



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building, Third Floor
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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Council members and the public will be required to wear a face mask and have temperatures checked upon arrival. Social Distancing is also required.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjjqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

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, David Shadoan, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Allen Daily, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Five members of the public attended the meeting.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper

CALL TO ORDER: Councilman James T. McCain, called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone in attendance repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Councilman McCain asked the Clerk, Mrs. Blanding, if there were any changes to the agenda. Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes to the agenda. Then Councilman McCain called for a motion on the approval of the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Councilman McCain asked for a motion to approve the minutes for County Council's January 26, 2021, Regular Meeting as prepared by the Clerk to Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the January 26, 2021, regular as presented.

**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.

- (1) **OA-20-01, Development Density in the Airfield Compatibility District (County) - First Reading**
-- A Request To Amend Article 3, Section R: Airfield Compatibility District To Create An Additional District Within The Airfield Compatibility District (ACD) As Well As Implementation Of Development Standards That Result In A Dispersed Pattern Of Development Within The Newly Created District.

Mrs. Roodman presented this proposed ordinance amendment to Council for first reading approval. She stated that if this ordinance amendment is approved, it would allow for a new Development Density in the Airfield Compatibility District. Also, this would allow for the:

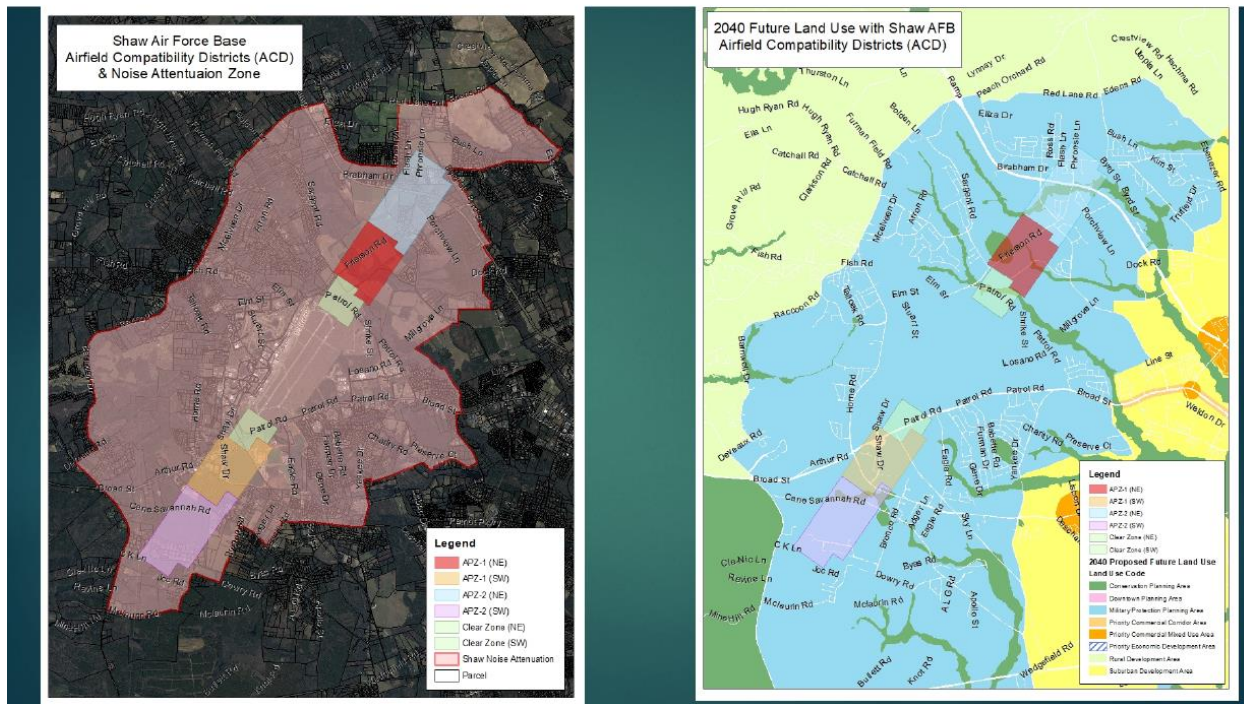
- Amendment to the Sumter County – Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance Article 3, Section R: Airfield Compatibility Districts (ACD);
- Creation of an additional district within the ACD; and
- Implementation of an additional development standards that result in a dispersed pattern of development within the newly created district.

Mrs. Roodman also provided the background on this request and layouts of the existing area, and the possibility of how the area would look if a new district was approved for an airfield compatibility district.

- December 2019 – Adopted 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Overarching goal of the Plan is the, *protect Shaw Air Force Base and Poinsett Electronic Combat Range, including its facilities and its mission, from unwanted and incompatible development encroachment.*
- Boundaries and extent of MPA were revised based on JLUS Recommendations.
- 2016 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) supports one (1) unit per acre development density in the areas impacted by military operations outside of the Clear Zone (CZ) and Accident Potential Zones (APZ).
- Agricultural Conservation (AC) district has one (1) acre minimum lot size
- Minimum lot width of 60 ft. with no width to depth ratio.
- Regulations can be used to create development densities at the street level that appear to be R-6 or R-9.



Mrs. Roodman, also provided Council with the following map of the area as it currently exists for development matters.



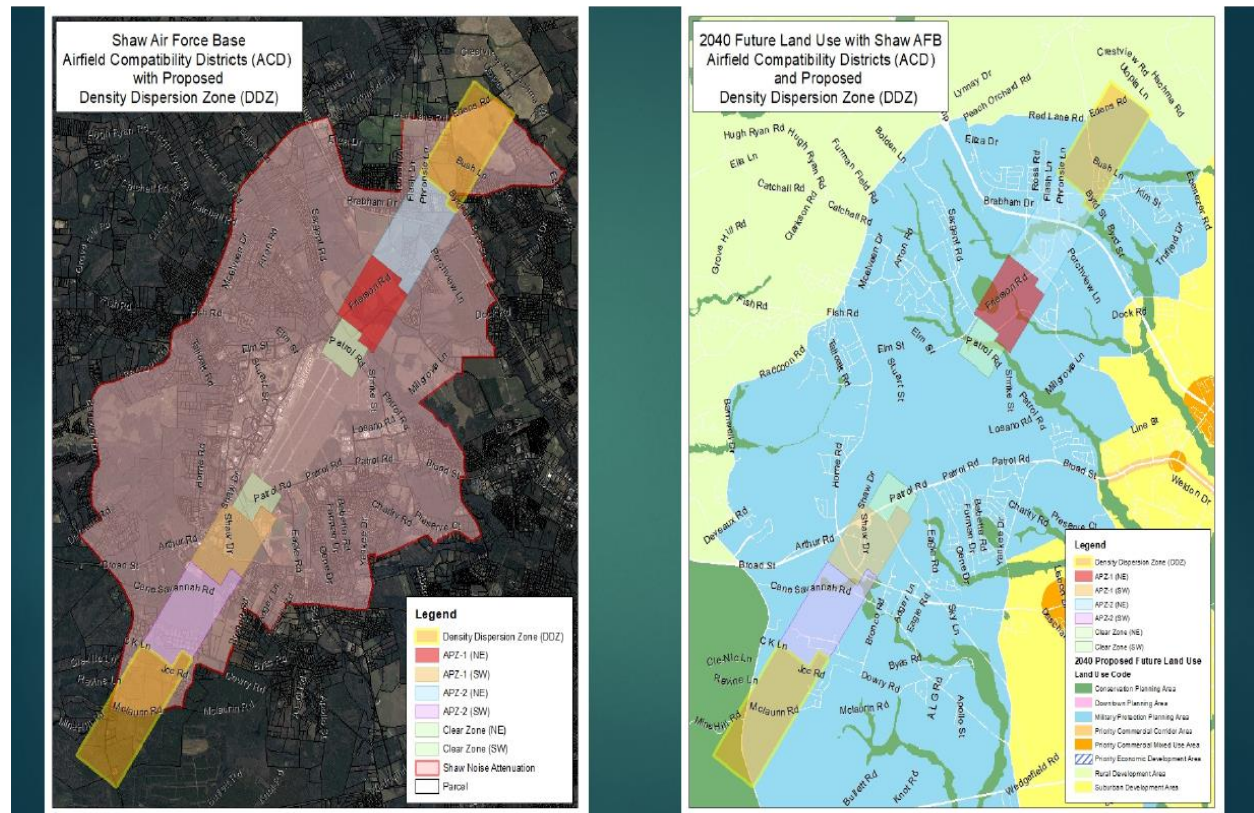
Mrs. Roodman stated that it is suggested by the Planning staff that the following language be used to make changes in this area:

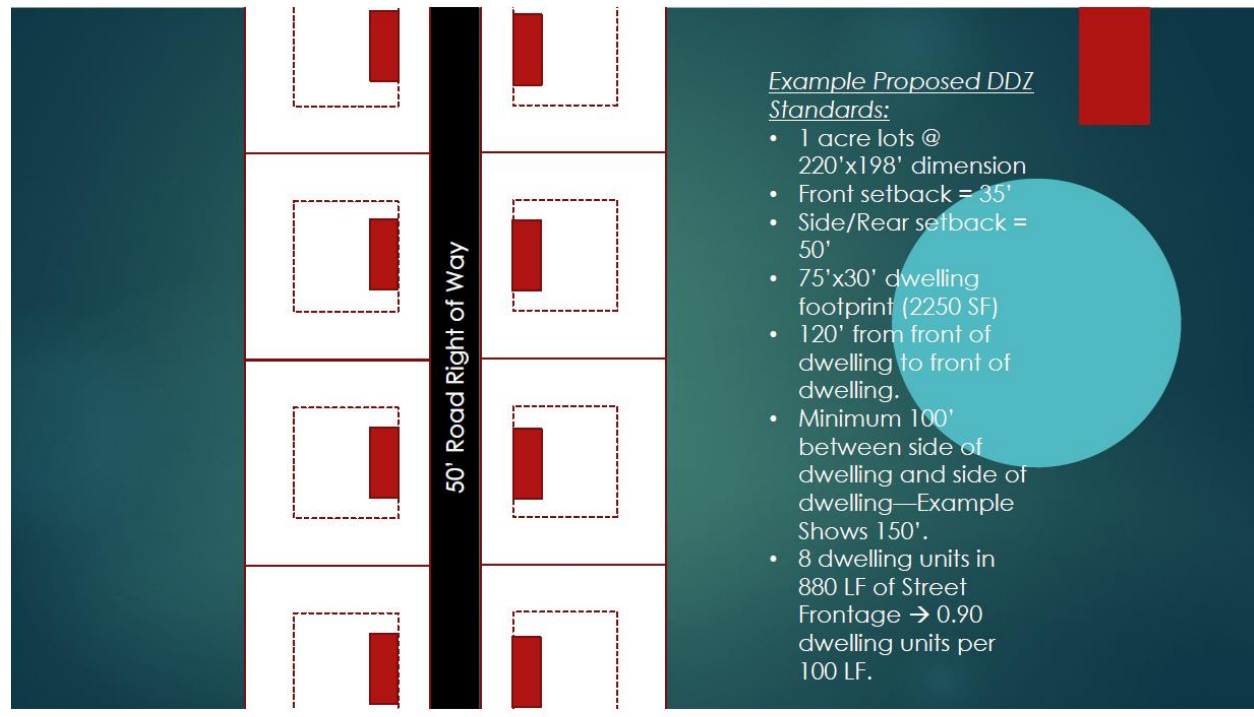
Amend Section 3.r.2. to add “DDZ, Density Dispersion Zone”

- ✓ Amend Section 3.r.5. Performance Standards to include the following:
- ✓ Minimum Lot Width – 220’
- ✓ Minimum Lot Area – 1 acre
- ✓ Setbacks –
- ✓ Front – 35’ local/collector; 45’ arterial
- ✓ Sides – 50’
- ✓ Rear – 50’
- ✓ Amend Exhibit 7 Airfield Compatibility District (ACD) Use Regulations to include DDZ.
- ✓ Amend Section 3.n.5. Development Standards (AC District) to reference ACD supplementary Development Standards.

Mrs. Roodman further stated that :

- ✓ It is appropriate to create a locally designated Airfield Compatibility District that addresses density in the immediate vicinity of the extended runway centerline.
- ✓ Supported by 2040 Plan Goals and Policies.
- ✓ Supported by 2016 Joint Land Use Study.
- ✓ Supports protection of Shaw Air Force Base operations and mission.





Mrs. Roodman asked Council members to consider referring this proposed ordinance amendment request back to the Planning Commission for refinement and further discussion at the Planning Commission February 24, 2021, meeting. Thereby, the additional time cause second reading to held on March 9, 2021, and third reading and public hearing on March 23, 2021.

Vice Chairman Byrd asked Mrs. Roodman what is the number of property owners in the proposed area that would be changed and the amount of property in this area. Mrs. Roodman will provide the answer to these questions at a later date.

After all comments from Council, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously approved by Council to grant first reading approval and to allow for this Ordinance Amendment to be sent back to the Planning Commission for further review and brought back to Council for second and third reading on March 9, 2021, and March 23, 2021, respectfully.

- (2) **RZ-20-16 -- 475 Myrtle Beach Highway (County) - Third Reading -- A Request To Rezone +/- 7.00-Acre Tract From Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W) To Heavy Industrial (HI). The Property Is Located At 475 Myrtle Beach Hwy. And Is Represented By Tax Map # 268-15-01-041.**

Prior to Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director, presenting this proposed rezoning request to Council for third reading consideration, Councilman Baten asked the Chairman to allow him to ask the County Attorney a question. Councilman Baten asked Mr. Bryan, the County Attorney, whether or not he should recuse himself from discussion and eventual action on this matter since his deceased wife's family owns this property and that the property is now a part of heirs property which has his

daughter and son linked to it as heirs of the property. Mr. Bryan stated that he prefers not giving “one Council member” legal advice especially about Ethics issues which should be discussed with the Ethics Commission. However, since Councilman Baten stated publicly that his family has an interest in property close by the property proposed to be rezoned, it appears that Councilman Baten should strongly consider recusing himself from discussion and voting on this rezoning request.

Then Councilman Baten stated that he recused himself from this discussion and voting on this matter due to a conflict of interest and left Council Chambers during this discussion. However he did mention, prior to him leaving the Chambers that Mr. Brown had prepared documents concerning this rezoning and it had statements in it with his name affixed to some of the statements. Councilman Baten further stated that some of the statement’s that Mr. Brown referenced to him were not true and he wanted on the record that he did not say some of the things that Mr. Brown mentioned in Mr. Brown’s documents.

Mrs. Roodman stated that prior to this meeting, she sent a memo to Council answering the questions that Council had at last meeting concerning this rezoning request. She further said that she has no additional information on this proposed rezoning request.

Councilman Baker stated that he would offer a motion to deny second reading because he believes that placing this business in an existing neighborhood would not be the best thing for those that were already located in the community. Those living in houses in this community were living their first and to add Heavy Industrial in this community would not be the right thing to do.

Councilman McGhaney also stated that she agrees with Councilman Baker and that after visiting the location, it is best for this business at this time not to operate a Heavy Industrial Business in an existing neighborhood.

After all comments, Chairman McCain called for a motion on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and approved by Council to deny third reading to this rezoning request. Councilman Byrd voted in opposition of the motion. The motion to deny carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) Ordinance 21-942 -- An Ordinance Authorizing (1) The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax And Incentive Agreement By And Between Sumter County, South Carolina (The “County”) And Thompson Construction Group, Inc., Acting For Itself, One Or More Affiliates, And/Or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, The “Company”), Pursuant To Which The County Shall Covenant To Accept Certain Negotiated Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes With Respect To The Establishment And/Or Expansion Of Certain Facilities In The County (The “Project”); (2) The Benefits Of A Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park To Be Made Available To The Company And The Project; (3) Certain Special Source Revenue Credits In Connection With The Project; And (4) Other Matters Relating Thereto. (Council May Take Action On this Ordinance Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)

Mr. Johnathan Bryan, the County Attorney, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for public hearing. He stated that this ordinance will allow for a Fee In Lieu Of Tax and Incentive Agreement between Sumter County and Thompson Construction Group, to purchase the County's Speculative Building and allow for other benefits of a multicounty industrial park, and special source revenue credits as it relates to an industrial development. After Mr. Bryan's comments, Chairman McCain convened a public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

The Chairman asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. No one spoke during public hearing. Therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on this ordinance listed under Old Business.

- (2) **Ordinance 21-943 – An Ordinance To Amend The Master Agreement Governing The Sumter-Lee Industrial Park Dated December 31, 2012, Between Lee County, South Carolina And Sumter County, South Carolina So As To Enlarge The Park To Include Certain Property Owned And/Or Operated By A Thompson Construction Group, Inc.; And Other Related Matters. (Council May Take Action On this Ordinance Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Mr. Bryan also presented this ordinance to Council for public hearing and second reading. He stated that the previous ordinance, 21-942, is in conjunction with this ordinance, 21-943. This ordinance will allow for the company referenced in 21-942 to be located in the Sumter-Lee Industrial Park. After Mr. Bryan's comments, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this ordinance.

The Chairman asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. No one spoke during public hearing. Therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on this ordinance listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- (1) **Ordinance 21-945 – First Reading -- An Ordinance To Amend Sumter County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Article II, Section 26-26, Relating To Business License Renewal Deadline.**

Mr. Bryan also presented this ordinance to Council for first reading. He stated that the S.C. General Assembly enacted a uniform Business License statute in 2020 and it will go into effect January 1, 2022. Therefore, this will give cities and counties until January 1, 2022, to bring our Business License Ordinance in line with the state statute. The change is to move the renewal of a Business License from March 15 to April 30. The current ordinance states that a Business License has to be renewed on or before March 15.

There will be some additional changes forthcoming. However, Mr. Steve Campbell, who is the director for the Business License Office will provide those additional changes to Council. Mr. Campbell and his staff have sent for a "Model Business License Ordinance" from the Municipal Association which will help with preparing the revised ordinance for the City and County of Sumter.

However, the ordinance before Council tonight will put into effect the new "renewal date" for the Business License. See ordinance below. After all comments, Council took action on first reading.

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

WHEREAS, *the South Carolina General Assembly enacted comprehensive legislation, codified in the South Carolina Code of Laws in sections 6-1-400 through 6-1-420, that will affect the law related to local government business licenses beginning January 1, 2022, and*

WHEREAS, *one of the primary changes that will impact the Sumter County Business License Ordinance and the Sumter County Business License Office is the state-wide mandated business license renewal date of May 1 of each year; and*

WHEREAS, *the current renewal date for Sumter County business licenses is March 15 of each year; and*

WHEREAS, *in order to be compliant with the new law as of January 1, 2022, Sumter County Council will amend the renewal date for calendar year 2021 to bring that section of the Sumter County Business License Ordinance into compliance with the new statute,*

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:

That Sumter County hereby amends its Code of Ordinances Sections 26-26, so that section shall read as follows:

- 1. The required license fee shall be paid for each business subject hereto according to the applicable rate classification on or before May 1 of each year. A separate license shall be required for each place of business and for each classification or business conducted at one place. If gross income cannot be separated for classifications at one location, the license fee shall be computed on the combined gross income for the classification requiring the highest rate. A license fee based on gross income shall be computed on the gross income for the preceding calendar or fiscal year, and on a 12-month projected income based on the monthly average for a business in operation for less than one year. The fee for a new business license shall be computed on the estimated probable gross income stated in the license application for the balance of the license year.*
- 2. All Sumter County business licenses that would have expired on March 14, 2021 but for this amendment are automatically extended to April 30, 2021.*

- (2) **Ordinance 21-946 – Emergency -- Sumter County Council Declaration Of Public Safety Emergency In Response To Discovery Of A Discrepancy In The Sumter County Zoning And Development Standards Ordinance And The Implementation Of A Moratorium On Subdivision And Development Of Certain Land Effective February 9, 2021.**

County Attorney Bryan presented this emergency ordinance to Council for first reading consideration. He referenced OA-20-01 which was presented to Council earlier during Land Use Matters and Rezoning Request. This ordinance would prevent anyone from acquiring a vested right to subdivide or otherwise develop property in those areas until the ordinance has received third reading. This will allow the County to maintain the status quo as of right now until the ordinance OA-20-01 can go back to the Planning Commission for review and then back to Sumter County Council for second reading, public hearing, and third reading. This emergency ordinance is in effect for sixty-one days.

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on this emergency ordinance.

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

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance allows one residence per acre in the Agricultural Conservation (AC) zoning district; and

WHEREAS, the most recent Sumter-Shaw Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) report provides that one unit per acre of land in the areas impacted by military operations is an acceptable density for those areas outside of the Clear Zone, Accident Protection Zone I and Accident Protection Zone II; and

WHEREAS, the extended centerline of the main runway at Shaw Air Force Base is the most likely place for an aircraft accident to occur and presents higher risk to people whose dwellings are located on or near the extended runway centerline; and

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance does not require a minimum width to depth ratio, allows side lot setbacks of only 12 feet and, as written, allows homes to be located as close as 24 feet together and allows cluster configurations in the Agricultural Conservation zoning district; and

WHEREAS, allowing residential development density along the extended centerline of the main runway at Shaw Air Force Base as close as 24 feet between homes and clusters of residences is contrary to the most recent JLUS report recommendation, is inconsistent with the purposes and intents of the Military Protection Zone in the Sumter County 2040 Comprehensive plan and creates a public safety risk that is not acceptable; and

WHEREAS, Sumter County Council intends to create a new Airfield Compatibility District, to be named the Density Dispersion Zone, that will include development standards that will reduce residential density development near the extended centerline of the main runway at Shaw Air Force Base while allowing one unit per acre in the Agricultural Conservation (AC) zoning district,

WHEREAS, Sumter County Council desires to impose a moratorium on the development of property that will likely be included in the proposed Density Dispersion Zone until the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance is amended to create the new Airfield Compatibility District and the applicable development standards so that applications for subdivision of property and building

permits will not be permitted as a matter of right prior to the effective date of the proposed ordinance amendment,

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, that 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 subdivision and development of land.

1. No land shall be subdivided and no building permits shall be permitted in the following areas:

Along the extended centerline of the main runway at Shaw Air Force Base (04L/22R), and 2042 feet each side of the centerline, from the threshold at each end of the runway to Edens Road to the northeast and to Highway 261 to the southwest.

2. This Ordinance shall remain in force until emergency conditions associated with this discrepancy in the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance have been resolved through the creation of new Density Dispersion Zones and the development standards related thereto have been implemented by Sumter County Council after review by the Sumter City-County Planning Commission and the threat to human life has been mitigated, or upon the sixty-first (61st) day after the effective date of this emergency declaration.

Effective the 9th day of February 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.

- (3) **Ordinance 21-947 -- First Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Declaration Of Restrictive Covenants On Land On Highway 521 South, St Matthew Church Road And Race Track Road**

Mr. Bryan stated this this property is known as the Lewis Property near Continental Tire. This property is boarded by Highway 521 South, the railroad track, St. Matthew Church Road, and Race Track Road. This is the area where the County just sold property to Nova Molecular. When the Nova Molecular deed was recorded, the same covenants were recorded and attached to the deed. Therefore, if this ordinance is approved, the remaining property would have the same covenants as Nova Molecular. After review of the ordinance and comments from Mr. Bryan, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading approval of this ordinance as presented.

- (4) **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) **Ordinance 21-942 – Second Reading – An Ordinance Authorizing (1) The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax And Incentive Agreement By And Between Sumter County, South Carolina (The “County”) And Thompson Construction Group, Inc., Acting For Itself, One Or More Affiliates, And/Or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, The “Company”), Pursuant To Which The County Shall Covenant To Accept Certain Negotiated Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes With Respect To The Establishment And/Or Expansion Of Certain Facilities In The County (The “Project”); (2) The Benefits Of A Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park To Be Made Available To The Company And The Project; (3) Certain Special Source Revenue Credits In Connection With The Project; And (4) Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

Second reading on this ordinance was introduced by the County Attorney, Mr. Johnathan Bryan, as listed above under public hearings. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on this ordinance.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval on this ordinance as presented.

- (2) **Ordinance 21-943 - Second Reading - An Ordinance To Amend The Master Agreement Governing The Sumter-Lee Industrial Park Dated December 31, 2012, Between Lee County, South Carolina And Sumter County, South Carolina So As To Enlarge The Park To Include Certain Property Owned And/Or Operated By A Thompson Construction Group, Inc.; And Other Related Matters.**

Mr. Bryan also presented this proposed ordinance which is listed above under public hearings. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on this ordinance.

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

- (3) **Ordinance 21-944 -Second Reading- An Ordinance To Create The Sumter City-County Litter Advisory Board. (This Ordinance Does Not Require A Public Hearing.)**

Mr. Bryan stated that this ordinance will allow for the creation of the Sumter City County Litter Advisory Board. There have been no changes to this ordinance since first reading. Then the Chairman called for a motion on second reading.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Councilman Carlton B. Washington stated that he has been contacted by the Sumter County Sheriff's Advisory Board members and they would like to participate and join the City and County in addressing the litter issues in Sumter. The Advisory Board also desires to be a Liaison with the City-County Litter Advisory Group. Councilman Washington also stated that he is working with Orangeburg, Greenville, and Beaufort Counties. He plans to visit Orangeburg to eye-ball the Litter Truck in action. Beaufort County has the same type of truck and this County is also available to use to see the Litter Truck in action.

Councilman McGhaney reported that Sumter County Council members received an email from the Clerk and the Assistant County Administrator during the latter part of 2020 and the early part of January 2021 indicating that NACO was sponsoring a Leadership Program, free of charge. She stated that she volunteered to participate in the program. Councilman McGhaney also stated that this program is nationwide and she is appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of this leadership group. She will keep Council informed about the events of this year-long program.

Councilman Eugene Baten asked for the COVID-19 report. Mrs. Blanding, the Clerk to Council stated that the COVID-19 report was attached to Council's packet. However, she did display the report as Councilman Baten gave a report that he has been gathering concerning COVID-19.

Councilman Baten also reported that he was also concerned about the number of people dying from the overdose of drugs, which was reported in The Item Newspaper. Councilman Baten said he is still licensed as a Master Social Worker which is a reflection of his former position as the Executive Director of the Drug and Alcohol Office here in Sumter County. The article mentioned certain actions that the City and County can do to help alleviate or reduce the drug problem in Sumter, SC, since those that are afflicted with drug problems and now are handling issues dealing with COVID-19. Councilman Baten stated that he would like to have Mr. Pegler come to Council and brief Council on this program as it relates to COVID-19.

Lastly, Councilman Baten reported the following which consists of 64 days (December 8-February 9, 2021)

47 Military Persons have died (may or may not be COVID related)

7,824 Cases of COVID in Sumter County

135 People have died from COVID in Sumter County; there is a possibility of another 18 deaths.

Councilman Baten stated that he will continue to ask for a mandated Mask Ordinance in Sumter County. He also said that a young man wrote a Letter to the Editor."

Sumter is not masking-up, I went to Wal-Mart this morning. I wasn't in there more than ten minutes and saw at least eight to ten people with no mask. I go to Circle-K on McCray's Mill Road to get a cup of coffee and there are those in there without a mask. What is wrong with the people in Sumter? They all cannot be that stupid. It is about time that the Mayor did something. Signed by Paul Marshall, Sumter – Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Councilman Baten asked, why can the City of Sumter do something to protect the citizens of Sumter and the County cannot when it comes to a mask mandate.

Councilman Baker stated that he is one of the votes that has not supported the Mask Mandate Ordinance. He further stated that he is not against wearing a mask because he wears one all the time. Councilman Baten further stated that he tries to keep his and consistently washes his hands. He also stated that he has parents that are in an Assistant Living facility and he has only seen them six times during the last year and cannot visit them face-to-face. He mentioned that he prays to God that they will not get COVID at their current age of 90 and 91. Councilman Baten stated that a Mask Mandate is not enforceable, the cities do not enforce the laws related to the Mask Mandate.

Councilman Baker then proceeded to give some statistics concerning Counties that have Mask Mandates and those that do not. Sumter County 107,345 people living in this County. Sumter County COVID-19 cases are 8,513 as of February 7, 2021. The deaths from COVID-19 in Sumter is 153. Councilman Baker stated that he divided the population into the number of case and it comes out to .07; which represent 7% of the population has had or have COVID-19. Additionally, Councilman Baker divided the population into the number of deaths and the sum comes to .001 which is a 10th of the people in Sumter that have died from COVID-19, although it is all of our hope that no one had died from COVID-19.

Councilman Baker further stated that he compared his figures with the Counties within South Carolina that have passed a mask mandate ordinance:

County	COVID Cases	COVID Deaths
Sumter	.07	.001
Richland	.08	.001
Charleston	.08	.001
Beaufort	.07	.008
Orangeburg	.09	.002
Oconee	.09	.002
Georgetown	.08	.002
Williamsburg	.11	.002
Colleton	.07	.002
Calhoun	.07	.002
Horry (ordinance ended-12/31/20)	.08	.011

Councilman Baker stated that with these figures, it appears that Sumter is one of the safest Counties to live in at this point in South Carolina. Although the above counties have Mask Mandate Ordinances, their cases and deaths are higher than Sumter’s. He stated that he wanted to defend why he does not believe that it is required to have a Mask Mandate Ordinance. He further stated that he does not see that a mandate is being effective.

Councilman Baten responded that he appreciated Councilman Baker providing the information to him. Councilman Baten further stated that when you look at the confirmed cases, the numbers are higher than when it is reported. He stated that his figures are coming from South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. There is a difference in reporting of the cases and deaths.

Councilman Baten stated that Councilman Baker represents the area where Shaw Air Base Force Base is located; thereby he is representing many veterans. Councilman Baker also stated that the three highest spread rates are in Nursing facilities, Colleges/Schools, correctional centers and at home.

Both Council members stated that they are trying to save lives from the COVID 19 situation. Councilman Baten ended his comments by stating that the veterans that he communicates with are afraid to go out due to a lack of a Mask Mandated Ordinance.

Vivian Fleming McGhaney stated that she attended a forum about people receiving the COVID vaccination; including what type of effects people will have after the receiving the vaccination. It was concluded by the presenters of the forum that it is better to take the vaccination than not to take it. Also, the community needs to work together to encourage the elderly to take the vaccination.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) Zoning Board Of Adjustment And Appeals Meeting
- 2) COVID-19 Report
- 3) 2021 Rural Summit
- 4) Shaw Sumter Community Council – The Clerk will process this paperwork for Council.
- 5) Ethics Filing is due March 30, 2021.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

No report given.

ADJOURNMENT

After all discussions, motion was made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 6:58 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: February 23, 2021

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

Minutes – Regular Meeting - Sumter County Council

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Page 15

Manner Notified: Was uploaded to television on the first floor of the Administration Building for a continuous display of the agenda.

Date Posted: February 5, 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: February 5, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding

Mary W. Blanding