (3) **Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 4:45 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney) The Technology/Personnel Committee Meeting Will Begin Immediately After The Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Concludes Or At 5:00 P.M.)**

The Chairman of the Committee, Chairman James R. McCain, stated that all the Committee members were present and they received a briefing in executive session from the Economic Development Board staff members; no action was taken.

- (4) **Technology/Personnel Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McGhaney, Byrd, Washington) (The Special Meeting Of County Council Will Begin Immediately After The Technology/Personnel Committee Meeting Concludes Or At 5:30 P.M.)**

The Chairman of the Committee, Councilman McGhaney, stated that the Committee members and all other Council members meet to receive a briefing in executive session. There is no action to be taken at this time.

(5) **Special Meeting Of Sumter County Council Scheduled For Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (All Council Members)**

Chairman McCain stated that County Council had a Special Meeting and received a report from Lorraine Dennis and Uvette Rogers concerning the Mini Grant Application And Funding through the ARPA Funds received by the County. Council approved the application and the process for 501c3 agencies to apply for these funds. The application will be available for the public by Monday, September 20, 2021.

Also, Council approved a request from the County Attorney to send a letter to the S. C. Attorney General in reference to the Opioid Litigation Funds.

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

- Councilman Washington stated that Council members have heard his concern about the 51 miles of dirt road in District #1, his district. He also stated that he receives several calls per day and he has talked with the Administrator about the calls. Councilman Washington further stated that he has meet with the Administrator about this issue and has recognized that the there is a public relation issue in his district relating to the dirt road issue. Councilman Washington stated that many of the calls that he receives should be going to Public Works; but they have not been. He also said that he is happy to say that there is a new Public Works Director and hopefully some of the problems will be resolved. He and the County Administrator will be meeting with the new Director of Public Works to discuss how the responses can be handled in a different manner. Councilman Washington said that he will be coming back to Council with a proposal on how the responses can be handled; however, the new process may cause some money. Some decisions may need to be made by moving personnel, or machinery, etc. This will help with the basic services needs of the community.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) Airport Commission
- 2) Sheriff's Office Monthly Report
- 3) Community Update September 21, 2021
- 4) 2021 Veterans Day Information
- 5) COVID-19 Report As Of Monday, September 13, 2021
- 6) Sumter Green 2021 Fall Feast
- 7) Sumter County Sheriff's Office Newsletter

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Council approved the Community Mini Grants through ARPA funds. There will be a total of \$500,000, used for this Mini Grant program and thee grants will be in the amount of \$15,000. Additionally, the staff will evaluate the applications. The application will be online at the beginning of next week.
- Ordinance 21-962 – Councilman Baten asked the Administrator to expound on this ordinance; no action was taken at this time. The Administrator stated that in South Carolina, OSHA is the leading agency to decide whether or not mandating a COVID-19 vaccination of those in South Carolina is feasible or not. Therefore, OSHA's staff is reviewing this matter as it relates to what the President of the United States has required of Federal Employees. Additional information is forthcoming within the next few weeks. All action has been deferred on the ordinance until additional information can be received.

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.

The following citizens spoke to Council during public comment.

- Rodney Brunson spoke to Council about his need for help on his home. He stated that he lives in a mobile home that is over 20 years old. He is disabled and on a fixed income that is not enough to fix his mobile home.
- Eloise McGee stated that she too is disabled and needs some assistance to help fix her home.
- Frank Kelly spoke to Council about the poor road conditions on Arthur Dale Road and Tiverton Church Road. He asked Council for some assistance to upgrade these roads.

- Dr. Brenda C. Williams stated that she and her husband Dr. Joseph Williams have been active in Sumter County for over 39 years. She also stated that they have an organization that is a 501c3, named the Family Unit Incorporated. She and her husband have been blessed enough to help impoverished citizens throughout the County with funds from their pocket. However, she said that there are so many concerns of those that need help. Dr. Williams said that the United Ministries was named tonight as an organization that helps those that are in need. She said that their agencies also helps those in need; however, the Family Unit Incorporated has been doing some of the same work for those that are in desperate need for help. Dr. Williams asked Council members to provide help for those that have needs throughout this community and are disabled and cannot afford to repair their homes and mobile homes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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: _____

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 on the first floor of the Administration Building.
- Date Posted: September 10, 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: September 10, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council