



Minutes
Sumter County Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 -- 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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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.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James R. Byrd, 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, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Lorraine Dennis, Helen Roodman, Greg Hawkins, Valerie Brunson, Carolina B. Richardson, Lauretha McCants, Janita Johnson, Patty Tindall, Chiquita Blanding, Yolanda Dixon, Angela Geddings, Monica Scurry, and Two Sheriff Deputies.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 23

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Or Vice Chairman Of Sumter County Council called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led By Veteran Charlie Herring who served our Country in the US Navy from 1954-1959 during the Korean War. He retired from the Sumter School District in 1996 and currently enjoys working in his yard and planting a garden. He is in his 62nd year of marriage to his beautiful wife, Kathrine Herring who retired from the Sumter County Treasurer's office. They have 2 children and one deceased daughter, and 5 grandchildren. Mr. Herring currently lives in County Council District 3. Thank you for your service.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk to Council, Mary W. Blanding, if there would be any changes to the agenda. The Clerk to Council asked that the following items be moved up to immediately following the approval of the agenda.

1. Erica Williams And The Emergent Leaders
2. Gloria McClary with Durant Children's Center
3. Recognition of Sumter County Treasurer

It was also asked by the Clerk to Add under New Business, the following item as the first item under New Business:

1. Follow-Up On Council’s Decorum As It Relates To: Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.

The Chairman called for a motion concerning the adoption of the agenda for April 26, 2022, and the changes as cited by the Clerk to County Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the agenda as recommended by the Clerk to Council by moving three items immediately after action on the minutes, and adding one item under New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Budget Workshop And Special Meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2022

The Chairman called for a motion concerning action on the Regular Meeting Minutes of County Council on April 12, 2022, and the Budget Workshop Special Meeting Minutes on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the Budget Workshop and the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2022, as prepared by the Clerk to Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Introduction of Emergent Leaders by Erica Williams:

Ms. Erica Williams from the Development Board, presented nine members of the Emergent Leaders for 2022. Ms. Williams reminded Council that the members of the Emergent Leader are 11th Grade students from High Schools of Sumter and Lee Central High School. She introduced five members of the group at Council’s last meeting. She also stated that some of the 26 students went to City Council, and some are being introduced to County Council. The following students were introduced to Council:

1. Miranda Westfall, Lakewood High School
2. Evelyn Campos, Lakewood High School
3. Mackenzie Dubose, Sumter High School
4. Faith Baker, Sumter High School
5. Darrien Anderson, Sumter High School
6. Lorentz Rhodes, Sumter High school
7. Shanaya Brown, Lakewood High School
8. Ethan Brannon, Thomas Sumter Academy
9. Tenasha Hickman, Lee Central High School

ACTION: Received as information.

- (2) Gloria McClary with Durant Children’s Center (DCC) stated that this agency works with the Sheriff’s Office, the Police Department, , DSS, and several other agencies in Sumter. The Durant Children’s Center is a multi-disciplinary treatment and assessment Center. DCC came to Sumter during late 2019 with a \$25,000 grant; however, since that time, the Center has paid off its building and provides multi-disciplinary treatment from referrals such as social services, SLED, etc. Ms. McClary stated that when children are being neglected, abused, etc., someone must step in on their behalf. April is Child Abuse

Prevention Month. She stated that if you are driving around Sumter and see a lot of “Pinwheels”, the DCC has placed those Pinwheels throughout Sumter. The Pinwheels will bring attention to the problem of abuse and neglect for children. DCC has three centers, one in Florence, one in Hartsville, and now this one in Sumter. Through DCC, a child is provided with a “one-stop-shop.” At DCC there is an observation room, therapist, law enforcement, trained interviewers, etc.

DCC had an open house last year; however, due to COVID-19, they were unable to present Sumter County with a plaque which reads as follows:

*One Hundred Years From Now
It Will Not Matter
What Bank Account I Have,
the sort of house I live in,
or the kind of clothes I wear;
but the world may be different because
I was important in the life of a child.*

Chairman McCain thanked DCC for the plaque and members of the DCC staff and the Chairman took pictures to commemorate this occasion.

ACTION: Received as information.

- (3) Recognition Of Sumter County Treasurer, The Honorable Carolina B. Richardson, For Receiving The L. H. “Sonny” Siau Award Of Excellence From the S. C. Association Of Auditors, Treasurers, and Tax Collectors.

The Chairman read the following information concerning the award that the Honorable Carolina B. Richardson received from the S. C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers, and Tax Collectors.

The award is named in honor of Louis Harrell "Sonny" Siau Jr., who served as the Georgetown County Auditor for 27 years, longer than any other public official in Georgetown County history. During the years prior to Siau becoming auditor, he served on Georgetown County Council. He served on the SCATT's Legislative Committee for many years, and spearheaded positive changes in tax laws. He was also a World War II veteran. For his many years of service, and dedication to SCATT, this award was named in his honor. The L.H. "Sonny" Siau Award of Excellence was named after Siau because service to his county and to his fellow man were paramount in his life. Duty, loyalty and honor were the essence of his being. Siau's motto was to represent the people of South Carolina in a fair and impartial manner while administering tax laws fairly and justly toward all.

Then he presented the award to Ms. Richardson and gave her a gift from members of Sumter County Government.

ACTION: Received as information.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests:

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

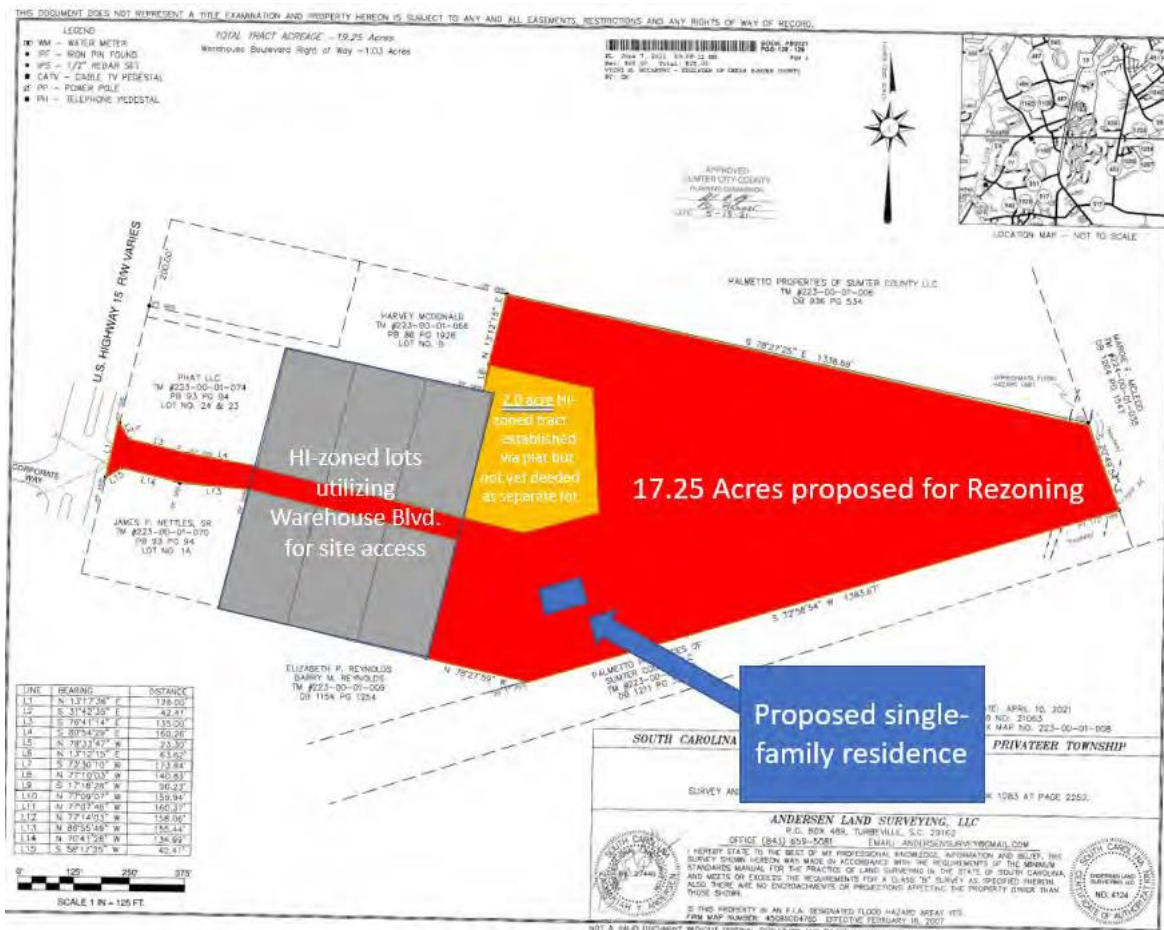
AC = Agricultural Conservation As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.

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-22-02-2675 Warehouse Blvd. - Second Reading/Public Hearing - (County) - A Request To Rezone A +/- 17.25 Acre From Heavy Industrial (HI) To Limited Commercial (LC). The Property Is Located At 2675 Warehouse Road And Is Represented By Tax Map # 223-00-01-008 (Part). (Prior To Action On Second Reading, Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Rezoning Request.)**

Ms. Helen Roodman stated that this proposed rezoning request is submitted by Mr. Drake Brunson, the property owner. Mr. Brunson hopes to rezone approximately 17.25 acres of land from Heavy Industrial (HI) to Limited Commercial. He hopes to be able to construct a single-family home on the property. Currently, the heavy industrial zoning does not allow for a single-family home to be placed on the property.



She stated that industrial use near residential zoning has a greater setback requirement than other Zoning. The above graphic shows the proposed lot for rezoning in red. The 2.0-acre parcel that was subdivided in 2021, but has not yet been transferred via deed, is highlighted in orange. The existing HI-zoned industrial and commercial lots, which rely on Warehouse Blvd. for access, are highlighted in grey, and the proposed single family residence location is highlighted in blue. It was also noted by Mrs. Roodman that the intent of the AC zoning district is to accommodate commercial development along major streets, while promoting land use compatibility by limiting the type and conditions of development. *Permitted and Conditional Uses:* Single-Family residential uses are a conditional use in the

LC zoning district, per the *Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance* (the *Ordinance*). However, if the request is approved, the applicant would be permitted to develop all uses indicated for the LC zoning district.

Mrs. Rooman stated that the Planning Commission and staff recommended approval of this request.

Then Chairman McCain convened a public hearing. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the rezoning request. No one spoke to this issue; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on second reading.

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

(2) **OA-22-07 -- Updates To Article 8 (Sign Ordinance Standards) To Allow Transit-Related Signage - Second Reading/Public Hearing -- (County) -- Amend Article 8, Section I To Allow Transit-Related Signage And Marketing Panels On Private Property And Public Property Or Within Public Right-Of-Way. (Prior To Action On Second Reading, Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Rezoning Request.)**

Mrs. Roodman presented this proposed ordinance amendment to Council on behalf of the Santee Wateree Regional Authority (SWRTA). She stated that currently, the planning regulations do not allow for SWRTA to advertise on other objects other than their buses. If this ordinance is approved, SWRTA will be allowed to place signs on transit related areas such as benches, shelters, etc. This will also allow for SWRTA to create a revenue base which will allow them to be able to use those funds to match with state and federal grants that require matching funds.

After Mrs. Rodman’s comments, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this proposed ordinance amendment. The following person(s) spoke during the public hearing.

- Louis Watkins stated that he is in support of the signage for the SWRTA Buses; however, if there is no phone number listed with the route information, then a person could just be waiting for the business and cannot call anyone. He also stated that there is a bus stop at Providence and Broad Street, and he is sure that the location will probably have a sign on a bench or a shelter. However, there is currently a problem at that location that when cars are parked at St. James Church close to the sidewalk; the egress from Providence Street onto Broad Street prohibits a person from seeing clearly onto Broad Street.

After all comments, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading as listed below.

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

NOTE: The Director of SWRTA, Lottie Jones, was present on behalf of the agency.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINES SCONTINUES

(3) Follow-Up On Council's Decorum As It Relates To: Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.

Councilman Baten stated that he is bringing up this matter because the Item Newspaper wrote about this matter and stated that County officials quarreled over Council's Decorum. He further stated that the information in the article upset him because this body quarreling at each other and not working with unity for the betterment of the County, it concerns him. He further stated that he made the statement that "to Attract, you must be Attractive." The image that Sumter County displays to the community, state, and Country, has a great impact on the decisions on businesses and industries to locate or expand in Sumter County. Lately, the behavior and conduct of members of the Sumter School Board of Trustees, and Sumter County Council reveal a lack of cohesiveness and mistrust. Sadly, the unity that was demonstrated in 2011 to attract Continental Tire, a \$500,000,000 investment created 1,600 jobs with high salaries, does not exist today. The bottom line, Team Sumter is dead. So where is all of this misunderstanding coming from as it relates to the agenda and the decorum.

He further stated that he has been looking at the minutes and he noticed that there is a statement under committee reports that says: *Reports From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.* Then Councilman Baten stated that the Chairman will ask, does any of these reports are from Council members. Council needs to get an understanding when Council is talking about "meetings, trainings, and conferences.

Councilman Baten also stated that each Council member represents constituents in each Council District. Periodically, each Council member will have meetings such as town hall meetings with the constituents and the community members share things with the Council member who should have the right to come back to County Council and report on these matters. A lot of the information is not only interesting for that district but for the other districts throughout the County. Therefore, Councilman Baten requested that Council should sit down together and discuss what types of meetings are included. Also, there are community groups such as the Sumter Branch of the NAACP, various Veteran Groups, VFW, Sumter County Combat VET that meet and Councilman Baten attends a lot of these meetings as a military veteran. Councilman Baten then stated that the Sumter County Veteran Group had a mentoring program in the school which he thought was an excellent program. He asked the Chairman did he have a right to come back and report to Council about this program? It is not on the agenda, but it is a meeting. Council member Baten asked another question; since Council members meet on a regular basis, every second and fourth Tuesday, and it does not appear that Council has a time limit on, should there be no limit on time unless Council establishes a time limit? He concluded his statements by saying that many years ago he had a conversation with a gentleman from Santee Lynches Regional Council On Governments. This man told him that Business and Industry are coming here in Sumter all the time. They do not tell you that they are in town, but they look at Sumter and they look at the education, cohesiveness, the working groups, and the ability for Sumter to work together. They even attend meetings. Council needs to understand the impact when there are quarrels and how it impacts the image of and to the community. After Councilman Baten's comments, he offered the following motion so that Council can have a better understanding of what the statement means: : *Reports From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.*

ACTION: MOTION to have a meeting to talk about what type of meetings, trainings, and/or conferences that will be acceptable for Council to report on during its regular meetings.

No one seconded the motion; however, it was recommended by Vice Chairman Byrd that this matter be sent to the appropriate Committee of Council for discussion and allow the Clerk to schedule this meeting so that the Committee can bring a recommendation to Council to vote up, down, reconsider the matter, etc.

(4) R-22-05 -- A Resolution To Appoint And Commission A Code Enforcement Officer For The Proper Security, General Welfare, And Convenience Of Sumter County.

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed resolution to Council for consideration to adopt the resolution. The Zoning Administrator wants to add Toni McLellan as a Constable for the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards. It was noted by the Attorney that this will not be adding an additional Constable, it will be replacing a slot where a former employee left the employment of the Sumter City County Planning and Zoning Department.

Mr. Bryan informed Council that the Constable commission is only for the duty that is outlined in the resolution listed below. After all comments, Council took action on the adoption of this resolution.

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

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Council, in the exercise of its general police power, is empowered to protect the health and safety of the residents of Sumter County; and

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Council is further authorized by Section 4-9-145 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, (1976, as amended) to appoint and commission as many code enforcement officers as may be necessary for the proper security, general welfare, and convenience of the County;

WHEREAS, Sumter County Ordinance 18-900 sets forth the procedure for appointing Code Enforcement Officers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following named individual is hereby appointed and commissioned as a Code Enforcement Officer of Sumter County for the purpose of providing for the proper security, general welfare, and convenience of the County, replete with all the powers and duties conferred by law upon constables in addition to such duties as may be imposed upon them by the governing body of this County, including the enforcement of the applicable building codes and the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance and the use of an ordinance summons, and with all the powers and duties conferred pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-9-145 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, (1976, as amended) and Sumter County Ordinance 18-900. Provided, however, this named individual shall not perform any custodial arrests in the exercise of her duties as a code enforcement officer and her authority to issue an ordinance summon will be in the unincorporated areas of Sumter County. This appointment shall remain in effect only until such time as this named individual is no longer employed by Sumter County as a Code Enforcement Officer.

Toni McLellan

Sumter City-County Planning Department

ADOPTED THIS THE 26th DAY OF April, 2022.

- (5) 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: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (1) Public Safety Committee Meeting To Be Held On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. In The County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC.

Councilman Washington, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, thanked Council members beyond the Committee members for attending the meetings of the Public Safety Committee. He stated that two citizens came in to talk about the debris and trash that is in their community. He further stated that ordinarily this would not be a public safety issue; however, because of the amount of debris and trash, there are unwanted animals coming to the neighborhood which includes wild hogs, dogs, huge rats. The Committee had testimonies from the neighbors of the community that came before the Committee. Also present was the Sheriff's Department, the Assistant County Administrator. Three options were developed for the citizens to use to address some of these issues:

1. Code Enforcement
2. Sheriff Department
3. Civil Recourse

There has been some progress and additional meetings will be held to continue to follow-up on these concerns.

- (2) Budget Workshop/Special Meeting Of Sumter County Council To Be Held On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, At 5:00 p.m. In The County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (This Meeting Will Begin At 5:00 P.M. Or Immediately After The Public Safety Committee Meeting.)

The County Administrator gave the following report from the Budget Workshop/Special Meeting of County Council:

- New External Auditing Firm: Mr. Mixon stated that Webster Rogers was the former Auditing Firm and was with Sumter County for nine years. It was voted on by Council to approve the new firm; Mauldin Jenkins CPAs and Advisors.
- Budget Presentations From Elected Officials: Council received budget presentations from the Coroner, the Public Defender, and the Solicitor. Each department asked for additional personnel and additional funding.
- Other Departments Within The County: Mrs. Keysa Rogers presented the personnel request and additional funding information from the County's Department Heads.

There have been no changes to the budget at this time which has the budget revenues are \$54,672,976, and expenditures are \$56,105,438.

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

Councilman Washington reported that there was a Sheriff’s Office Citizens Advisory Meeting held on Monday, April 25, 2022, at Ebenezer Center. County staff was there including Mr. Mixon and Public Works. He concluded that the meeting was very productive.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) Planning Commission Information
- 2) Building Codes Department
- 3) Public Works Department
- 4) Sheriff's Office Monthly Report
- 5) Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Mixon reported to Council that on Saturday, April 30, 2022, the County will be working with the Litter Advisory Board, the City of Sumter, the Development Board, Central Carolina Community Foundation, local schools, and churches, and HOA’s on how to combat Litter in our community. There will be approximately 80 people for the Round-Table Discussions called “On The Table” with community members discussing matters about litter. There will be 20 people at four different sites which includes Hillcrest Middle School, Eastern Community Center, the Patriot Park Pavilion, and the Development Board. This will be a grassroot conversation about the litter issue. Also, as a part of the group, Emergent Leaders will be a part of the discussion groups. There will be four different questions that all the groups will answer. The last question that will be asked is for the groups to come up with ideas on how to combat the litter problem in their particular area. There is a “Beyond the Table Grant” which will allow for each quadrant to submit projects that they can work on which will include \$1,000 from Sumter County and \$1,000 from the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

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 persons spoke during public comment.

Jackie Hughes March 22, 2022, we as American’s think too much for our government officials. She thanked Council for their service and what they are doing to try to help the community. Ms. Hughes stated that when she was young, it was not expected that the government would take care of her and others from cradle to grave. She stated her thoughts about how the government is operating and taking care of its citizens and non citizens. The services that are being provided by the government has to be paid for by someone, per Ms. Hughes. She further talked about people believing that money grows on trees; however, she added that does not work for state, city, county, and other local governments. Taxpayers must pay for all the services that are being provided. Ms. Hughes also talked about not having the funds to pay for a paved road, medical protection, fire protection, vacations, etc. Lastly, she stated that she was in high school when President Kennedy said “asked not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. She ended her statement by asking what the citizens are willing to give for this county.

Ronnie Rhodes who is a Sumter County Citizen and he is the parent of Lorentz Rhodes, an Emergent Leader student. Mr. Rhodes also stated that he is a representative for South Carolina University Research 1890 Program. He provided his card to Council and the public concerning the services that he can provide to the citizens.

Dr. Brenda Williams stated that she is appreciative for the work that Council has done with the ARPA Funds. She reminded Council that the Federal Government will be sending additional funds to the County and the Family Unit would like to receive a tenth of the \$10,000,000 that will be coming to Sumter. Dr. Williams also talked to Council members again about the Manning Avenue Bridge which is in disrepair and should be closed. Dr. Williams talked about the hazardous position that the people in South Sumter are living in due to the disrepair of the bridge. Dr. Williams also said that “Justice delayed is Justice denied.” The citizens of Sumter have been denied the repair of this bridge.

ADJOURNMENT: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 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: May 10, 2022

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: April 22, 2022
- 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: April 22, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council

ADA Information: In compliance with ADA/Section 504, Sumter County Is Prepared To Make Accommodations For Individuals Needing Assistance To Participate In Our Programs, Services, Or Activities.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 13 East Canal Street, Sumter, SC, and the Sumter County website -- [www.sumtercountysc.org] under Our Council *Agendas/Minutes*. In addition, the agenda was electronically sent to newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and concerned citizens.