



Minutes
Sumter County Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 28, 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, Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Eugene R. Baten, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Carlton B. Washington.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Lorraine Dennis, Uvette Rogers, Keysa Rogers, Carolina Richardson, and Joe Perry.

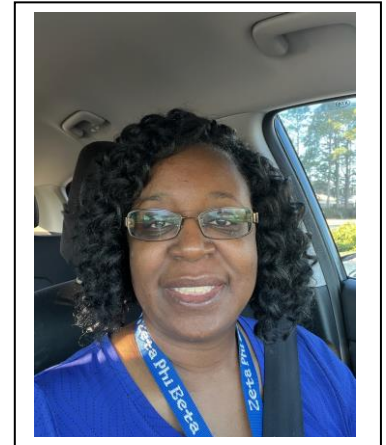
MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelbie Goulding and Bruce Mills.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 14 members of the public were present.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Or Vice Chairman Of Sumter County Council
Chairman James T. McCain, Jr. called County Council's meeting to order

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Veteran Sherolyn L. Weeks led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The Clerk to Council read the following concerning Ms. Weeks: *Sherolyn Lynette Weeks is an Air Force veteran who currently works for the Office of the Solicitor. She is a member of Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church. She volunteers as a Girl Scouts troop leader and is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She has a son (who is currently serving in the US Air Force), two daughters and two grandchildren. She currently lives in County Council District 6. Thank you for your Service.*



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 28, 2022
Chairman McCain called for a motion concerning the approval of the June 28, 2022, agenda as presented by the Clerk to Sumter County Council.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Chairman McCain called for a motion concerning action on the minutes of June 14, 2022, agenda as presented by the Clerk to Sumter County Council.

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

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests: **None**

*NOTE RZ = Rezoning Of Property As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.
AC = Agricultural Conservation As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.
NC = Neighborhood Commercial As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.
LI-W = Light Industrial-Warehouse As Applicable in Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) **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.**

Chairman McCain introduced this resolution (see below) to Council for consideration of adoption. Then Councilman Baker offered the following motion.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to fund Sumter School District for the 2022-2023 academic school year at the same level that the School District was funded during the 2021-2022 academic school year at the mills of 159.4.

The Chairman asked if there are any questions or discussion and Councilman Baten asked to be heard. Councilman Baten asked if the motion that Councilman Baker made meant that Council would be funding the School District \$374,000? Councilman Baker responded that it would be 159.4 mills. Councilman Baten asked for clarification between what was given last year, two additional mills, and what the motion was from Councilman Baker which was 159.4 mills.

Mr. Mixon stated that last year the County appropriated two additional mills to the School District which totaled 159.4 mills. He then stated that Councilman Baker is giving Council members a motion concerning mills and not dollars. Mr. Mixon also said that Councilman Baker's motion is requesting that Council provide the same number of mills as last year and no increase in millage; however, since the mill value is higher than it was last year; the School District will receive more dollars for the mill during this upcoming school year.

Councilman Baten stated that he is still not understanding what will be received by the School District if Sumter County Councils give 159.4 mills. He repeated that last year the School District received \$374,000; therefore, he asked again, what is County Council giving the School District this year. Councilman Edens replied to Councilman Baten's statement and said the same thing that the School District was given last year.

The Administrator stated that last year when the County went through a countywide reassessment, the County was able to "rollback mills." Therefore, the School District's mills went down to 157.4 mills; then, the County increased the School District's millage by 2 mills bringing the total mills for the School District to 159.4 mills in academic year 2021-2022. Consequently, the current motion by Councilman Baker would have the mills for the School District to remain at 159.4 mills. The motion is recommending not to increase

the School District mills by 2 mills and not to increase the appropriation by \$374,000. Mr. Mixon also informed Councilman Baten that the current mill value has increased from last year's mill value. Therefore, the School District may see an increase in revenue based of the increase of the mill value.

Councilman Edens called for the question; then Councilman Baten asked to be heard to make the following statement which is requested to be included in Sumter County Council's minutes.

"Today is a very special day in the history of Sumter County Council and Sumter County. What will be revealed is County Council's commitment to the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of the citizens in this County.

One of the primary responsibilities of County Council is to support public education so that there will be a highly skilled and technically trained workforce to attract businesses and industries that pay above average salaries. This will allow our families to live the American Dream.

Members of County Council and many other political and business leaders often say, "Education is the backbone of economic development." However, our support of our public schools do not reflect what we believe."

In the past five years (2017 to 2021), County Council only invested \$374,000 which is \$74,800 per year, in the Sumter School District. However, we had the opportunity to invest millions of dollars that the School District was entitled to under S. C. Law, Act 388.

As a Christian, I believe that people are basically good. Today, County Council Members have the chance to do what is best for the children of Sumter County. We can do this by ensuring that our children receive an education that will not only make them successful in school, but also in life.

To my colleagues on County Council, may God bless you and guide your hearts and minds.

Councilman Baten further stated that if Council members are not satisfied with giving the School District the 10.9 mills that they are asking for which equates to \$2,030,300; and Council is not giving it to them, then once again Council is showing the School District that Council is not giving them the funds that the South Carolina Department Of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs say that the District is entitled to which is 10.9 mills. Councilman Baten concluded his statements by saying that *"there is no way under God's heaven that I am going to support what you are saying,"* therefore, *"Council can bring the vote up and do what you want to do."*

Councilman Baker asked to be heard. He stated that Councilman Baten is correct that Council gave the School District two mills last year. The Councilman also stated that after he talked with the State, he was informed that the State is giving the School District \$10,900,000 to the School District this year and the County is providing \$1,500,000 in growth this coming school year. Councilman Baker also stated that if Councilman Baten would equate those funds into school millage, that would be over 65 mills that they will receive this year of new money. Councilman Baker asked Councilman Baten, if there was anyone from the School District present at this meeting. Councilman Baker said that no one from the School District came to this meeting. Councilman Baker also added that if they wanted the additional two mills, he believes they would be at this meeting.

Councilman Baten stated that he does not blame the School District for not coming to the meeting because it would be an embarrassment for them to be here. Councilman Baker told Councilman Baten that his

statement was his opinion and he, Councilman Baker, had his opinion. Councilman Baten further stated that he respects Councilman Baker’s opinion. Then the Chairman called for the vote.

MOTION RESTATED FOR ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to fund Sumter School District for the 2022-2023 academic school year at the same level that the School District was funded during the 2021-2022 academic school year at the mills of 159.4. Council members Baker, Byrd, Edens, McGhaney, Washington, and McCain voted in the affirmative. Councilman Baten voted in opposition. The motion passed.

- (2) It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Employment Matter, An Economic Development Matter, A Legal Briefing, Or Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session, And Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter If Required.

No executive session was held at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Ordinance #22-977 – Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Approve A Utility Easement Over Property Located On West Wesmark Boulevard. (Public Hearing Will Be Held On July 12, 2022.)

County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading approval. He stated that this ordinance would allow for a utility easement over property that the County is leasing to FTC, Inc. The utility lines will be placed underground for the cell tower that is located on the property on West Wesmark Boulevard.

Mr. Bryan stated that the location of the utility line is not complete as of this reading; however, the location should be finalized by the next meeting at public hearing and third reading.

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

- (2) Ordinance #22-976 – Third 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.

The County Administrator, Gary Mixon, stated that this ordinance is better known as the Capital Project Sales Tax Ordinance. Council has had two reading and a public hearing and there have been no changes to the ordinance since first reading.

Mr. Mixon also mentioned to Council that this ordinance has included in it a \$107,266,500 project list and thirty-four project categories, a \$40,000,000 Bond (Bond Anticipation Note), \$117,266,500 to accomplish all the tasks accompanying this ordinance. **NOTE:** *There were clerical errors that were identified and corrected.*

Schedule Of Penny For Progress:

- Mr. Mixon informed Council that by mid-July the referendum question will be given to the Election Commission to be included on the November Ballot.
- On August 10, 2022, Mr. Mixon will meet with the Chamber of Commerce to introduce the Referendum to the Chamber of Commerce to see if they will endorse the efforts to move the projects forward.
- Mid-August 2022, a brochure will be developed which will have a synopsis of each project listed within the brochure and published and distributed throughout Sumter County.
- Mid-September 2022 active campaigns will begin concerning the Capital Projects Sales Tax.

There being no further comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (1) **Land Use Committee Meeting To Be Held On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. In The County Administration Conference Room, 13, E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Edens, Baker, and Baten)**

The Chairman of the Committee, Councilman Charles T. Edens, gave the following report.

Approximately 15 to 20 members of the public were also present at the meeting including Mr. Louis Tisdale and members of the Lakewood Subdivision, Helen Roodman, Jeff Dewitt, and several local realtors. The meeting was about the new Flood Maps. Sumter County has until October 27, 2022, to accept the maps as provided by FEMA. However, there is confusion, dissatisfaction, and much concern about the way in which the maps were created and the effects of how the maps are currently proposed for Councils acceptance.

The Committee agreed to direct the County Administrator to set up a meeting with the following people to be included: City Council, County Council, Sumter County Legislative Delegation, Senator Scott's Representative, other State Agencies as appropriate, and the Public.

Committee Chairman Edens stated that to investigate and correct the problem will cost funds; however, Sumter County does not have the funds to correct the problem. Funds will have to be sought from the State, Federal, or other places.

ACTION: No action taken at this time.

Councilman Washington thanked Councilman Edens for a great report; however, he wanted Council members to know that a representative from Senator Tim Scott's Office was present at Council's meeting – Mr Jenkins. Councilman Washington asked Mr. Jenkins to talk to Committee Chairman Edens after the meeting and the County Administrator concerning the proposed meeting.

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

There were no comments from Council members.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- No report from the Clerk to Sumter County Council.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- No report from the County Administrator.

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.

The following person spoke in during public comment.

- Dr. Brenda Williams introduced herself and stated that she is concerned about Highway 76/378 issues about the public walking across the highways and at least five people have been killed in that location over the past 20 years. Dr. Williams also stated that although it has been noted that there is information in the Penny for Progress Referendum, (Item #10 for \$6,000,000) there are no specific details on how those funds will be used if the Penny is approved. Dr. Williams stated that she spoke to Councilman McGhaney who stated that she does not know the specifics of the usage for the funds. Dr. Williams also spoke to the Chairman of the SUATS Committee, and he does not know the specifics for the proposed use of the funds. It was stated by the SUATS Committee chairman that there will be some reduction in speed along that area. Dr. Williams stated that much more needs to be done other than reducing the speed. She also noted that before voting people can vote for a Penny Tax or any kind of tax, there must be some serious planning or whatever is needed to come up with the best solution to this problem. Dr. Williams stated that she and a private citizen are talking about what can be done to get the funding for this project and other matters that will provide immediate help.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m. after a motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. McCain, Jr.
Chairman or Vice Chairman
Sumter County Council

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council

Approved: July 12, 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 Television on the first floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: June 22, 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: June 22, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding