



Sumter County Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building
Third Floor, County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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Council Members, Staff, And The Public Will Be Asked To Wear A Facemask At The Meeting. Social Distancing Is Required At All Of County Council's Meetings. Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James R. 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, Johnathan Bryan, Mary W. Blanding, Lorraine Dennis, Uvette Rogers, Joe Perry, Greg Hawkins, Lauretha McCants, and two Sheriff Deputies.

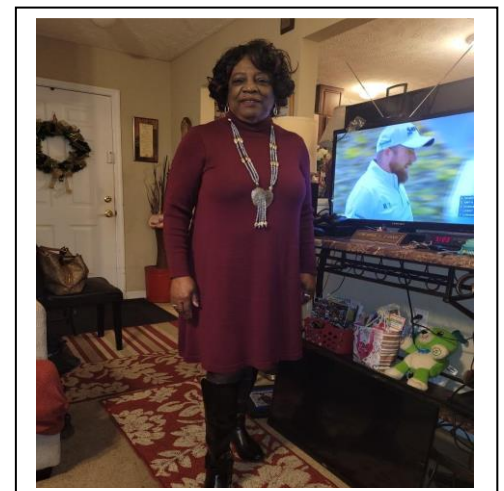
MEDIA PRESENT: Bruce Mills, the Item Newspaper

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 32 members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

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

INVOCATION: Council Member, Staff Member, Or Local Citizen
Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led By Veteran Phyllis D. Clark,
U.S Army Veteran Phyllis D. Clark served our Country from 1974 to 1976 during the Vietnam War Era assigned to the WAC (Women Army Corps). She is retired from the Sumter School District and is a lifetime member of the Sumter SC Combat Veterans Group and a member of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in Lynchburg, SC. She is the widow of James Clark. She has two daughters, one son-in-law, seven grandchildren, and one great grandson. She currently lives in County Council District 7. Thank you for your service.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk if there were any changes to the agenda. Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes; therefore, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 24, 2022, and the Special Meeting of County Council, Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

Chairman McCain asked for a motion on the minutes for the Special meeting of Sumter County Council and for the Regular Meeting of Sumter County Council on May 24, 2022.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the Special Meeting and the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2022, 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 HEARINGS:

- (1) **Ordinance #22-976 – An Ordinance To Impose, Subject To Referendum Approval And Pursuant To The Capital Project Sales Tax Act, A One Percent (1%) Sales And Use Tax (The “Tax”) Within Sumter County For Not More Than Seven (7) Years; To Order A County-Wide Referendum On The Question Of Imposing The Tax And Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds In A Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$40,000,000 (The “Bonds”); To Prescribe The Contents Of The Ballot Question; To Specify The Purposes For Which The Proceeds From The Tax Are To Be Used, The Maximum Time For The Imposition Of The Tax, And Certain Provisions Relating To The Issuance Of The Bonds; To Provide For The Issuance Of The Bonds, If Approved By Referendum, By Subsequent Action Of Council; And To Provide For Other Matters Relating Thereto. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

The County Administrator presented this proposed ordinance to Council for public hearing and second reading. He informed Council and the public that Council members received a very thorough report from the Chairman of the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission during the May 24, 2022, meeting of Sumter County Council. Also, Mr. Mixon mentioned that copies of the ballot question was presented to Council and the public and a copy of the ballot question was provided to the public at this meeting as well. Mr. Mixon informed everyone that the estimated cost for the Capital Projects is projected at \$107,266,500.00. There is a \$40,000,000 General Obligations Bond included in this resolution to allow for the County to begin some of the projects if the referendum is approved. The total projected cost for the entire project is \$117,266,500.

After Mr. Mixon’s presentation, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this proposed ordinance as presented. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. No one spoke during public hearing; therefore, Chairman McCain closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading. The second reading information is listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Presentation By Sumter School District Concerning The District’s 2022-2023 Budget.

Dr. Penelope Martin Knox, Superintendent of Sumter School District, and Jennifer Miller, Financial Director, for Sumter School District, presented the proposed budget request for the District. Dr. Knox acknowledge the School Board Members that were present, and she also introduced the new Superintendent for Sumter School District, Dr. William Wright. Then Dr. Knox continued with the budget presentation. She stated that the first and foremost concern is to educate the children of the School District and that happens through the three goals that the School District operates under: (1) Academic Achievement, (2) Climate and Culture, and the (3) Management of the Facilities are goals that the School District focuses on during a given year. Dr. Knox also stated that when she came before Council last year, she proposed that the School District would gradually ask for an increase for the staff that will provide services for the children of the District. The positions include the following:

Position, Quantity, and Dollars Needed

Teachers 4.5	\$360,263
Special Services Teachers 4	\$320,234
Special Services -Paraprofessionals 4	\$146,046
Nurses 8	\$418,774
Guidance Counselors 2	\$160,117
Mental Health Professionals 10	\$615,840
Interventionist 13	\$823,025
Custodians 41	\$1,713,390
Media Specialist 1	\$ 80,058
Total 87.5	\$4,637,747


Dr. Knox stated that she and the staff as well as the School Board tried to balance the needs of the School District on a year-by-year basis at a request of at least \$1.5 million in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The base student cost is \$2,516.

Then Jennifer Miller informed Council about the different versions of the S. C. State House and Senate as it relates to the School Districts appropriations. The new funding sources from the State is not a per student cost any longer, it will be a Teacher to Student Allocation. Ms. Miller further discussed how the School District was projecting its budget in comparison to what the State might do for the School District and then what Sumter County Council would provide to the district. Ms. Miller also stated that there is a difference between the Senate and the House proposals for the School Districts funding; however, the School District has not yet received the final word on the allocation to the School Districts from the State. Mrs. Miller informed Council that the School Board has passed a continuing resolution concerning their budget because things have not been finalized in the House and Senate in reference to the school’s budget. Sumter School District pays an “above average” rate of pay to the teachers. The State will only pay the teachers up to the average. Therefore, the school must pick up the cost of the average and the above average.

Projected Necessary Expenditure Increases

- Operating Expenses
 - Approximately \$690,000
- Office of Academic Position
 - Approximately \$114,000
- Special Service Positions
 - Approximately \$207,000
- Step Increase - Non-Certified Staff
 - Approximately \$630,000

Total
\$1,641,000



Ms. Miller State that the State’s mandated expenses are expenses that the State will not provide funding for the School District. (See information below.) She also provided a slide for the possible millage needs for the School District. Mrs. Miller reemphasized that it may be as late as June 30, 2022, before the School District is sure about the amount of funding they will receive from the State; therefore, they were unable to provide members of Council with a definite figure of what the State will provide. However, they do know that the State is providing a ratio funding figure of 75/25.

Cost of Living

Teachers

- Receive a step each year as mandated by the State law

Non - Certified Staff

- Fiscal Year 2020 - No increase
- Fiscal Year 2021 - No increase
- Fiscal Year 2022 - Received a step (1-2% increase)

Allowable Millage Increase

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT MILLAGE INCREASE CALCULATION - 2022-23

Tax Year	Fiscal Year	Base Millage Rate	Millage Rate Increase Limitation	New Millage Rate	Mills Increase	Mills
2020	2020-21	169.63	2.11%	173.21	3.58	3.5
2021	2021-22	157.40	1.23%	159.34	1.94	0
2022	2022-23	159.40	4.70%	166.89	7.49	7.4
					13.01	10.90

Chairman McCain thanked Dr. Knox and Mrs. Miller for their presentation and then he asked Council if they had any questions. Councilman Washington asked to be recognized and the Chairman granted his request.

Councilman Washington asked whether any consideration was given by Sumter School District concerning the difference between the House and Senate version of the proposed Bill for funding the school this coming year. He also said that it appears that the School District was committing to the House version instead of the Senate version. Mrs. Miller stated that unfortunately the School District must know what revenue they will receive before they can commit to their projections of revenue.

Councilman Washington also asked about the new growth factor for the School District. Ms. Miller added that the new growth factor was added into the budget calculations; however, with the new growth there are additional expenses for the School District which does not come out equal to the additional funding. The School District still has to add additional funding to the equation.

Councilman Washington asked if there were new programs factored in for the rural schools such as Ebenezer athletic program, Rafting Creek, and R. E. Davis. Mrs. Miller stated that no new programs were added to any of the rural schools; the funding request is to continue operations. Then Mr. Washington asked Mrs. Miller if she understood that there is a drastic imbalance between the schools in the rural community and those in the City of Sumter and it all comes down to funding. He then quoted the number of Counselors that are at certain schools as listed below:

	Counselors	Guidance Secretary	Career specialist	STEM PROGRAM
Alice Drive Middle	3	Y	Yes	Y
Furman Middle	2	Y	Yes	No
Chestnut Oaks	1	Y	Yes	No
Hillcrest Middle	1	Y	Yes	No
Ebenezer Middle	1	Y	Yes	No
Eastern Middle		Y		
Bates Middle	2	Y	Yes	Yes
R. E. Davis Middle	1	No	No	One course

Councilman Washington further stated that schools in his district and Councilman McGhaney’s District are not balanced to the programs that are provided to Alice Drive, Bates, Chestnut Oaks, etc. The programs at Rafting Creek and R. E. Davis do not receive the same funding. The enrollment is down at these schools because the programs are not at the schools; however, if the schools received the proper funding and the proper programs at the schools, the rural schools could prosper. Councilman Washington also said that as a Council member he has to respond to what the constituents want, and they want equality in the School District.

Dr. Knox stated that from what she gathered from Councilman Washington’s Statement is that he was speaking on programs and not positions. She said that the programs are actually courses that are offered at the schools. The programs are contingent upon staffing, and the staffing is contingent upon student enrollment. Dr. Knox stated that she does not determine how many counselors a school needs. The number of counselors at a school is based on a National Standard which States that if a school has 0-300 students, that school can have one counselor; and the number continues to increase per enrollment at the school. She added that Councilman Washington was compare the schools to each other; however, it is based on the National requirements to obtain a counselor that can be funded through the State funding. She also stated that if the School District receives the funding that they are asking for, then they will be able to have the positions for the programs; thereby, meeting the needs of the students in each school if the enrollment meets the requirements of the National and State standards. The principals look at students’ needs. Each allocation is based on student enrollment, the type of classes, and the needs for teachers, and other staff.

Councilman Washington asked Dr. Knox that if she has the staffing, then Rafting Creek would look like Alice Drive. Dr. Knox responded that Alice Drive and Rafting Creek are two different schools with two different enrollments. Alice Drive is about 900 students and Rafting Creek is about 300. Councilman Washington also stated that there are new School District lines, and it shows that Rafting Creek enrollment will change. Dr. Knox stated that they have not done the actual student enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year as of yet. However, when and if the enrollment shifts and the number of


enrollments is there, then changes can be made. She also mentioned that the district can allocate funds on fast-past if the enrollment and staffing needs to be reviewed.

Councilman Washington stated that R. E. Davis is supposed to be a College Preparatory Academy. However, the school does not have all the things that a College Preparatory Academy should have which includes a football stadium; he further stated that the district has the money, they have purchased the land, yet the building has not been built. Dr. Knox agreed that the plan has been in place for five years, the money is still there, and plans are still being considered. She also said that a stadium is not considered a requirement for a college preparatory school. Councilman Washington stated that he remembers when the students went to Rafting Creek and they kids did not have lockers or enough dressing rooms. The NAACP had to get involved with the process so that the School District would get the things that the students needed. Councilman Washington further said that he does not understand why it has taken five years to begin the process; he also said that if a school is noted as a college preparatory school, then it should have the academics, the instruction, and the extra curricula activities at the school. He also said that maybe those middle school students should not have been moved to Rafting Creek and the School District should have left Mayewood Middle School opened. Councilman Washington said that his constituents are asking questions such as will the increase in millage help Rafting Creek, will it help R. E. Davis, Ebenezer, or any of the other rural school. He further stated that he is trying to get some assurance that things will change; however, he mentioned that he does not feel that he is getting the answers that he needs for his constituents.

Dr. Knox also said that she has had numerous meetings with the NAACP, and she has addressed several of the concerns. She also mentioned that several of the matters that are being discussed happened prior to her arrival in Sumter at Sumter School District. She stated that all the schools now have School Resource Officers. Since the change of Rafting Creek, the middle school students are not in the area of the elementary students. An additional Assistant Principal was added, and additional staff was added to support the students. Even though the number of enrolled students did not support the additional staffing the staffing was given to R. E. Davis School. Councilman Washington asked Dr. Knox when will the stadium at R. E. Davis be addressed. Dr. Knox stated that she is not at liberty to discuss this matter since it has been discussed in executive session.

Vice Chairman Byrd asked to see the slide that had the retirement listed (see below). He asked Dr. Knox and Mrs. Miller whether the School District had to fund this portion of the retirement for their employees. Mrs. Miller stated that the information on the *Projected Mandated Expenditures* slide are requirements of the District and both projected information from the State House included the schools funding the \$800,000.

Projected Mandated Expenditures		
	Original Version	Senate Version
Teachers	\$6,300,000	\$3,600,000
New Funding	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Retirement	\$800,000	\$800,000
Health Insurance	\$900,000	\$900,000
	\$10,500,000	\$7,800,000
	Expenditure Decrease	
	\$2,700,000	




Mrs. Miller stated that the School District will receive more revenue; however, the expenses will go up as well.

Councilman Edens asked for clarification on the new funding for teachers. Mrs. Miller said that there are 992 positions included in the *Teachers Funding*. Not all *Teachers Funding* goes to teachers; however, if they are on the teachers' salary scale, then they reap the benefits of the teachers. Dr. Knox also stated that over 90% of the expenses of the School District goes to teachers' expenses.

Councilman Baten stated that he has been sitting there listening patiently and listening, he asked Dr. Knox, how many mills the School District is asking for this year. She stated that they are asking for 10.9. Councilman Baten then asked if she had justification for 10.9 mills. Dr. Knox said that the funding will be used for staffing.

Allowable Millage Increase						
SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT MILLAGE INCREASE CALCULATION - 2022-23						
Tax Year	Fiscal Year	Base Millage Rate	Millage Rate Increase Limitation	New Millage Rate	Mills Increase	Mills
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2022	2022-23	159.40	4.70%	166.89	7.49	7.4
					13.01	10.90



Then Councilman Baten said that he has fought hard for years to give the School Board just what they asked for to fund the schools in Sumter School District. He also mentioned that he was glad to see that Dr. Hilton, one of the School Board Trustees, informed the Item Newspaper that Sumter School District would be asking Council for 10.9 mills because they want all the money they are entitled to. Councilman Baten said that South Carolina law dictates how many mills a School District can receive annually. The decision is made by South Carolina Department Of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; they make that decision based on population growth and the CPI as well as the cost of living. However, this body, Sumter County Council, has rejected the School District for years and have not given the School District anything. In 2017, 2018, 2019, Council gave the School District nothing; for four years, County Council gave the School District nothing although S. C. Act 388 said that the School District is entitled to some funding. Councilman Baten further stated that there are some winners and some losers. He also mentioned that if you are being denied money that the Laws says you are entitled to, and the students do not benefit to improve their education, they are the losers. The students are low to moderate income students and families. There are eight schools in this district that are Title One schools. Also, Councilman Baten said there are six schools that are failing schools which have been taken over by the S. C. Department of Education because of their insufficiency and scores. Councilman Baten said that, sadly, four of those schools are elementary schools. Therefore, Council is not giving low-income children a good basic education. Councilman Baten informed everyone present that S. C. 388 was created for the wealthy in this State. Act 388 was created because the assessment and taxes were going up on their homes and their salaries were not keeping pace with the increase. What they were receiving did not match with what they were spending, and they were being priced out of their homes. In 2006, S. C. General Assembly, which were mostly Republicans, decided to help these homeowners by taking the school millage off their private homes. The General Assembly said they would put it on businesses, and the S.C. General Assembly also passed a penny tax to help. The people are still in their homes, and they are benefiting by not paying taxes on their homes; in other words, they are having their cake and eating it too because they are not having to pay taxes. They are the winners and the poor kids in our School District are the losers. They are not getting the money to help them. Councilman Baten further said why does County Council deny them that money. There are schools that have fiscal autonomy; twenty-seven schools in the State of South Carolina have fiscal autonomy and they are more progressive schools (Charleston, Horry, Georgetown, Greenville, Spartanburg, etc.). Twenty-five have no authority, twenty of the twenty-five must go through their County Council to receive the funds from the S. C. Department of Revenue And Fiscal Affairs. They are low-income schools, Clarendon County, Lee County, etc. Councilman Baten stated that he called the S. C. Attorney General’s Office to find out why the School District cannot get their money and the attorney told him because of a word in Act 388 that says “may”. Therefore, Sumter School District has not received the funds due to the word “May” listed in Act 388. That is a disgrace; there are winners and losers – the losers are the low-income families and kids in our public schools and the winners are the middle- and upper-class people who are not paying any taxes on their businesses and not paying taxes on their homes; they are having their cake and eating it too – that

is sad; it is sad, per Councilman Baten. He said that we will see what will happen because this body has to make a decision on the mills, they will give the School District.

Councilman Baten then spoke directly to Dr. Knox and said that there is a rumor out in the public that Dr. Knox has made an agreement with certain members of Council that all you want is two mills, last year, this year, and the upcoming year. Yet at the same time, per Councilman Baten, he is fighting for Dr. Knox to get more than two mills. But rumor says that Dr. Knox only wants two mills. Councilman Baten reemphasized that he is fighting for Dr. Knox, but he believes that she came to the point that something is better than nothing. Then Councilman Baten further stated that because Dr. Knox was not getting anything for four years, that she came to the conclusion that if I get two mills, at least I am getting something. Councilman Baten said that the thought of this as sad because the School District was just getting 15% of what it was entitled to; therefore, it is very sad.

Councilman Baten said that this body, Sumter County Council, has not given the School District what they are entitled to receive. He also said that the Legislative Delegation of Sumter County is complicit in not giving Sumter School District the money they need. The Delegation has the power to give you fiscal autonomy. It will only take four members of the Delegation to grant you fiscal autonomy. Councilman Baten stated that two people on Sumter County Delegation are also on Clarendon County Delegation – the Honorable Kimberly Johnson (House of Representative) and the Honorable Kevin Johnson (State Senate), and Caesar McKnight of Kingstree (House of Representative). They make up the Clarendon County Legislative Delegation, and when Senator Johnson introduced the consolidation of the schools in Clarendon County, and the Governor signed the bill into law, the bill also said that in 2024, Clarendon County School Board will have fiscal autonomy. Councilman Baten said Sumter County Delegation is complicit in making the decision for Sumter County School District to not have fiscal autonomy. Therefore, this District cannot receive the funds that South Carolina Law 388 says they are entitled to receive.

Dr. Knox thanked Councilman Baten for his passion for the education of the children in the district and she also thanked him for having the dialogue with her. She stated that she knows of knowing where she asked for two mills. Dr. Knox stated that when she has been before Council, she came because the School District needs the funds. It was also said by Dr. Knox that she when she would come before Council it is with the support of the Board of Trustees and because there is a need. She also said the initial asking of funds by her to Council was “whatever you can provide.” Then she asked for a phase in support of 2.0 mills over a three-year period of time.

Then Councilman Baten held in his hand an article from the Item Newspaper dated Friday, June 3, 2020, entitled: *McCain, Baten’s Accusation Last Year Stop Meeting With School Board*. Councilman Baten said that he talked with members of the School Board that said that it was true that an agreement was made between Council, the School Board, and the Superintendent to not ask for any more than two mills. The article says that Dr. Knox made an agreement with Chairman McCain to ask for two mills last year, this year, and next year. Dr. Knox said for the record, she did not make any agreement with anyone. Councilman Baten said he thought that she did not and that he was glad to know that his work in trying to help her and the students was not her stabbing him in the back. Dr. Knox repeated that she did not make any agreement with anyone. She noted that she will not do anything behind anybody’s back or stab anyone. Professional conversations can be had, amicably, and a decision can be reached. Again, Dr. Knox said she did not make an agreement with anyone. Councilman Baten said in his heart, he believed her because he saw how she was fighting for the children.

Councilman Washington stated that a lot of the discussion has been said this evening could have been cleared up if the School Board and Council members would have followed his suggestion that was made last year to meet at least twice a year to discuss matters of concern in a workshop setting. He also said that Council agreed to the meeting, and it is his understanding that the school board agreed to it too. Councilman Washington also said that at the beginning of Sumter County's Budget Cycle, he reached out to officials at the School District and informed them that the process is beginning, and I requested a meeting so that we could have dialogue. The letter never came. He reemphasized that he requested a letter and asked to be copied on the letter so that he could make sure that those meetings would happen. The letter never arrived. Councilman Washington said that the next time he heard about the School District's budget, it was stated that the School District was asking for a 10.9 mill increase. Councilman Washington said "that is not the way to do business." The Councilman further stated that he and Councilman Baten were fighting for money for the School District last year. It was also said by Councilman Washington that Council agreed to the meetings, and he contacted the School Officials this year and no meeting was scheduled, nor no request for a meeting was received.

Councilman Baten stated that he understands the feelings of Councilman Washington. However, this is a two-way street. County Council's Education Liaison should have been reaching out to the School Board to set-up the meetings. The meetings never happened, and Councilman Baten said he believes that it was probably said that "because of Baten's accusations" we are not going to have a meeting with the School Board. Councilman Baten said those statements are in the paper and the reporter, Bruce Mills, was pointed out by Councilman Baten. Also, Councilman Baten informed everyone that it has been the practice of the County to have its Education Liaison reach out to the School Board, but this year it was not done. He also said, let us not say that only the School District is at fault, County Council is at fault too.

Then Councilman Washington replied to Councilman Baten that the School District received a call from a seated Councilman informing them that the "train is rolling" and a letter needs to be sent, and I will handle the rest. Councilman Baten asked Councilman Washington why he wanted those meetings. Councilman Washington informed Councilman Baten that it was his hope that the School District and County Council could have a better understanding of any request from the School District. Councilman Baten said that would have cleared up any concerns from Council members.

Then Dr. Knox said that education and business groups use a SWOT Analysis to review their *strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats*. She mentioned that she does not want the threat of living in the past and not moving forward in the future to hinder the growth for the children of the Sumter School District and the relationship between the School Board of Trustees and County Council Members.

Councilman Baten thanked Dr. Knox for all she has done and tried to do for Sumter School District because she has a heart for the children.

ACTION: Received as information.

- (2) **R-22-06 -Sumter School District Resolution -- A Resolution By Members Of Sumter County Council Adopting Council's Actions On The 2022-2023 Budget Request Of Sumter School District.**

After the presentation by the School District, the Chairman called for a motion on the resolution as presented.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to receive the presentation as information and not to take any action on this resolution at this time. (See proposed resolution listed below.)

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

1. *That in accordance with the general law and local law, any millage increase over the prior fiscal year millage must be approved by the governing body of Sumter County.*

2. *The provisions of §6-1-320(A)(1) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, allow for an increase in millage, based on the consumer price indices for the prior calendar year and the percentage increase in the previous year in the population of Sumter County as determined by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. The maximum permissible millage increase for fiscal year 2021-2022 is 2 mills which is 1.27% of 157.4 mills.*

3. *That the annexed copy of the proposed budget (the Budget) for the Sumter School District, which was submitted for approval to the County Council for Sumter County, South Carolina, by the Sumter School District pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Act 387 of 2008, as amended by Act 112 of 2009 of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, is, together with any changes or amendments heretofore made thereon, made a part hereof, and incorporated into this Resolution by reference.*

4. *That the annexed Budget, inclusive of any and all changes and amendments thereto heretofore made thereon as are reflected on the annexed copy thereof, is hereby approved by the County Council for Sumter County, South Carolina, subject to the terms of Paragraph 5 herein.*

5. *That the appropriate officials of Sumter County, South Carolina, are authorized and directed to determine, assess, levy, collect, and disburse the Ad Valorem taxes which will be generated by 159.4 mills, which Ad Valorem taxes will be approximately \$29,875,704.*

6. *Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, should the total millage needed to fund any other amount appropriated herein exceed the **millage approved herein**, the amounts appropriated herein shall be automatically reduced to the amounts actually generated by the approved millage rate of \$187,426.*

7. *Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption; adopted this 8th day of June 2021.*

(3) Ordinance #22-977 - First Reading -- An Ordinance To Approve A Utility Easement Over Property Located On West Wesmark Boulevard.

The County Attorney, Mr. Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for first reading consideration. He stated that FTC (Farmers Telephone Company) is leasing some property from the County, and they also need to have a utility easement over the property which is located on West Wesmark Boulevard to allow for a cell tower to be placed on the property.

Councilman Edens asked if there will be a survey of the property and details of the utility easement. Mr. Bryan said that the property has already been surveyed; however, there will be detailed information on the survey which will have pictures to show where the underground power lines will be located. This information should be ready by second reading. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion 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.

- (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 #22-974 -- Third Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2022, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$3,500,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bonds; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bonds; Providing For The Payment Of The Bonds And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Mr. Mixon presented this proposed ordinance and provided a list of capital requests for the Capital Bond Funding. (See list below). After review of the Capital Bond Requests, Council took action on third reading of this ordinance.

Department	Amount
Detention Center	\$101,102
EMS	137,308
Fire District 1	267,000
IT	618,880
Probate	5,720
Public Buildings	506,661
Public Works	157,761
Record of Deeds	35,000
Recreation	88,000
Sheriff	290,322
Vehicles - Other Departments	532,676
Vehicles - Sheriff	729,612
Veteran's Affairs	7,600
Voter Registration	22,358
Total recommended for FY23	<u>\$3,500,000</u>

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and

unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading to this proposed ordinance as presented.

NOTE: Councilman Edens stated that he would like to see Council go back to \$2,500,000 worth of projects instead of the \$3,500,000 that has happened over the last several years.

- (2) **Ordinance #22-973 - Third Reading -- An Ordinance To Provide For A Levy Of Taxes For County Purposes Of Sumter County, S. C., (Known As The Budget Ordinance) For The Fiscal Year Of Said County Beginning July 1, 2022, To Direct The Expenditures Of Said Taxes And Other Funds Of Said County, And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto.**

Mr. Mixon also presented the 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance to Council for third reading consideration. Prior to introducing the budget for third reading, Mr. Mixon informed Council that there are other funding sources that are being used to balance the budget and/or funds being used to fund other projects/items for the County. See information below concerning the overall capital requests by funding sources listed below.

Overall Capital Requests By Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount
Capital Bond	\$3,500,000
ARPA	3,808,465
Road User	181,500
Solid Waste	4,871
Infrastructure	190,000
Fund Balance*	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total Funded	<u>\$8,684,836</u>

ARPA Funding

Department	Amount
From Capital requests	\$3,808,465
From Personnel requests	368,223
Water Utility Infrastructure	2,687,963
Broadband Infrastructure	1,000,000
Roads	<u>2,500,000</u>
Total ARPA Expense	<u>\$10,364,651</u>

OVERALL BUDGET INFORMATION FOR ORDINANCE #22-973

REVENUE

- 1 mill increase (LOST credit offset)
- Fund Balance \$508,313

EXPENDITURE

- 18% increase in health insurance \$465,158 (January to June 2023) - Required
- 1% increase in retirement \$232,430 (July 2022 to June 2023) – Required
- Personnel changes to include a 3% COLA for County employees \$881,601
- Property and Liability insurance increase of \$301,000

- Increase of \$39,163 for other agencies

After all comments, Chairman McCain called for a motion on third reading for this ordinance.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading to this ordinance as presented at third reading.

- (3) **Ordinance #22-976 - Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Impose, Subject To Referendum Approval And Pursuant To The Capital Project Sales Tax Act, A One Percent (1%) Sales And Use Tax (The "Tax") Within Sumter County For Not More Than Seven (7) Years; To Order A County-Wide Referendum On The Question Of Imposing The Tax And Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds In A Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$40,000,000 (The "Bonds"); To Prescribe The Contents Of The Ballot Question; To Specify The Purposes For Which The Proceeds From The Tax Are To Be Used, The Maximum Time For The Imposition Of The Tax, And Certain Provisions Relating To The Issuance Of The Bonds; To Provide For The Issuance Of The Bonds, If Approved By Referendum, By Subsequent Action Of Council; And To Provide For Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

Mr. Mixon gave a presentation about this ordinance which is listed under Public Hearing. At the conclusion of Mr. Mixon's presentation, the Chairman convened a public hearing. No one spoke during public hearing. Then Chairman McCain closed the public hearing and called for a vote on second reading.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (1) **Internal Affairs Committee Meeting To Be Held On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, At 5:30 p.m. In The County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Byrd, Baker, and McGhaney)**

Chairman of the Committee, Vice Chairman Byrd, gave the following report and recommendations from the Committee. Each Board and Commission received a motion and second for approval to be presented to Council to ratify the action of the Internal Affairs Committee.

Airport Commission: Recommended to reappoint Kyle Osteen, W. David Bernshouse, and Eliza K. Buxton to this Commission.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to reappoint Kyle Osteen, W. David Bernshouse, and Eliza K. Buxton to the Airport Commission.

Crystal Lakes Golf Course Advisory Board: Recommended to reappoint Marcus Carson, Joseph A. Jefferson, Jay Britton, and Wayne Hogan this Advisory Board.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to reappoint Marcus Carson, Joseph A. Jefferson, Jay Britton, and Wayne Hogan to this Advisory Board.

Development Board: Recommended to reappoint John M. Brabham, Jr., Jeffrey W. Davis, Jr., and Jesse Williams to this Commission.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to reappoint John M. Brabham, Jr., Jeffrey W. Davis, Jr., and Jesse Williams to this Board.

Housing Authority Board: Recommended to reappoint Blandia Johnson to this Board.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to reappoint Blandia Johnson to the Housing Authority Board.

Iris Festival Board: Recommended to appoint Barbara Bowman to this Commission.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to appoint Barbara Bowman to the Iris Festival Board.

Library Board: Recommended to appoint Nancy Lee Zimpleman, Bryan Hilferty, and Lenore M. Jackson to the Library Board, and to reappoint Carol B. Alan and Randa Edmunds to the Library Board.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to appoint Nancy Lee Zimpleman, Bryan Hilferty, and Lenore M. Jackson to the Library Board.

Litter Advisory Board: Recommended to reappoint Tasha Gardner to the Litter Advisory Board.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to reappoint Tasha Gardner to the Litter Advisory Board.

Zoning Board Of Appeals: Recommended to reappoint Samuel M. Lowery.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation of the Committee to reappoint Samuel M. Lowery to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

No reports were given.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) Sumter County Sheriff's Department
- 2) Sumter County Public Works Department
- 3) Sumter County Soil and Water Conservation Meeting
- 4) Ministry In The Market Place
- 5) Board Of Appeals Meeting - June 15, 2022
- 6) Employee Workshop - Probate Court

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mixon thanked Council for their support during the budget process and he also thanked Mrs. Uvette Rogers and her staff for all the work they did during the budget process.

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.

No one spoke during the public comment section of the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: After all business of Sumter County Council, a MOTION was presented by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 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: June 28, 2022