



Minutes
Sumter County Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 22, 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 And Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjiqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

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, Denise McLeod, Johnathan Bryan, Helen Roodman, Joe Perry, Gary Hawkins, Valerie Brunson, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 39 members of the public attended the meeting.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

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

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led By Sumter Veteran Johnny Wigfall served our Country in the US Army. He is a Vietnam War Veteran that served from 1972 to 1974. He is a member of the Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church and serves as a Deacon and yard monitor. He loves serving God and enjoys Worshipful Arts and the Drama ministries. After he was medically retired from the Hammock Shops in Pawleys Island, he moved to Sumter in 2007. He is in his 49th year of marriage to his beautiful wife, Mary G. Wigfall, and they have five children, and nine grandchildren. Mr. Wigfall currently lives in County Council District 1. Thank you for your service.



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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion concerning action on the March 22, 2022, agenda as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion concerning action on the March 8, 2022, minutes of Council's regular meeting.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the minutes of March 8, 2022, 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.

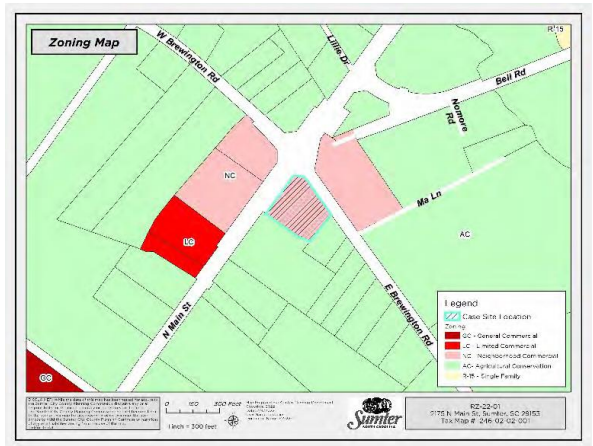
NC = Neighborhood Commercial As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.

LI-W = Light Industrial-Warehouse As Applicable in Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.

- 1. RZ-22-01, 2175 N. Main Street -- (County) – Second Reading/Public Reading -- A Request To Rezone A Parcel Totaling +/- 1.77-Acre Tract From Neighborhood Commercial (NC) To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Located At 2175 N. Main St. And Is Represented By Tax Map # 246-02-02-001. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing.)**

Mrs. Helen Roodman presented this proposed rezoning request to Council for second reading and public hearing. Mrs. Roodman informed Council that the authorized agent for the owner, Mr. Heath Griffin, is asking for the property to be rezoned from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to Agricultural Conservation (AC) and it is located at the intersection of N. Main Street and Brewington Road.

The applicant has indicated their intent to construct a membership sports and recreation facility on the subject property; however, the current zoning designation does not permit that use. The property is currently zoned Neighborhood Commercial (NC) and is adjacent to an Agricultural Conservation (AC) zoning district to the south. The intent of the AC zoning district is to protect and preserve areas of the County which are presently rural or agricultural in character and use and are uniquely suited to agricultural use. Mrs. Roodman further stated that where urban development is permitted within the district, strict quality standards are required. *Permitted and Conditional Uses:* Membership sports and recreation clubs with SIC Code 7997 are a conditional use in the AC zoning district, per the *Sumter County – Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance* (the Ordinance). It was also said by Mrs. Roodman that if the request is approved, the applicant would be permitted to develop all uses indicated for the AC zoning district as shown on the use table found at *Article 3, Exhibit 3-5* of the Ordinance in accordance with the indicated process. This use table is attached to this report as Exhibit 1. Uses with a “P” are allowed by-right, uses with a “C” require conditional use approval, uses with an “S” require special exception approval by the Sumter City-County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), and uses with no letter are not permitted.



Councilman McGhaney stated her concern about what was required for the development of the property for the outside of the building, the landscaping, etc. Mrs. Roodman stated that the building would be a large metal building and a gravel parking lot. It was also stated by Mrs. Roodman that there are no conceptual drawings at this time because the developer does not own the property at this point. However, more particulars will be known later.

Councilman Baker also asked Mrs. Roodman about the differences in the rezoning based on what the applicant wants to place at the proposed location (Recreation Space). Mrs. Roodman stated that the SIC Codes determine what type of facility can be in each zoning district. It was also noted that the Priority Commercial Mixed-Use area focuses on bringing new and improved uses over time that are consistent with the character of the proposed location. After all comments by Council members, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this matter; he asked if anyone wished to speak for three minutes on the rezoning request. The following persons spoke during public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Al Montgomery spoke to Council concerning the rezoning stating that he is not certain where the company would be located; therefore, Mrs. Roodman showed Mr. Montgomery where the business would be located. Then he stated that it would be his hope that the neighbors would be allowed to know the conceptual development of this business since they are coming into the neighborhood.
- Thelma Isaac also spoke to Council about this rezoning request. She stated that she has a business near this proposed rezoning and would suggest that a traffic light be placed at the intersection of Brewington Road and North Main Street based on the amount of accidents that are already in this area.
- Louis Watkins stated that he is not support or against the proposed rezoning; however, he stated that the intended use should be clear. Mr. Watkins stated that he has seen when people have received variances and rezonings and the intended use is not what goes on the property. He also said that sometimes once the rezoning has occurred, the property is passed onto someone else then the property becomes more valuable than the first intended use.

There were no further comments from the public; therefore, Chairman McCain closed the public hearing and he asked Council for a motion on second reading. (Note: prior to the motion being carried the following discussion took place.)

Councilman McGhaney stated that she would like for Mrs. Roodman to meet with the property owners and the applicant so that the concern that they have could be addressed prior to third reading. However, it was noted by Mr. Mixon, the County Administrator that it would be best if staff contacted SC DOT about the traffic, and Mrs. Roodman could talk with the applicant to share the concerns from the public so that this information would be provided at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Byrd asked the Planning Director to tell Council and the public what kind of business could be at this location with the zoning of Neighborhood Commercial. She stated that a convenient store, a laundry mate, gas station, etc. Mrs. Roodman also said that this request will have to provide the Planning Commission with a Conditional Use Application if the request is granted third reading. Therefore, the applicant would have to go through a more detailed process prior to the development of the business. The Planning Commission will look at access, buffering, parking, septic tank, traffic matters, and a variety of Development Standard compatibility issues prior to approving the request. She also stated that access to the business will be from Brewington Road on the eastern section and not near North Main Street.

It was noted that the Conditional Use Application will happen only if Council grants third reading. The process for Conditional Use will begin. After all comments, the Chairman restated the motion, listed below, and Council took action on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and carried by Council to grant second reading approval to this rezoning request as presented. Councilman Baten voted in opposition; the motion carried.

2. **RZ-21-26 - 4065 Country Lane -- (County) - Second Reading -- A Request To Rezone A +/- 5.81-Acre Tract From General Residential (GR) To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Located At 4065 Country Lane And Is Represented By Tax Map # 159-00-02-007. (Public Hearing Was Held On February 22, 2022.)**

Vice Chairman Byrd stated that he received a request from the applicant, Mr. Erin Dyson, requesting that Council table second reading for 90 days during this time the applicant will meet with the neighbors concerning this rezoning request.

Councilman Baker stated that Council members deferred this matter at the last meeting of Council on March 8, 2022; did the applicant meet with the neighbors. Vice Chairman Byrd stated that the applicant did not have the time to work out a meeting time to meet with the community members.

Then Councilman Washington reminded Council members that in order for this matter to be taken from the table there must be a vote by members of Council. After all comments, the Chairman called for the vote to table this rezoning request for 90 days.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to table second reading for this rezoning request for 90 days from this meeting.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (3) **R-22-03 – A Resolution To Appoint And Commission Litter Control Officers For The Proper Security, General Welfare, And Convenience Of Sumter County. (The Litter Officers Will Be Sworn In Immediately After Action On The Resolution.)**

Mr. Johnathan Bryan, the County Attorney, presented the resolution which will allow for County Council to appoint and commission a number of litter control officers equal to one officer for every twenty-five thousand persons in the County, based upon the 2000 census. He also stated that in the exercise of its general police power, the officers will be empowered to protect the health and safety of the residents of Sumter County. After Mr. Bryan presented the resolution, the Chairman called for a motion to adopt the resolution as presented with the two litter officers as of this date to be sworn in by Chairman James T. McCain, Jr.

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Council, in the exercise of its general police power, is empowered to protect the health and safety of the residents of Sumter County; and

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Council is further authorized by Section 4-9-145 (B) of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina*, (1976, as amended) to appoint and commission a number of litter control officers equal to one officer for every twenty-five thousand persons in the county, based upon the 2000 census; and

WHEREAS, Sumter County Ordinance 18-900 sets forth the procedure for appointing Code Enforcement

Officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following named individuals are hereby appointed and commissioned as Litter Control Officers of Sumter County for the purpose of enforcement of litter control laws and ordinances and any other state and local laws and ordinance as may arise incidental to providing for the proper security, general welfare, and convenience of the County, with all the powers and duties conferred by law upon constables in addition to such duties as may be imposed upon them by the governing body of this County and the use of an ordinance summons and with all the powers and duties conferred pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-9-145 of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina*, (1976, as amended) and Sumter County Ordinance 18-900. Provided, however, these named individuals may exercise the power of arrest with respect to his/her duties of enforcement of litter control laws and ordinances, and other state and local laws and ordinances as may arise incidental to the enforcement of his/her primary duties, only if he/she has been certified as a law enforcement officer pursuant to Chapter 23, Title 23 (SC Code Ann. §§ 23-23-10 through 23-23 150). However, in the absence of an arrest for a violation of the litter control laws and ordinances, these litter control officers authorized to exercise the power of arrest pursuant to the referenced law (SC Code Ann. §§ 23-23-10 through 23-23 150), may not stop a person or make an incidental arrest of a person for a violation of other state and local laws and ordinances.

These appointments shall remain in effect only until such time as these named individuals are no longer employed by Sumter County as a litter control officer.

Timothy Smith

Sumter County Department of Public Works

Cindy Schumpert

Sumter County Department of Public Work

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to adopt the resolution as presented and directed the Chairman and the Clerk to execute and deliver the resolution on behalf of the County.

After the resolution was adopted, Chairman McCain gave the Oath of Office to Ms. Cindy Schumpert and Mr. Timothy Smith.

(2) **R-22-04 – A Resolution Adopted By Sumter County Council Proclaiming April 2022 As Fair Housing Month In Sumter County, South Carolina.**

Chairman McCain read the resolution proclaiming April 2022 as Fair Housing Month in Sumter County, South Carolina. Mr. Mixon emphasized that the resolution is adopted annually as a means for Sumter County to work with agencies pertaining to housing.

After all comments, Council acted on the resolution which is listed below.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to adopt the resolution as presented and directed the Chairman and the Clerk to execute and deliver the resolution on behalf of the County.

WHEREAS, *Sumter County Council desires that its citizens be offered the opportunity to attain a decent and sanitary living environment; and,*

WHEREAS, *Sumter County Council recognizes that 2022 marks the 54th Anniversary of the 1968 passage of the Federal Fair Housing Law that prohibits discrimination in housing; and in 1989, South Carolina passed a Fair Housing Law that provides rights and remedies substantially equivalent to those found in the Federal Fair Housing Act; and*

WHEREAS, *Sumter County Council rejects discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, ancestral status, and disability; and,*

WHEREAS, *Sumter County desires that every citizen be offered the opportunity to live in the home of his or her choice; hence, Sumter County Government does not discriminate in its housing practices;*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, *that we the members of Sumter County Council do hereby proclaim April as FAIR HOUSING MONTH in the County of Sumter, South Carolina and recognize the importance of Fair Housing benefits for its citizenry; Council will continue to promote and advocate fair housing for all of its citizens.*

(3) A Proclamation Proclaiming March As Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month In Sumter County, South Carolina.

Chairman McCain presented this proposed Proclamation recognizing those that have Bleeding Disorders. After reading the proclamation, Chairman McCain called for a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, second by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the proclamation as presented and directed the Chairman and the Clerk to execute and deliver the proclamation on behalf of the County.

WHEREAS, I, James T. McCain, Jr. Chairman of Sumter County Council, am proud to commemorate March 2022 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in Sumter County, South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, in March 1986, President Ronald Reagan designated and formalized the designation of March as “Hemophilia Awareness Month” and the further designations by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services designating March 2016 as National Bleeding Disorders Month; and

WHEREAS, Bleeding disorder advocates, recognize this disorder during this month by wearing a red material around their neck (e.g. leis, scarves, ties); and

WHEREAS, These bleeding disorders, which share the inability to form a proper blood clot, are characterized by extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma or menstruation and can lead to significant morbidity and can be fatal if not treated effectively; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with hemophilia became infected with HIV and Hepatitis C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products which they so desperately needed; and

WHEREAS, this Awareness Month in Sumter will generate greater awareness and understanding of not only hemophilia but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including Von Willebrand disease – which alone impacts an

estimated one percent of the U.S. population or more than 3.2 million individuals; and

WHEREAS, this Awareness Month will foster a greater sense of community and shared purpose among individuals with all inheritable bleeding disorders; and

WHEREAS, this Awareness Month will elevate awareness of and engagement in the inheritable bleeding disorders journey beyond our community to the general public, enabling the prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures, and disability; now

THEREFORE, I, James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman of Sumter County Council, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2022, as: BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH in Sumter County, South Carolina.

- (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: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Washington stated that he has been communicating with the Chairman about the needs of rural roads. He also mentioned that he saw in the newspaper that the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission has already meet. Councilman Washington said that if he new in advance, he would have attended the meeting. He asked the following questions:

- Is there something legal that the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission cannot take additional projects?

Chairman McCain asked Mr. Bryan to answer the question. Mr. Bryan said that he would like to look into the matter and get back with Councilman Washington.

Councilman Washington then stated that he does not remember Council voting on an accepted package to be sent to the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission (CPSTC). He further stated that he knows that Council members have discussed different projects; however, he does not remember Council taking a vote on what would be the acceptable projects to go before the CPSTC.

- Councilman Washington then asked if the projects have gone before the Commission.

Chairman McCain stated that the entire list of projects from the County, City, Pinewood, Mayesville, and other entities have gone before the Commission. The County Administrator concurred.

Councilman Washington asked if Council was going to encourage the Commission concerning the projects that have been sent forward. Chairman McCain stated that none of the entities have permission to encourage the Commission to vote in any way.

It was then stated by Councilman Washington that it is his understanding that the Commission will deliberate on the projects and then eventually dwindle down the \$200,000,000 request to \$85,000,000. Then those projects will come before Council as the ballot question. Council will take action on the project in an ordinance to vote up or down. Councilman Washington then asked what happens if Council does not pass the ordinance containing the ballot question? Can the Commission meet again concerning the projects? Mr. Bryan was asked to answer the question, and he stated that by law, once the CPSTC's presents the ballot question to Council, they have completed their role.

Then Councilman Washington thanked the Chairman for working with him to support the Penny Tax. He further stated that he is trying to get there to support the Penny Tax. Councilman Washington did some additional work. He said that he found several counties similar in size to Sumter that have a similar tax. In Marion County, Florida they approved the Penny Tax in 2016 that sunset in 2020. It was stated that this County agreed to pass a resolution for public safety, infrastructure, and transportation only. He went to another county in Florida and that County acknowledged that resources were not keeping pace with the growing command of a growing community. This county asked for a ½ sales tax to help pay for revitalization of the roads, public safety, and infrastructure. Seventy-one percent of the funds went to roads and transportation and 16 percent to public safety, and 14 percent for parks. York County voted on its first CPST in 1997, which had 14 projects and collected \$99,000,000 all in transportation. In 2003, York County had its second round of the tax with 25 projects and a budget of \$176,000,000 for road projects. In 2011 York County had its third round of Penny Tax Projects and projected \$186,000,000, for roadways. Then in 2017 the citizens of York continued with public safety and transportation identified by the citizens with a projection of \$276,000,000. The Penny Tax is the only vehicle for the County to collect a considerable amount of money to address road concerns. The County does not have enough money in the budget to address road needs. The County Administrator tries to budget small amounts of money here and there to address road concerns; however, there is more need than there is money to address the road needs. Councilman Washington stated that rural areas such as District 1, District 5, and District 2 are in need of help for the roads which is a basic service. It has been stated that roads are the number one topic of discussion. It was also stated by Councilman Washington that the County is now in the 9th hour and the County does not know whether or not it can make comments to the committee or whether the public can talk to the CPSTC. He also said that it is disturbing that only \$13,000,000 dollars have been spent on road needs since the initial CPST. This amount of funding does not reflect that roads are a priority. Councilman Washington said that the heartbreaking things about this is that it will be seven years before the County can consider another CPST. Therefore, citizens will be driving these same roads for seven years before anything can be done. Councilman Washington further stated that he informed Council when he came on Council that roads would be his number one issue and that he would be very aggressive about this matter. Councilman Washington stated that there are two things that he would like to see happen, and he would be glade to put them in a motion.

1. The CPSTC to hear from the public.
2. Sumter County Council send a letter to the CPSTC asking them to dedicate at least \$26,000,000 for rural roads resurfacing and paving.

Councilman Washington stated that since the CPSTC did not have any funds in the first CPST referendum, the Commission should add \$13,000,000 for the lack of road needs from the first tax and add it to the \$13,000,000 for the upcoming tax, which would provide for the \$26,000,000. He then informed the Chairman that he would hold off from putting the matter before Council as a motion so that Council could negotiate about this matter, or he would be willing to go forward with the motion. If Council does vote on the motion, up or down, the votes will be seen again. Councilman Washington

then informed Council that he had one more comment before the Chairman addresses the issue about his potential motions. It was stated in an article by the Mayor of the City of Sumter concerning a statement by a citizen that the Mayor said “this matter is closed,” and it related to Manning Avenue Bridge. Councilman Washington also stated that there are respected citizens in the Community and whether the Mayor agreed with the statements from the citizens or not, his comments were completely inappropriate to make to one of the County’s leaders and it should have never happened. Councilman Washington also stated that he believes that no one on County Council would do such. It was also noted that Chairman McCain is working on this issue; therefore, Councilman Washington said he would have to give the Chairman two congratulations. His final thoughts on this issue was that the Mayor should have never made that statement; the citizens are the ones that decide when an issue is closed.

Councilman Baten asked to be heard. He stated that the Councilman from District 1 did not mention that there are road needs in District #7; yet there are road needs in District #7. Councilman Baten asked the County Attorney how many votes are needed to pass the ordinance with the ballot question for the Capital Projects Sales Tax. The Attorney stated that it will only need four votes for the ordinance to go to Voter Registration to be placed on the election ballot; then the citizens decide. Councilman Baten stated that he thinks that the people are being misled because the \$164,000,000; during the first Penny Tax, none of the districts received money for road issues. Also, it was stated by Councilman Baten that he doesn’t know if it is realistic about the number of roads that are needed to be paved in District One. He then asked the Administrator if there is a realistic number that shows that District One has the greatest need for road paving, resurfacing, rocking, etc. He also said that he is willing to step back to allow for District #1 to have more roads paved if there is that need; however, District #1 Councilman needs to realize that there are other Districts and citizens that need their roads paved and he needs to respect that too. The Penny Tax is a good thing and provides an opportunity for the County to do things that it could not do before. Councilman Baten further stated that when Council first introduced the Penny Tax on the ballot, it had as its # 2 project a Water Park. Orangeburg had a Water Park, as well as Richland County; however, it was not voted in for Sumter County. After that, Council decided to do another Penny Tax and went to seven years, and it passed with 51% of the voters. Councilman Baten said that once the referendum passed, he asked to see the results of the election in District #7. The citizens of District #7 voted favorably for the referendum and when the next referendum was presented, it passed by 62%. Then Councilman Baten said that this impending referendum should have funds in it for roads, and it does for \$13,000,000. He further stated that putting \$26,000,000 for roads will not pass because the city and the other municipalities must also have projects for the citizens of those municipalities and so that those citizens are needed to help pass the CPST referendum. He then added that he is in support of District #1 receiving the majority of the funds for paving roads in that district, but there are other needs countywide.

Councilman Washington stated that he respects the Councilman from Myrtle Beach Highway, but he was not going to say anything about the Councilman misrepresenting things like Councilman Baten said he misrepresented. He also said that no Council members should have to step back; if a Council member is stepping back from providing basic services to its citizens, then that Council member is doing them a discredit. Councilman Washington then cited all the projects that were listed in the first Penny Tax, and also noted that the rural community centers only received \$2,500,000 of those funds. He also emphasized that there were no funds for roads, but there were funds for sidewalks, and he quoted where those roads were located (Bates School, Wilder School, Lemira School, Wise Drive, Wilson Hall, Patriot Parkway, Center Road, Wilson Hall Road, North Pike). He quoted several other projects and the appropriations for those projects. Then Councilman Washington stated that Councilman Baten stated that he was misrepresenting the information; however, the documents that Councilman Washington read from were

official documents. He stated that if he is wrong, then the folks that are doing the business for Council are wrong; the informational documents are facts. It was also stated by Councilman Washington that the County has previously stated that the roads are a primary; however, the roads have not been treated like a priority. He further stated that if anyone says that the roads are being treated as a priority, they are not telling the truth.

Then Councilman Baten asked to be heard again. He stated that Councilman Washington mentioned information about the sidewalks. Councilman Baten said that one of the top elementary schools, Lemira School, is in his district, and there is a mobile home park near the school. If someone lives near a school, they cannot ride the bus to get to school; therefore, sidewalks were put in place so that it would be a safer travel for students going back and forth to school. He added that there were young kids walking to school, 5-, 6-, and 7-year-olds that were walking in the street and dodging traffic, which was not safe. Therefore, this was a basic service for these kids so that they would not get hurt or killed by the traffic. The sidewalks around the public schools are there to protect the children. Councilman Baten also stated that the County wants business and industry to come to Sumter; however, in order to attract these businesses and industries, the County needs to be attractive to them. To have nothing for the families of these companies to do once they move here will not make us attractive to the companies. Thereby the County needed to invest money into recreation; Councilman Baten said that Patriot Park is not just for citizens in the City, its for everyone in the entire Sumter County. Patriot Park is also used as an attraction to get industries to come visit Sumter County. When the industries come to Sumter they meet with citizens and leaders. Councilman Baten stated that he was the Chairman of Council at the time that Continental Tire came to Sumter to tour Sumter as a potential site. One of the questions he was asked by the representatives of Continental Tire was what kind of recreation Sumter had for its potential employees. Recreation helps the County to attract businesses and industries. The County/City has a slogan that says, "Sumter is a great place to Live, Learn, Work, and Play." Councilman Baten also stated, where would we play if we do not have recreational facilities. Councilman Baten stated that he supports Mr. Washington, and he agrees that District #1 should get most of the money for roads, but at the same time, the County will put money into recreation because the County needs to attract businesses and industry; sidewalks will be constructed around schools because kids should not be walking in the streets to get to school.

Councilman Baker stated that although roads were not in the first Penny, it did allow for Continental Tire to come to Sumter. It has been said that if the Penny Tax had not passed, the County may not have had Continental Tire. Also, Councilman Baker said now Continental Tire employees approximately 3,000 employees.

Councilman Baten then said that Continental Tire needed infrastructure, and the County provided the infrastructure through the Capital Penny. This Company promised to hire people making more than the average salary in Sumter County.

Councilman Baker also stated that although the County constructed Patriot Park, the County has prospered due to hospitality funds that are generated through the tournaments that are held at the park through hospitality funds and accommodation tax funds. The more activities that can bring in more people, the more funds the County can have. He also noted that one third of the funds from the Penny are paid by tourists or family members visiting Sumter.

Councilwoman McGhaney stated that she cannot concur with Council District #1 getting all the funds for the roads. She also said that it is her hope that the Commission will be equal, equitable, and

considerate to the full needs of the County. She also stated that she needed to put in a plug for the gymnasium at the Recreation Department because she calls that her project. Many of the young boys wanted to play basketball throughout the County and to have the renovated and new gym is great. It was also stated that sometimes we must find common ground and give a little and take a little. Councilman McGhaney said that the Commission will review the items that have been provided countywide, and hopefully they will review all the projects equitably. Then they can present to Council the final list of projects which will be voted on by Sumter County Council. She also said that she hopes and prays that there will be enough money to meet the needs of the community as it relates to roads. She also said that during the last rains, there are people having to walk through the water and she does not feel good about this situation with people walking with bags on their feet through muddy roads. She added that she understands Councilman Washington's passion about the roads and it is time for the County to pour into the roads while at the same time not compromising the other needs of the County. Councilman McGhaney asked everyone to please pray for this situation. Lastly, she stated that she supports the public being able to speak to the Commission.

Chairman McCain thanked Councilman Washington for his comments, and he also said that from the beginning of this process he has committed to having more funding for the roads. The Chairman said he has had many conversations with the County Administrator since the beginning of this process concerning ensuring that there will be more funds in the Penny Tax for Roads. Then the Chairman addressed the two questions that Councilman Washington had earlier. Chairman McCain said that the Attorney will address the issue at the next meeting on April 12, 2022, about the legality for the Commission to hear from the public. The other question concerning a motion for Council to write a letter to the Commission asking that the road appropriation be changed from \$16,000,000 to \$23,000,000 is out of order since the matter was not on the agenda.

Councilman Washington stated that he requests that the items be placed on the calendar for the next meeting of County Council and if a resolution can be provided prior to that, he will take the matter off the agenda. Lastly, Councilman Washington stated that if York County can do it, counties in Florida can do it, by making roads a priority, Sumter County can do it too.

VETERANS REPORT: Councilman Baten then gave the following report concerning Veterans that have died since December 8, 2020: 263 veterans died in the last 470 days; every 43 hours a veteran die in Sumter County. He also stated that he is glad that the Governor of South Carolina has created a special Veterans Commission and that Sumter County is getting several new facilities constructed for Veterans.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The County Administrator gave this report, informing Council that Mrs. Blanding was at a family function, and details about the monthly reports are in Council's drop-box.

- 1) Shrimp Feast 2022
- 2) February 2022 Building Report
- 3) Planning Department Minutes and Agenda for March 23, 2022
- 4) Sumter County Sheriff's Office February Report
- 5) Ethics Filing Reminder
- 6) Litter Advisory Board Monthly Report

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Workshops beginning April 12, 2022, with the schedule listed below.

- April 12 - Workshop
- April 26 - Workshop
- May 3 – Workshop With Elected Officials
- May 10 – First Reading
- May 17 – Workshop If Necessary
- May 24 – Second Reading
- June 14 – Third Reading

Joe Perry announced that the Sumter Item received a special award from the S. C. Press Association and Ms. Goulding also won several awards.

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 Chairman of Council asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment. Each person will have up to three minutes and the comments need to be addressed through the Chairman. The following persons spoke during public comment:

1. Lewis Watkins spoke and emphasized the reason he speaks during public comment is because Congress passed allow in 1966 to allow for the public to be heard throughout the United States. He also gave Council information about his Civil rights and Civic rights. He said that he has concerns about the public not having the minutes and more information about the agenda, zoning matters, and other land use matters. Mr. Watkins thanked Councilman Washington for his comments during this meeting.
2. David Sanders, Jr., stated that roads and bridges are a hot topic in the United States right now. He also said that he lives in Coach Baker’s district; but on Sundays he has to ride down Dinkins Mill Road and that road needs work to be done on it.
3. Hosa Macu spoke concerning roads. He thanked Mrs. McGhaney for physically coming out to his area to see the concerns that his community has with the road problems. Mr. Macu also said that it is good for Continental Tire to be here in Sumter; however, if something goes wrong on that road where the company is, it will be fixed. Therefore, Mr. Macu’s final statement was for Council to fix the roads so that the kids and adults do not have to put plastic bags on their feet to walk on the roads to get to the buses and other places they are trying to go.
4. Catherine Washington spoke to Council about Pasture Road. She asked what is it going to take to get the road paved. Also, she said that Council is talking about bringing in industry, but the roads need to be fixed that the citizens have to live on and travel on to get to the jobs. Ms. Washington said that they have people that live on the road that have asthma and the ambulance will not come on the road as well as the school buses. She asked Council to put roads as a priority for the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission.
5. Ovarian Sanders stated that road problems have been bad in her area of Council District #1 for as long as she can remember, and she is 31 years old. She asked Council for support, and she asked Council to support Councilman Washington’s request to place roads as the #1 priority in the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission of projects.
6. Linda Wilson stated that she lives on Highway 521. She stated that she drove around to look at the secondary roads in the area. The roads are deplorable, and they need to be fixed. Mrs. Wilson asked

Council to make the roads a priority in the Capital Projects Sales Tax Project list so that those that must drive on these roads will have some relief.

7. Michael Wayne Choice recognized the Chairman and Vice Chairman; then he stated that he is speaking on behalf to the request that Councilman Washington has stated to make roads a priority on the Capital Projects Sales Tax Project list. He also said that he is not here to put anyone down, nor can he walk a mile in Council's shoes and Council cannot walk a mile in his shoes. He further stated that in the Shiloh Community, Narrow Paved Road was in poor condition; however, it is better now. Yet, Council must continue to work on the roads in Rembert, Dalzell, Horatio, Wedgefield, Pinewood, and Mayesville. Mr. Soye said that the community has heard how the former tax fundings were used and the proposed project amount at this time. He then mentioned that the Utilitarian approach is to receive the greater good for the greater number for the desired changes. Lastly, he said that it is time for change.
8. Catherine Hughes stated that she lives in Sumter County, and she would be speaking on Litter. She advised Council that back in February she wrote a letter to The Editor and only one third of her letter appeared in the paper. She followed-up on the matter several times and concluded that she feels like she has been censored; however, she believes that if Hubert Osteen was alive, the letter would have been printed in its entirety. She asked for everyone to work together to keep the roads litter free. Lastly, she stated that she hopes that the Litter Advisory Board will be announcing its work concerning Litter and she thanked Council for allowing her voice to be heard about her concerns.

There being no further Comments from the public, the Chairman closed the public comment section of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

After all comments and business matters, Chairman McCain called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was given by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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: April 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 bulletin board on third floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: March 18, 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: March 18, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council