



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Courthouse, Third Floor, Room 308
County Council's Chambers - 141 North Main Street, Sumter, SC

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Sumter County Government Offices are currently closed to the public.
Please use the following method to attend County Council's Meeting.

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

STATEMENT - Prior to the meeting starting, Chairman James T. McCain made the following statement:

To my fellow members of Council, to all the residents of Sumter County, South Carolina, and to each and every one who has been affected by the coronavirus, I just wanted to briefly say this: We have all been adjusting to a new normal.

Since you are watching this County Council meeting on YouTube, you understand that redefining social norms are going to be part of our lives for the time being. It's not easy, but that is the hand we have been dealt and we will move forward with the business of Sumter County Council and Sumter County Government in a safe and prudent manner. But we will move forward.

You will notice that the majority of the members of Council are participating in this meeting remotely via video conference because that is the safest place for them to be right now. I thank each one of them for their efforts. I am in Council chambers with Councilman Eugene Baten at the Sumter County Courthouse with the bare minimum of staff and we are all practicing social distancing measures.

Budget season is upon us and although the offices of Sumter County Government are closed to the public, county government continues to function. All county departments have done their best to meet the needs of the general public in a safe way. If you ever have any questions please visit Sumter County's website to find the phone number for the department you may need. That web address is www.sumtercountysc.org

For general questions call 803-436-2102 and we will find out the answer to whatever question you may have.

Let's remember to be patient with one another as we adjust to this new normal. We hope that the citizens of Sumter County will view our virtual County Council meetings online and remember we are here to serve to you and we won't forget our mission to move Sumter County forward.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Absent

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Lorraine Dennis, Kelsey Andrews, Joe Perry, Mary W. Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Helen Roodman, Allen Dailey, and one Sheriff Deputy.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT CALL TO ORDER: Chairman James T. McCain called the meeting to order. He then conducted a roll call voted for each Council members and staff member that were participate in the meeting.

Council District 1 – Councilman Chris Sumpter - present
Council District 2 – Councilman Artie Baker - present
Council District 3 – Vice Chairman James R. Byrd - present
Council District 4 – Councilman Charles T. Edens - present
Council District 5 – Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney - present
Council District 7 – Councilman Eugene R. Baten – present
Council District 6 – Councilman James T. McCain - present

Staff:

Gary Mixon - present
Lorraine Dennis - present
Johnathan Bryan - present
Kelsey Andrews - present
Mary Blanding – present
Helen Roodman - preesnt

INVOCATION: Council Member, Staff Member, Or Local Citizen
Chairman McCain asked Councilman Vivian McGhaney to give the invocation; Councilman McGhaney concurred and gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Chairman lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Chairman McCain asked the Clerk to Council if there were any changes to the agenda, she stated that there were no changes to the agenda. Then the Chairman called for a motion to approve the agenda as printed.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Chairman McCain also asked Council for action on the minutes of March 24, 2020. The following motion was offered and carried.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the minutes of March 24, 2020.

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

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

1. **RZ-20-01 -- Black River Road And Edens Road (County) -- Third Reading** -- A Request To Rezone 6 Separate Tax Parcels Totaling +/- 313.6 Acres Of Land From R-15 To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Located Near The Intersection Of Black River Road And Edens Road And Represented By Tax Map #'S 191-00-02-011, 191-00-02-029, 191-00-01-021, 191-00-01-002, 191-00-01-023 And 191-00-02-030.

Helen Roodman, the Interim Planning Director, stated that there have been no changes to this rezoning request since first reading. She further stated that this request is to rezone six (6) separate tax parcels totaling +/- 313.6 acres from Residential-15 (R-15) to Agricultural Conservation (AC). This request was initiated by County Council, who at their January 14, 2020, meeting unanimously voted to forward rezoning action to the Planning Commission for formal recommendation as required under State law. Discussion of these R-15 zoned parcels originated from County Council adoption proceedings for the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan. After Mrs. Roodman's comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading.

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

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **20-924 - First Reading** -- An Ordinance To Authorize The Sale Of 0.89 Acre Of Property At 1710 South Guignard Parkway.

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance for first reading approval. He stated that during 2017, Mr. Edward Tiller, asked the County to purchase the property located at 1710 South Guignard Parkway; the County agreed to the purchase and County Council passed ordinance 17-872 for sale of the property through a contract. However, since that time, Mr. Tiller defaulted on the contract. This ordinance is for consideration of allowing Mrs. Sarah Tiller-Ford to purchase the property and to rescind ordinance #17-872.

WHEREAS, Sumter County owns property on South Guignard Parkway which is shown on the tax maps for Sumter County as parcel number 225-00-03-020; and

WHEREAS, Sumter County Council previously agreed to sell the same parcel to Edward Tiller according to the terms of Sumter County Ordinance 17-872; and

WHEREAS, Edward Tiller did not sign the contract which was approved by Ordinance 17-872 and he did he pay any money toward the purchase price; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Tiller-Ford is interested in purchasing the property to use it for residential purposes; and

WHEREAS, Sumter County does not currently need the property for any public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AT ITS REGULAR MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

1. Sumter County shall enter into a Real Estate Purchase Contract in the form of Exhibit A which is attached hereto, the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference.
2. This Ordinance shall be effective upon Third Reading.
3. Proceeds of the sale shall be distributed to the Sumter County Infrastructure Fund.
4. The County Administrator is authorized to sign the Real Estate Purchase Contract, the deed and any other documents necessary to convey the property to the Buyer, Sarah Tiller-Ford.
5. Ordinance No. 17-872, which authorized the sale of the same property to Edward Tiller, is hereby rescinded and any purported obligation to sell to Edward Tiller is hereby declared void and of no effect.

After Mr. Bryan’s presentation, the Chairman asked if there were any questions concerning the ordinance. There were no questions; therefore, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the first reading as presented.

2. **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. **20-922 – Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Allow Sumter County Council Members To Participate In County Council Meetings From Remote Locations By Electronic Means In Certain Circumstances.**

Johnathan Bryan presented ordinance 20-922 for second reading approval. He stated that last month County Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance to allow Council to hold meetings as

needed. This ordinance will be to allow for future meetings under certain emergency circumstances. Mr. Bryan called Council's attention to sections one and two, listed below, which referenced that Council would conduct their meetings through speaker phones. However, this meeting that Council is holding on April 28, 2020, is through "Zoom Conference" and does not technically require a speaker phone, but other electronic means – computer, cellphone, electronic tablet, etc. Therefore, the Attorney stated that new verbiage will need to be added prior to public hearing to amend this section of the ordinance.

Councilman Edens commented that Council could add information about Zoom Conferencing and other similar conferencing packages so that the County is not locked into using only Zoom Conferencing.

Mr. Bryan will provide Council with different verbiage to clarify this portion of the ordinance prior to third reading.

1. *A conference call shall be arranged and the member(s) participating from remote locations shall call the host number, identify themselves when prompted and be recognized by the presiding officer who shall **speak into a telephone** instrument that is set to operate on its speaker.*
2. *The **speaker on the telephone** instrument shall be set so that everyone in the room can hear the voice of those participating from remote locations.*

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Sumpter, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the second reading as presented.

2. **20-923 – Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Rescind Ordinance 18-844 Which Established And Created A Special Tax District Within Sumter County, South Carolina, Known As The "Boyles Pond Special Tax District."** (*Public Hearing Will Be Held At Third Reading On May 12, 2020.*)

Mr. Bryan reminded Council that during 2018, the owners of Boyles Bond asked Council to adopt a Special Tax District known as the Boyles Pond Special Tax District to allow for this group to be able to collect funds to pay for the reconstruction of the Boyles Pond Dam. The Dam was destroyed during the Flood of the Century, October 2015. The repairs for the pond are cost prohibited; therefore, the Boyles Pond owners have requested to rescind the ordinance establishing the collection of funds through the Special Tax District. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant seconding reading to this proposed ordinance as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting (Virtual) April 28, 2020, 5:30 p.m. In County Council’s Conference Room, Sumter County Courthouse 141 N. Main Street, Room 308. (McCain, Edens, McGhaney)

Chairman McCain stated that all members of the Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee members were present at the virtual meeting. Also, present were Council members Sumpter, Baten, Baker, and Byrd. Staff members were also present which included Gary Mixon, Mary Blanding, Lorraine Dennis, Johnathan Bryan, and Kelsey Andrews. Mr. Mixon presented the budget information to Council and the proposed schedule for budget workshops. See information below. No action was taken.

BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

May 12, 2020	Budget Workshop
May 19, 2020	Budget Workshop
May 26, 2020	Budget Workshop – Regular Meeting 1 st Reading
June 9, 2020	Regular Meeting -- Public Hearing 2 nd Reading
June 23, 2020	Regular Meeting -- 3 rd Reading

REVENUE PROJECTIONS

- **Property Tax-** moderate increase by 1%. This is due to new construction of homes and apartment complex addition.
- **Vehicle Tax-** Vehicle tax collection is down around 20% for March (\$60,000). This number is expected to rebound in July when the DMV deadline for paying ends.
- **Local Government Fund-** It is unknown if we will get an increase in the Local Government Fund for FY 2021. Current LGF is \$4,355,101. We could see this number stay the same or increase as much as 2.5-5%. This is dependent upon the State passing a budget for the fiscal year. A 2.5% increase would be \$4,463,979 or \$108,878, and a 5% increase would be \$4,572,856 or \$217,755.
- **Business Personal Property Tax-** The County may see a decrease in business personal property tax in FY 2021. This tax is driven by business assets. If businesses have put off purchasing new assets this will cause a decrease in collections for FY 2021.
- **LOST-** Estimating a 15% decrease in LOST revenue for the first quarter of FY 2021. We are estimating this to level out the rest of the year. Once we have March and April collections we will have a better idea of how collections are trending.
- **Capital Penny Sales Tax-** Estimating a 15% decrease in Capital Penny Sales Tax for the first quarter of FY 2021 (\$450,000). Assuming collections will level out through the rest of the fiscal year.
- **Hospitality/Accommodations Tax-** Collections are down for hospitality and accommodations tax. March collections are down roughly 10% or \$2,000. This is due to unpaid businesses; they have shut either down or unable to pay at this time. Accommodation taxes are down 30% or \$700.00.

- **Fees/Fines-** We have been conservative on business license and permit projections the past few years. We will continue this strategy keeping projections conservative for FY 2021. Court fines were trending below projections during the current fiscal year. We plan to budget those numbers based on current fiscal year collections.
- **Program Fees-** In FY 2021 we expect programs to be opening up and fees to remain the same. In the case of recreation sports programs if we do not have the programs we do not have the associated expenses. We expect parks and centers to be available for rent next fiscal year.
- **Interest Accounts -** We are waiting on quarterly interest statements to come in to determine the impact if any. We are currently earning \$60,000-\$65,000 in interest in the general fund annually.

EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS

- **Operating-** We are budgeting as close to FY 2020 expenditures as possible. Considerations for adjustments are being made on a case by case basis.
- **Personnel-** We would still like to consider some level of COLA. We will run numbers for a 1%, 2% and 3% COLA. This will depend on the LGF and any other additions to revenues that we may have late in the budget process (June).
- The Wage Study is now complete but we have not had a chance to fully review the study. We will have a presentation for Council at May 12, 2020, Budget Workshop.
- **Capital-** We have many capital requests and are compiling those. EMS has requested \$519,000 for LIFEPAK systems for the ambulances. Landfill is requesting a compactor valuing \$747,871. Public Works has requested a total of \$636,083 in equipment. In addition, we have normal fleet and building requests.
- **Other Agencies -** The Administrator stated that he would like Council to make some decisions about the School District, the Colleges, and other entities early on during the budget so that Council can better focus on the needs of Sumter County Government.

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

1. Councilman McGhaney gave a report on the Seniors Raising Children program through the Santee Lynches Council on Governments. *See attached flyer.*

MONTHLY REPORTS

The Clerk to Council, Mary W. Blanding, gave the following report concerning the Monthly Reports.

1. Sheriff's Monthly Report
2. 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget Workshop Schedule
3. SCDOT News Release

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Thanks From The County Administrator: Mr. Mixon thanked Council members for their support during the decisions that needed to be made for the County and staff because of COVID-19. Mr. Mixon added that Council has been engaged in the decision-making and been kept abreast of changes that needed to be made at the last minute; yet, they have supported the staff in the decisions. Then Mr. Mixon continued to verbally thank the first responders: EMS, Sheriff’s Office and staff, and Firemen doing everything they can to keep us safe. He asked the public to please support the first responders by doing what they can do to be safe and adhere to the request to Shelter-In-Place, wear face masks, engage in social distancing, washing hands, etc. Mr. Mixon also thanked all other staff for being supportive of the rotating staff, etc. The County’s work is continuing.

As more information is provided to the County, decisions will be made as to when a regular schedule will be back put back in order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment Is Suspended Until May 12, 2020, Or Until Further Notice By Sumter County Council.

ADJOURNMENT

After all discussion and all comments from the public, motion was made by Councilman Sumpter, seconded by Councilman Baten to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 6:43 p.m.

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 12, 2020

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: March 20, 2020
- 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: March 20, 2020

Minutes - Regular Meeting - Sumter County Council
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Page 9

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Mary W. Blanding



Seniors Raising Children Program (SRC)



Are you a grandparent who is the sole caregiver for children?

The Senior Raising Children Program is here to help!

- *Grandparent 55 and older may apply
- *Caring for children 18 and under
- *Program sponsors the cost of Tutoring, After-School Programs, & Summer Camps for children, giving a break to the caregiver

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
APRIL GREEN - FAMILY CAREGIVER ADVOCATE
(803) 774-1978**