



Minutes
Sumter County Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 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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Social Distancing Is Required At All of County Council's Meetings And Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjiqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; Vice Chairman James R. Byrd, Jr., Eugene Baten; Charles T. Edens; Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Carlton B. Washington.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Artie Baker was absent.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary Blanding, Joe Perry, Johnathan Bryan, Helen Roodman, Chief Hampton Gardner, Major Randy Stewart, Lt. Greg Hawkins, Corporal Matthew Barwick, Corporal Bradley Hynes, and approximately six other members of the Sheriff's Staff.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper; Shelby Goulding.

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

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

INVOCATION: Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led By Robert Dix, Council District #4 -- Retired US Army Veteran Robert Dix served our Country for 25 years supporting Dessert Shield, Dessert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom with a combined total of six years in combat. He is a 1981 graduate of SC State College. He is currently a member of the American Legion Post 202 and a Volunteer Track Coach at RE Davis Middle School. He has been married to his beautiful wife Lillie for 42 years, and they have two sons and two grandchildren. He currently lives in Council District 4.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk to Council, Mary W. Blanding, if there were any proposed changes to the agenda. Mrs. Blanding asked Council to consider moving item #1 under new business to be heard immediately after the approval of the minutes. Mrs. Blanding also asked Council to add the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Audit to the agenda and to allow for the Audit to be heard immediately after the presentation to the officers.

The Chairman called for a motion on the recommendations by the Clerk concerning the agenda and the order in which the items would be heard.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilwoman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the agenda as recommended by the Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 11, 2022, and Special Meeting for County Council On January 11, 2022.

Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion concerning the approval of Council’s Regular Meeting and Special Meeting minutes of January 11, 2022 as prepared by the Clerk.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilwoman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes as prepared by the Clerk to Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Recognition Of Corporal Matthew Barwick and Corporal Bradley Hynes For Receiving The Medal Of Valor From The S. C. Sheriff Association On January 20, 2022.

Chief Hampton Gardner spoke on behalf of these officers. He stated that during the S. C. Sheriff’s Association on January 20, 2022, recognized Corporal Matthew Barwick and Corporal Bradley Hynes and presented them with the Medal of Valor for their heroic work in saving a gentleman in Sumter County from suicide. The gentleman was on a ladder and hanging from a rope. The gentleman kicked the ladder from under his feet and the two officers caught him just in time while both officers held the gentleman _____ proceeded to cut the rope.

Both gentlemen thanked the Sheriff’s Office and Council members for recognizing them and stated that they appreciate everything that Council and the Sheriff have done prior to this event and what they have done since this incident happened. Corporals Barwick and Hynes noted that to be at the right place at the right time to save someone’s life is truly a blessing that they were able to be there for this man. Chief Gardner also stated that the man has thanked both of these men for being there for him.

Afterwards Chairman McCain presented each gentleman with a gift from Council and the Chairman took pictures with the officers.

ACTION: Received as information.

- (2) Sumter County Annual Audit For Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Mr. Chuck Tolbert, Partner with Webster Rogers, introduced himself and informed everyone that he was meeting with Sumter County’s Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee to present a detailed report concerning the County’s Annual Audit. Sumter County received a clean unmodified report. He also thanked Administration and the Finance staff for the assistance they provided during this process. He asked Council members if they had any questions. There were no questions from Council or staff.

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-21-24 - 601 Pitts Road -- (County) - Second Reading/Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone +/- 5.8-Acre Tract From Residential-15 (R-15) To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Located At 601 Pitts Rd. And Is Represented By Tax Map # 206-00-04-002. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director, stated that this rezoning request is presented by the applicant, Destinations Day Spa, LLC., which is the authorized agent for this request.

Ms. Roodman stated that this is a large track of land, 5.8 acres which is being requested to be changed from Residential-15 (R-15) to Agricultural Conservation (AC) in order to create a Special Events Business. Historically, there has been one building on the property and its most recent use has been as a religious institution. This property has been on the market for sale for a significant amount of time, but the R-15 designation has made the sale of this property a little difficult but with the R-15 designation, there is very limited type of commercial businesses that can be placed on the property. Primarily, there can only be a church or some type of public use. The Full Gospel Church was located at this site, but they have since vacated the property and have marketed the property for sale.

The property itself is influenced by two Carolina Bays and the building is located on the high part of the property. Rezoning this property to the least intense district that the property could be designated to would be the Agricultural Conservation District.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. If this request is approved by Council, the applicant intends to open a Special Events Venue. During October of last year, Sumter County Council adopted a very finite review criteria for Special Events venues. If the property is approved to be rezoned to Agricultural Conservation, the application would still have to go through a review criteria and process.

Then the Chairman convened a public hearing on this rezoning request. He asked if anyone wished to speak in support of or opposition to this rezoning request.

- One of the property Owners, Mrs. Brassell, spoke in support of the rezoning request.
- Debbie Brunson, stated that she lives in Bay Springs, and where the property is located at is near her home. She added that everything in the area is Residential 15 and changing the property to Agricultural Conservation may have an impact on the property in this area. It may depreciate the homes in this area – it could be cows, chickens, etc. in this area.

Mrs. Roodman stated that by right, every zoning district allows for agricultural uses. Therefore, the R-15 could allow for livestock. The setbacks between each property would be required and other requirements.

- Jimmy Sanders stated that he owns property right next door to the property that is proposed to be rezoned. He also said that he supports the views of Ms. Debbie Brunson. Mr. Sanders stated that he needed clarification on what type of “Special Events” would be held at the facility. Mr. Sanders said that he has much concerns about the proposed change.

Mrs. Roodman stated that the owners would like to use the facility for weddings, receptions, birthday parties, etc. The owners, Mrs. Brassall stated that they hope to use the facility for weddings, receptions,

etc. and they will renovate the inside and outside of the facility.

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on second reading of this rezoning request.

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

- (2) **RZ-21-22 - 4185/4189 Thomas Sumter Highway -- (County) -- Third Reading -- A Request To Rezone +/- 1.35-Acres From General Commercial/Agricultural Conservation (GC/AC) To General Commercial (GC). The Property Is Located At 4185/4189 Thomas Sumter Highway And Is Represented By Tax Map #'S 152-03-02-034 And 152-03-02-044.**

Mrs. Roodman stated that there are no changes to this rezoning request since first reading. The Planning staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Then Chairman McCain called for a motion on third reading.

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

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (2) ECHO And SCDVA - Presentation By Kailay Washington and Jade Berkeley.

Ms. Kailay Washington and Ms. Jade Berkeley gave a presentation on behalf of the South Carolina Secretary of State Veterans Affairs, Mr. William Windesly. Ms. Washington stated that it is the goal of S. C. Veterans Affairs to maintain an environment in which veterans and their families can thrive as valued members of South Carolina Communities and the Nation. It was also reported that the State Veterans Affairs office helps veterans to become integrated into the community as well as the local military facilities that are throughout South Carolina. Ms. Jade Berkeley is the Integrated Officer for this area which includes coordinators for employment, women and minorities, housing coordinator, health coordinator, and several other areas. Ms. Berkeley announced that there will be a Job Fair for the Veterans and their families held on March 8, 2022, (Virtually) and March 9, 2022, in person. Additional information will be provided.

Dr. Ann Galvez, Chief Innovation Officer for Eastern Carolina Housing Organization. This organization looks for places that Veterans can call home. They work with veterans to break the cycle of homelessness. She encouraged Council and others present at the meeting to please reach out to ECHO in case they hear of a veteran or a veteran's family that may be experiencing homelessness or potential threat of homelessness. ECHO serves as the access point for an open door for those in need. She also stated that they partner with other agencies including United Ministries, YWCA, and other organizations such as SAFE and local businesses.

Matt Whitener works with the Veterans throughout South Carolina. He stated that ECHO has a six step process working with the Veterans to ensure that they can receive housing. Once the veteran is identified

and has a need, ECHO works with (1) local agencies to see what help can be given; (2) ECHO Identifies an assessment, documentation and eligibility, housing search, housing ownership, case management.

Give voice to people that cannot help themselves. ECHO PeeDee Region (13 Counties)

- (3) **R-22-01 – Action On The Following Resolution: A Resolution by Members of Sumter County Council Ratifying Sumter County Council’s Prior Actions Approving the Expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.**

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed resolution to Council for review and approval. He stated that the proclamation accounts for all of the projects that have been previously voted on by Council to receive ARPA Funds. It was recommended by the Administrator that Council reaffirm its actions and to have all projects in one resolution.

After review of the resolution, Chairman McCain called for a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. *(The resolution and Exhibit #1 is attached to these minutes.)*

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to adopt Resolution R-22-01 as presented and authorized the Chairman and the Clerk to execute the resolution on behalf of the County.

- (4) **Ordinance 22-971 – First Reading -- An Ordinance Establishing New Electoral Districts For The Election Of Members Of Sumter County Council Pursuant To The United States Census Of 2020 And In Compliance With Section 4-9-90, South Carolina Code Of Laws (2021, As Amended). (Title Only)**

Mr. Bryan informed Council that in order for Sumter County to meet its deadline of March for filing for candidates seeking political party nomination, first reading on this ordinance is to establish new electoral districts. This ordinance is by title only which will allow for the electoral districts for the election of members of Sumter County Council.

A detailed ordinance will be prepared by next meeting and public hearing will be held at third reading. After the presentation by Mr. Byran, the Chairman called for a motion on this ordinance for first reading by title only.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading approval, by title only for Ordinance 22-971.

- (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:

- (1) **Ordinance 21-969 -- Third Reading -- An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 02-461 Concerning The Sumter County Infrastructure Fund.**

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, provided Council with a complete copy of the ordinance which showed one change since second reading. *The change requires that “any applicant must include in the plan a spec building with minimum size of 50,000 square feet of manufacturing floor space for the building.”* After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading of this ordinance as presented at third reading.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (1) Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, January 25, 2022, At 4:30 p.m. In The County Administrator’s Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter SC. (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney)

Chairman McCain who is Chairman of the Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee stated that all members of the committee were present along with other Council members and staff members. The Committee received a November Financial Statement update from the Finance Director, Mrs. Uvette Rogers. Also, the Committee received the County’s detailed audit from Mr. Chuck Tolbert from Webster Rogers Accounting Firm.

- (2) Special Meeting Of Sumter County Council Scheduled For Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (This Meeting Will Begin Immediately After The Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Concludes Or At 5:00 p.m.) (All Council Members)

Chairman McCain reported that Council held a Special Meeting of Council to discuss the potential projects that could be considered in the Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum if approved.

Also, during the meeting, Council took action, which is listed in the Special Meeting Minutes, to authorize the County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, to contact the attorney’s in Spartanburg that are representing the County that Sumter County is agreeing to participate in the proposed opioid settlement agreements (the three distributors, manufacture(s), and the S. C. Attorney General’s agreement regarding the distribution of funds).

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

No report was given from Council members.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) Litter Advisory Board
- 2) Planning Commission and Building Codes Department Monthly Reports
- 3) Tour - Charles R. Drew Wellness Center - Friday, February 18, 2022
- 4) Chamber Of Commerce Retreat -- 50th Anniversary

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No administrators report was given.

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 from the public wished to speak to Council during public comment. The following persons spoke.

- **George Bates** spoke to Council concerning the vacant positions in the Sheriff's Office. He stated that he is pleading with Council to please fill these positions so that the Sheriff's staff can get to work and protect this County from many different crimes. He also thanked Mrs. Blanding for all the work she does and has done for the last 30 years. Mr. Bates also stated that Council should contact the State Highway Department and tell them to fix their roads.
- **Catherine Washington** stated that she is representing the residents on Pasture Road in Wedgefield. She gave the Clerk information from the Community Meeting with information from 11 people asking that Pasture Road be placed on the 2022 Penny for Progress Referendum. She closed by saying Peace and Blessings to all.
- **Dr. Brenda Williams**, Family United Incorporated, stated that she really appreciates what County Council has provided through the ARPA funds to allow her company to help the people of Sumter County. She also spoke to Council about the Manning Avenue Bridge. She asked Council Members to encourage those that are responsible for the bridge to provide the funds to replace the bridge. Also, Dr. Williams stated that the bridge needs to be closed off until such time that it can be made a more safe bridge.
- **Jackie Hughes** invited Council members to the Annual American Legion Public Safety Banquet which will be held on Monday, February 7, 2022.

Councilman Washington informed Mrs. Catherine Washington that he turned in her street as one of the streets that he is supporting to be paved during the Capital Sales Tax Projects discussions.

ADJOURNMENT: After all business of Sumter County Council, a MOTION was presented by Councilman Edens, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 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 8, 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: January 21, 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: January 21, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding

Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Sumter)

Resolution

R-22-01 – A Resolution by Members of Sumter County Council Ratifying Sumter County Council’s Prior Actions Approving the Expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

Be It Resolved by the County Council for Sumter County, South Carolina, in Council duly assembled:

1. Sumter County Council duly approved on various dates, in accordance with the general law, the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds on specific projects in the specific amounts that are set forth in Exhibit I, attached hereto, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference as is set forth herein verbatim.

2. That, the Sumter County Council hereby ratifies the prior actions taken by this body as a way of consolidating the prior actions taken into a singular vote and one document.

3. Sumter County Council also specifically authorizes the expenditure of ARPA funds of up to One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars for the purchase of a fire truck to replace one that was destroyed in a motor vehicle accident.

4. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption, this 25th day of January, 2022.



THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SUMTER COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA (SEAL)

By: _____

James T. McCain, Jr.

Its: Chairman

ATTEST:

By: _____

Mary W. Blanding

Its: Clerk to Sumter County Council

Exhibit I

ARPA FUNDS ALLOCATED	10,364,651
Description	Budget/Expensed
1. Public Health	
3 A/C units at fire stations; Pinewood #2, Concord #10, and Oswego #14	30,000
Civic Center Use	\$81,900
Coroner: Cooler	11,000
Coroner: Radios	10,792
EMS: Ambulances (5)	839,570
EMS: Payroll Costs	459,797
Public Building: Art Gallery (HVAC)	1,000,000
EMS: Power Stretchers (10)	87,442
Fire District: Opticom	320,272
Fire District: Personal protective gear	84,155
Sheriff Detention Center: Soter RS full body security scanning system	128,250
EMS Ambulance Contract	1,500,000
Heise (DHEC – DSS) Building Repair	1,825,000
1. Public Health - Total	6,378,178
2. Negative Economic Impacts	
Mobile Home Repair Program	500,000
Other Agencies: Gallery of Art	10,000
Other Agencies: Library - Bookmobile	69,978
Other Agencies: Sumter County Museum	10,000
Public Buildings: Crystal Lakes	175,000
2. Negative Economic Impacts - Total	764,978
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	
Mini Grants	500,000
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities - Total	500,000
4. Premium Pay	
Sheriff Detention Center: Premium Pay	645,929
Coroner: Premium Pay	8,965
Premium Pay all other staff	680,406
4. Premium Pay - Total	1,335,300
6. Revenue Replacement	
Revenue Replacement: Calculated per GFOA formula	1,386,195
6. Revenue Replacement - Total	1,386,195
Total	\$10,364,651

ARPA SUMMARY	
1. Public Health	\$6,378,178
2. Negative Economic Impacts	764,978
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	500,000
4. Premium Pay	1,335,300
6. Revenue Replacement	1,386,195
Total ARPA Funds Allocated	\$10,364,651