



Minutes
Sumter County Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2022 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building
Third Floor, County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

<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

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Lorraine Dennis, Mary W. Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Greg Hawkins, Joe Perry, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelbie Goulding.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 18 members of the public were present.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman McCain called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Retired US Air Force Chief Cheryl R. Moye served our Country from December 1989 to January 2018. She has 28 years of Honorable Service and Shaw AFB was her last duty station. She is a member of the Air and Space Force Association, and the Sumter County Cultural Commission. She currently lives in County Council District 4. Councilman Edens thanked Ms. Moye for her service and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and took pictures with Retired US Air Force Chief Cheryl R. Moye.

Councilman Baten also thanked Mrs. Moye for her service and especially as a former Chief Master Sargent. He informed everyone that he was one of those working on behalf of the women to allow them to become Chief Master Sargents. Councilman Baten also stated that he was glad to see the results of his labor that Mrs. Moye retired as a Chief Master Sargent. Then Councilman Baten and Mrs. Moye took pictures.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk if there were any changes in the agenda. Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes; therefore, the Chairman called for a motion concerning action on the December 13, 2022.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the December 13, 2022; agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Chairman McCain asked for a motion concerning the minutes of Council’s November 22, 2022, meeting.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the December 13, 2022; agenda as presented.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests: **None**

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.*

OTHER PUBLIC HEARING:

- (1) **Ordinance #22-982 -- An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 22-973 Of Sumter County, South Carolina (The 2022-2023 Sumter County Budget Ordinance) By Changing The Amount Of Anticipated Funds, Moneys And Revenues Estimated To Be Received By Sumter County From All Resources And Changing The Amount To Be Allocated Toward The 2022-2023 Budget Of Sumter County. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Gary Mixon, the County Administrator, presented this proposed ordinance. He stated that this is a request from staff to amend the Operating Budget to allow the staff to use up to \$700,000 from the County’s Fund Balance to pay for a contract bid for the remodeling of the Magnolia Building on Magnolia Street here in Sumter. The \$700,000 will be added to other funds to complete the entire

renovation so that several departments can be moved to the Magnolia Building (*Probation and Parole, Department of Juvenile Justice, Clemson Extension, and Voter Registration will be housed in the building. Additionally, there will be extra space for storage for Voter Registration and future office space for other areas.*)

After Mr. Mixon’s comments, the Chairman convened a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. No one spoke during public comment. Then the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading as listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) **Ordinance #22-983 – First Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of The Property Located At 205 And 215 North Magnolia Street To Connelly Development, LLC. (Title Only)**

Mr. Johnathan W. Bryan, the County Attorney, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for first reading consideration by Title Only. He stated that the property is the Old Mental Health Building and property at the corner of Calhoun Street and Lafayette Boulevard. The County is still negotiating with the company and by second reading all negotiations should be confirmed and ready for public hearing at second reading. After Mr. Bryan’s presentation, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading approval to this proposed ordinance as presented by the Administrator.

- (2) **Ordinance #22-984 – First Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of The Property Located At 1987 Durant Lane To Adams Property Group, LLC. (Title Only)**

Mr. Bryan presented this proposed ordinance stating that this is a similar situation to the previous ordinance. The ordinance allows for the sale of property a 1987 Durant Lane, previously known as the Spectrum Building; however, negotiations are continuing and should be completed prior to Council’s meeting on January 10, 2023.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading approval to this proposed ordinance as presented by the County Attorney.

- (3) **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 In Open Session If Necessary.**

No executive session was held.

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) **Ordinance #22-982 – Second Reading -- An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 22-973 Of Sumter County, South Carolina (The 2022-2023 Sumter County Budget Ordinance) By Changing The Amount Of Anticipated Funds, Moneys And Revenues Estimated To Be Received By Sumter County From All**

Resources And Changing The Amount To Be Allocated Toward The 2022-2023 Budget Of Sumter County.

After Mr. Mixon presented this matter to Council, the Chairman convened a public hearing. However, no one spoke during public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading of this proposed ordinance.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) Internal Affairs Property Committee Meeting To Be Held On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, At 5:30 p.m. on the Third Floor of the County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Byrd, Baker, And McGhane)

The Chairman of the Committee, Vice Chairman Byrd, stated that all members of the Internal Affairs Committee were present. He also stated that in his report, he will present actions and recommendations by the Committee for Council's approval.

- **Accommodations Tax Advisory Board:** The City and County will review the needs for appointment to this Committee and act on the appointments as soon as possible.
- **Historical Commission:** Recommendation and second were received from the Committee to appoint Mary Lou Henry and reappoint Jordan White to the Historical Commission.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Sumter County Council.

- **Iris Festival Advisory Board:** Recommendation and second were received from the Committee to appoint Brian Alston to the Iris Festival Advisory Board.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Sumter County Council.

- **Planning Commission:** Recommendation and second were received from the Committee to reappoint James Price to the Planning Commission as a County appointee and to recommend Candidate A to the City of Sumter as a Joint Appointment.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Sumter County Council to reappoint James Price to the Planning Commission as a County appointee and to recommend Candidate A to the City of Sumter as a Joint Appointment.

- **Tax Board Of Appeals:** Recommendation and second were received from the Committee to reappoint all existing members that are willing to serve and bring the term dates in line with the current year and a four-year ending date.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by approve the recommendation to reappoint all existing members that are willing to serve and bring the term dates in line with the current year and a four-year ending date.

- **Santee Lynches Regional Council On Governments:** Recommendation and second were received from the Committee to appoint Herbert McClary to the Santee Lynches Regional Council On Government Board.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Sumter County Council to appoint Herbert McClary to the Santee Lynches Regional Council On Government Board.

- **Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Appeals Board:** Recommendation and second were received from the Committee to approve the appointment that was sent by the City of Sumter. All appointments to this board are joint.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Sumter County Council to inform the City of Sumter that Candidate A is approved by Sumter County Council.

- **Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals:** Recommendation and second were received from the Committee to appoint William T. Bailey on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Sumter County Council to approve the appointment of William T. Bailey to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

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

Councilman Washington thanked the Chairman and the County Administrator for meeting with him concerning the conditions of the private roads in the County. He further stated that the citizens are constantly calling not only in his area, but other Council Districts areas throughout the County. Councilman Washington further stated that when Council convenes in the new year, he wants Council to try to address this problem in the community. It was also stated by Council Washington that Council must do more than telling people No. He also said the private road issue must be addressed because it is a safety issue and a basic service issue. Councilman Washington asked staff and Council to think about creative ways this issue can be addressed for the citizens, and it can be discussed in 2023.

Councilman Baten stated that he was the presiding Council Member at the Sumter County Christmas Tree Lighting Program on December 2, 2022, and it was well attended with over three hundred people attending. Students from the local school district performed and did an excellent job. The tree was lite

and Shelbie Goulding along with Joe Perry were at the event. Shelbie Goulding had pictures of the tree lighting in the Item Newspaper on December 8, 2022. It was a wonderful occasion.

Councilman Baker recognized the new Sumter School Board Trustee, Daniel Palumbo who attended this meeting, and thanked him for attending.

Councilman Baten asked to speak again after the Administrator gave his report, he asked to give the following report:

Since his last report to Sumter County Council on October 10, 2022, 27 more veterans have died; the total is now 362 in the past two years since December 2020. He also stated that every 49 hours a veteran pass away. He further stated that he looked at the Department of Veteran Affairs and they indicate that every day 22 veterans commit suicide. Councilman Baten further stated that every day there is a suicide by a veteran every 65 minutes and 8,030 suicides per year. Sumter County Council should do everything that can be done to help the local Veteran Affairs Office here at the County and see that they have the staff and the resources to help all veterans.

Chairman McCain congratulated Councilman Baker on his marriage on December 3, 2022, and congratulated Councilman Baker on his birthday on the night of this meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- Employee Christmas Schedule
- Swearing In Ceremony for Council Members Baker, Edens, and McCain

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mixon stated that the 2020-2021 Audit should be complete by the end of December 2022; therefore, during the first or second meeting in January 2023, Council will receive the Audit Report from the new auditing firm. He also thanked Uvette Rogers, the Finance Department Head, for her work and the work of her staff to prepare for the audit and other financial matters of the County.

Lastly, Mr. Mixon wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

Chairman McCain asked if anyone wished to during public comment. The following persons spoke during public comment.

- Richard Geddings spoke to Council about Kangaroo Lane. He stated that he and other community members came before Council in November to ask for help to provide some service on this road. He commented that the road used to be maintained; however, now the County's Public Works staff is saying that the road is a private road. Mr. Geddings also stated that for years there was a Green Sign that indicated the road was Kangaroo Lane. Now, the Public Works Department took the green sign down and installed a blue sign on Kangaroo Lane. He asked Council members for help.

- Sharon Geddings stated that she lives also lives on Kangaroo Lane and that she has a petition from the residents of the street. She said that she has a legal document that states that it is stated Kangaroo Lane is to be maintained by the County. She also said that they are not asking for it to be paved or that is graveled. Ms. Geddings said they are only asking that it be maintained as it was in the past. It was also stated by Mrs. Geddings that when it rains, the Lane is unbearable; people have to drive through other people's property to get to and from their homes. Mrs. Geddings gave the documents to Mr. Mixon. (Note, the Clerk to Council made copies of the documents and gave the originals back to Mrs. Geddings.)
- Melisa Myers stated that she was at Council's last meeting concerning a rezoning issue on 2590 Peach Orchard Road which was deferred at the last meeting. She stated that she needs to know what is on the agenda prior to coming to the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 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: January 10, 2023

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 first floor of the Administration Building.
- Date Posted: December 9, 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 Spectrum Cable.
- Date Notified: December 9, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk To County Council