



**Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building
Third Floor, County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC**

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Social Distancing Is Required At All of County Council's Meetings And Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjiqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Helen Roodman, Karen Hyatt, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Gary Hawkins, Valerie Brunson, Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner, Deron Brown, Kathy Ward, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 18 members of the public attended the meeting.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Or Vice Chairman Of Sumter County Council.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led By Veteran, Les Vandevander, Council District #7. Les Vandevander is a Sumter native who served our Nation for 12 years in the South Carolina Air National Guard with service during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. He was first inspired to serve our Country after attending an air show at Shaw Air Force Base with his father. Les has been the Information Technology Director for Sumter County Government since January 2021 and enjoys working with a skilled team of IT professionals. Les and his wife Chris have been married for 24 years and have a son, Jordan. His wife teaches at Sumter High School and his son works for Georgia Pacific while also serving as a volunteer firefighter with the Sumter Fire Department. Les and his family lives in County Council District 7. Thank you for your Service!



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Chairman McCain stated that prior to action on the Agenda, he would like to amend the agenda by moving item #1 under New Business to immediately after action on the minutes. Then the Chairman asked for a motion on approving the agenda as recommended.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Chairman McCain asked for a motion on the minutes of October 12, 2021. The following action was taken.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Council Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021, as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Recognition of American Legion Public Safety Winners.

The Chairman of Council, along with Council members, presented the recipients with a certificate of recognition and a gift for their achievement as an honoree of the American Legion Public Safety Winners.

- a) Captain Terrance Dupree, Firefighter of the Year
- b) Senior Cpl. Gary Beaver, Sheriff's Deputy of the Year
- c) Officer First Class Charles Conyers, Police Officer of the Year and American Legion's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- d) Cpl. Alicia Haynes, Detention Officer of the Year
- e) Capt. Paramedic Mary Pack EMS Technician of the Year
- f) Assistant Director Paramedic Henry "Kent" Hall, EMS Technician of the Year

ACTION: Received as information.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests:

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

Mr. Mixon stated that as everyone could see, Mrs. Roodman was at the meeting earlier; however, she received a text stating that someone in her family was in an accident; therefore, she had to leave. He asked everyone to keep Mrs. Roodman and her family in their prayers. Then Mr. Mixon presented the Land Use Matters on behalf of Mrs. Roodman.

1. **RZ-21-19 -- 301 E. Hunter St. (County) - Third Reading** – A request to rezone +/- 3.76-acre tract from Residential-9 (R-9) to Agricultural Conservation (AC). The property is located at 301 E. Hunter St. and is represented as a portion of Tax Map # 248-00-01-002 (Part).

Mr. Mixon stated that there have been no changes to this rezoning request since first reading. The Planning staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the request. After Mr. Mixon's comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading of this rezoning request.

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

2. **OA-21-05 -- Drinking Places and Special Events Facilities (County) - Third Reading - 21-963 --** (Ordinance A Request To Amend Article 3, Section 3.F.3, 3.G.2, 3.G.4, 3.H.2, 3.H.4, 3.I.2, 3.I.3, 3.I.4, 3.J.2, 3.J.3, 3.J.4, 3.K.3, 3.K.4, 3.M.3, 3.M.4, 3.N.3, & 3.N.4; Article 3, Exhibit 5; Article 5, Section 5.B.1; Article 5, Section 5.B.2; Article 5, Section 5.B.3; Article 8, Exhibit 23, And Article 10, Section 10.B.1 To Establish

Clear Definitions For Drinking Place Uses, Bottle Club Uses, Night Club Uses, And Special Event Facility Uses, Establishing That Bottle Club Uses And Night Club Uses Require The Same Approval Process As Drinking Place Uses In Applicable Zoning Districts, Establishing That Special Event Facility Uses Require Conditional Use Approval In Applicable Zoning Districts, Establishing Use Specific Conditional Use Criteria For Special Event Facility Uses, Establishing Minimum Off-Street Parking Requirement For Special Event Facility Uses, And To Correct Other Minor Zoning Ordinance Text Inconsistencies.

Mr. Mixon also presented this ordinance amendment to Council for third reading consideration. He stated that there have been no changes to this ordinance amendment since first reading. The Planning staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the request. After Mr. Mixon's comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading for this ordinance amendment as presented.

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

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) Ordinance #21-964 -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park In Conjunction With Kershaw County, Such Industrial/Business Park To Be Geographically Located In Kershaw County And Established Pursuant To Sec. 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended; To Provide For A Written Agreement With Kershaw County To Provide For The Expenses Of The Park, The Percentage Of Revenue Application, And The Distribution Of Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto. (Council Will Take Action On This Matter Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)

Johnathan Bryan, presented this ordinance to Council for third reading consideration and public hearing. He said that this ordinance is to authorize a jointly owned and operated industrial park between Sumter County and Kershaw County. Also, the ordinance will allow for a written agreement between the two counties.

After Mr. Bryan's comments, the Chairman convened a public hearing. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to this proposed ordinance as presented. No one spoke during public hearing. Therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on third reading as listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- (1) Recognition of American Legion Public Safety Winners.

The Chairman of Council, along with Council members, presented the recipients with a certificate of recognition and a gift for their achievement as an honoree of the American Legion Public Safety Winners.

- g) Captain Terrance Dupree, Firefighter of the Year
- h) Senior Cpl. Gary Beaver, Sheriff's Deputy of the Year
- i) Officer First Class Charles Conyers, Police Officer of the Year and American Legion's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- j) Cpl. Alicia Haynes, Detention Officer of the Year

- k) Capt. Paramedic Mary Pack EMS Technician of the Year
- l) Assistant Director Paramedic Henry “Kent” Hall, EMS Technician of the Year

ACTION: Received as information.

- (2) A Proclamation Proclaiming October 24-30, 2021, As Respiratory Care Week In Sumter County, South Carolina.

Prior to the Clerk to Council reading the proclamation, Chairman McCain recognized the new Chief Executive Office for Prisma Health Tuomey, Mr. Joseph DiPaolo; Jeff Faw, Director Toumey Hospital Foundation; as well as Sonya Schumacher, RRT, Department Manager; Daren Avins, RRT, and Susan Hilditch, RRT.

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

PROCLAMATION:

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Sumterites is essential to the happiness and well-being of all the families and communities in Sumter, countywide; and

WHEREAS, respiratory diseases are among the most common medical conditions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, respiratory care professionals have risen to the challenge and put their health at risk to take care of COVID-19 patients, and have been on the frontlines of the pandemic from the beginning; and

WHEREAS, respiratory care practitioners are involved in some of the most at risk procedures, including intubation, noninvasive ventilation, and delivering nebulized medication; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, the American Association of Respiratory Care has been the sponsor of National Respiratory Care Week; and during this week, respiratory care practitioners are recognized for their work that includes specialized treatment to patients diagnosed with respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, acute respiratory distress syndrome, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, asthma, and many other diseases; and

WHEREAS, services provided by respiratory care practitioners help their patients experience a healthier quality of life; and respiratory care practitioners are dedicated health care professionals committed to reducing the suffering and recovery times of patients experiencing respiratory illnesses.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, James T. McCain, Jr., on behalf of Members of Sumter County Council, do hereby Proclaim **October 24-30, 2021, as RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK** in Sumter County, South Carolina, and laude all respiratory care practitioners for their dedication in treating and preventing all types of illnesses; especially during the fight against COVID-19.*

- (3) Sumter County Employee 2022 Calendar -Revised.

The County Administrator presented the proposed 2022 Employee Holiday Calendar for Council’s reconsideration. He stated that last meeting Council approved the Calendar with a change on December 31, 2021. However, that date was correct as presented. In 2022, New Year’s is on a Saturday; therefore,

the County will observe New Year’s Day on the prior Friday, which is December 31, 2021. Additionally, a date was left off of the 2022 Christmas Holiday. The date was added to allow County Employees three days for the Christmas Holiday. Then the County Administrator asked Council to approve the calendar as revised and corrected.

The following holidays for the 2022 calendar year have been approved by County Council:

Friday, December 31	New Year’s Day (Observed)
Monday, January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 21	Presidents’ Day
Friday, April 15	Good Friday
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Monday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 5	Labor Day
Friday, November 11	Veterans’ Day
Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving
Friday, Monday & Tuesday, December 23, 26 & 27	Christmas
Varied	Employee’s Birthday

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the County’s Employee Holiday Calendar as presented.

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

No executive session was held.

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Ordinance #21-959 –Third Reading An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of A Waterworks System Refunding Revenue Bond (Wedgefield-Stateburg Rural Community Water System), Series 2021, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$1,300,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bond; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bond; Providing For The Payment Of The Bond And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Mr. Bryan stated that this ordinance, if approved, will authorize the issuance of a Refunding Revenue Bond. The County received an offer from BB&T to purchase this bond and the results would be the rates on the three bonds that the County will pay off which is currently at 4.66, would be reduced to 2.35. Also, the term of the bond will be reduced from 22 years to 15 years, and would provide a net savings of \$367,208. The revenue received, will cover the payments for the Bond without impinging the cash flow. The Water Department will continue to operate with the current revenue.

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

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval as presented.

- (2) **Ordinance #21-964 – Third Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park In Conjunction With Kershaw County, Such Industrial/Business Park To Be Geographically Located In Kershaw County And Established Pursuant To Sec. 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended; To Provide For A Written Agreement With Kershaw County To Provide For The Expenses Of The Park, The Percentage Of Revenue Application, And The Distribution Of Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.**

The County Attorney presented this item to Sumter County Council; then the Chairman convened a public hearing on this matter. After the public hearing was held, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading of this ordinance.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) **Public Safety Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 4:45 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Washington, Baten, and Byrd)**

The Public Safety Committee Chairman, Councilman Washington, stated that the Committee met and all members were present. The Committee received a briefing in executive session. No action was taken.

- (2) **Technology Personnel Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McGhaney, Byrd, and Washington) (Technology Personnel Committee Meeting Will Begin Immediately After The Public Safety Committee Concludes Or At 5:15 p.m.)**

Committee Chairman, Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney, stated that the Committee met in executive session to receive a briefing from the Administrator and the Information Technology Director as it relates to Cyber Security. There was no action to be taken by the Committee. Received as information.

- (3) **Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 5:45 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney) (Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Will Begin Immediately After The Technology/Personnel Committee Concludes Or At 5:45 p.m.)**

The Chairman of the Committee, Chairman James T. McCain, stated that the Committee met and all members were present. The following action was taken for Council's ratification.

- a) **Rail Road Spur Maintenance Request For Funding.** The Committee discussed this matter and recommended that Sumter County Council provide up to \$50,000 from the Infrastructure Account to be used for any upcoming Rail Road Spur Maintenance Requests. If additional funds are needed, the Administrator will bring that information back to the Committee for review and possible action.

ACTION: Motion and second were received from the Committee to approve the recommendation to allow \$50,000 to be secured from the Infrastructure Fund Account to be used for any upcoming Rail Road Spur Maintenance requests; if additional funds are needed, the Administrator will bring the requests back to Council.

- b) **Update On S. C. Department of Revenue Audit On The 2014 Capital Projects Sales Tax Expenditures and Collections.**

Chairman McCain gave stated that the Committee and other Council members received the S. C. Department of Revenue Audit report on the County's 2014 Capital Projects Sales Tax Expenditures and Collections. The County had a favorable report as outlined in the letter below. There were two recommendations that the County will review.



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

300A Outlet Pointe Blvd., Columbia, South Carolina 29210
P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214

October 11, 2021

Mr. Gary Mixon
Sumter County Administrator
13 East Canal St.
Sumter, SC 29150




Dear Mr. Mixon,

This final audit report reflects the Department of Revenue's (the Department) conclusions regarding the expenditures and collection of the Sumter County Capital Projects Sales Tax. The audit scope included review of the expenditures and collection of the Sales Tax revenue collected for the period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020

This audit concludes that Sumter County has, thus far, complied with the Capital Projects Sales Tax Act and the 2014 referendum that was approved by the voters. Although the County is in compliance, the Department has made two recommendations. One recommendation is to place the collected revenue and bond proceeds in an interest bearing account to earn additional monies. The second recommendation is to create an expense account specifically for the authorized capital projects in order to create a better audit trail to identify all transactions related to the projects.

We would like to thank Sumter County's Director of Finance; Mrs. Uvette Pope-Rogers, and her team for their assistance and cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,


Nichole R. Webb
Compliance Auditor

CC: Chairman James T. McCain Jr.

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

- Councilman Baten gave the following report concerning the COVID-19 report for October 25, 2021. He stated that since his last report 38 veterans died as a result of COVID-19. As of today, October 26, 2021, 175 veterans have died since December 2020. It appears that every other day a veteran dies in Sumter County. The demographics for these veterans is as follows:
 - a) Average age 75; the ages range from 27 to 100 years of age
 - b) Race - Caucasian 175; African Americans 56
 - c) Gender - Males 172; Females 3
 - d) Military Branch - Air Force 80; Army 62; Navy 13; Marine 5; Other 18.

Councilman Baten stated that although there is a slight decrease in the number of deaths; it is anticipated that during the winter months, it is expected that the number of deaths from COVID 19 will increase. He also stated that the reports continue to state that wearing a mask and social distancing is still very important. It was also noted by Councilman Baten that over 90 percent of the people that are hospitalized, in intensive care units, and are on ventilators are people that are unvaccinated.

- Councilman Washington stated that during the last meeting of Sumter County Council, held on October 12, 2021, Council received information from the County Administrator concerning the timeline for the upcoming Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum. He also said that the County received a clean audit concerning the revenue and expenditures for the 2014 Capital Projects Sales Tax Funds. Councilman Washington stated that he is “rising” in response to meetings that he has had with his folks. He further said that his folks are under the impression that the rural area has not benefited as much from the Capital Projects Sales Tax funds as the downtown areas. He also said that as Council members know, the County has approximately a \$50,000,000 budget and there is not enough money in the budget to pave roads. The numbers will confirm that in rural council districts, particularly in Council District 1, his district, there is a desperate need to pave roads. Councilman Washington stated that he is happy to have three guests in the audience at this meeting from his rural area. Councilman Washington said that these are folks that he has gotten to know, and Janie Colbert, John Colbert, and Jimmy Johnson. These District 1 folks have the same concerns that he has about the roads and the needs of District 1. Councilman Washington said that when he ran for office he ran on the campaign that Council has to do more than just say “No.” There is a problem in the rural areas with surfacing, resurfacing, and paving. This concern must be addressed.

Councilman Washington said that he wants to talk about two approaches, and he will not ask Council to vote on these approaches at this meeting; however, he would ask Council members to send it to his Committee so Council can have a discussion about this concern, because it is a Public Safety Issue. A couple of the options are that with this round of the Capital Penny Sales Tax, his District would like to see half of the funds to go to rural roads surfacing, resurfacing, and paving, particularly in the five Council Districts that are rural. He further stated that with the Penny, Capital Project Sales Tax Funds, the County could make some progress.

Also, Councilman Washington said another option would be to ask the public to support an additional Penny which would be dedicated to roads only. He further stated that he saw the article this week about Patriot Park and the Play Ground at Patriot Park with the Councilman from Wilson Hall area sliding down the slide. Councilman Washington said that he does not fault Councilman Edens at all for taking care of his district that is his job; that is what he is supposed to do. However, per Councilman Washington, the other areas are suffering not just roads, but other matters as well. Members of Council must find a solution because the folks in the rural areas are paying taxes just like the folks downtown. However, most of the money from the Capital Projects Sales Tax revenue is coming downtown and not in the rural areas.

Councilman Washington said that he is asking Council members to work with him on addressing the issue of roads and other matters for the rural areas; he mentioned that the Councilman from Dalzell has that issue, the Councilman from Pinewood has that issue, the Councilman from Shiloh has that issue, and the Councilman from Myrtle Beach Highway has that issue. Councilman Washington said that he must address these issues; additionally, the County Administrator is doing what he can with the little funds that he has; therefore, Council must address these issues. It was also stated that the Administrator and the Public Works Director have ridden on some of the roads with Councilman Washington and they can attest that the roads are in horrible condition. Some folks have been waiting as much as 20 years to get the roads paved (Catherine Washington, in Wedgefield; Mrs. Yvonne China in Rembert, and his folks present at this meeting.)

Councilman Washington said again that he believes this matter should be sent to the Public Safety Committee; he also said that many people in the rural area are thinking about not supporting the Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum. Because they feel left out. Also, if there is another solution besides the Penny for Progress Sales Tax, then Council needs to figure out what it is and Council needs to help these people with a basic service. As he concluded his statement, Councilman Washington he said that this is not a Democratic issue, nor a Republican issue, this matter is a people issue. The folk down town have good roads and sidewalks, lights; and they are not incapacitating their cars driving on bad roads. The people in the rural areas deserve the same benefits. Councilman Washington also said that there have been matters on this Council that he has worked with other Council members on; now he is asking Council members to work with him on this issue. Lastly he stated that this is an issue Council must address.

MONTHLY REPORTS

➤ COVID-19

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR: Mr. Mixon in introduced Mrs. Donna Dew as the new Emergency Management Director. Mrs. Dew has worked in Emergency Management a number of years and has received honors for the work that she has done in this department. Of course she will work with Council and the Community as emergency matters happen in this County. It is hoped that there will be few and far between emergency issues; however Mrs. Dew has the wherewithal to manage this department during these possible occurrences.

UPDATE ON ARPA:

The Administrator gave the following report on the ARPA projects.

- **The Mini Grant program** application process closed on Friday, October 22, 2021; 78 applications were submitted; the financial request for those 78 applications totaled \$1,132,000. Council appropriated \$500,000 for this particular project. The applications are being reviewed to see how many actually qualify for the grant. Each grant must meet the funding for the ARPA requirements. A review Committee will present to Council its findings within the next several weeks.
- **The Mobile Home Grant program** RFQ's will be out to the public on Monday, November 1, 2021, the RFQ's will be out for two weeks. This proportion of the project is for the company (ies) that will manage the programs. An evaluation of the RFQ's will be brought back to Council. Based on the information received, organizations will start taking applications on the mobile home repairs.

Councilman Washington thanked the Administrator for his report and he stated that the ARPA fund grant process was something that he raised to Council and Council was generous enough to approve the idea. Since that time, the City of Sumter has implemented a similar program in the amount of \$900,000. He urged Council and the folks that will be reviewing the application is that Council wants to give special sensitivity to the rural applications. The rural applications will not have the opportunity to apply for the City grants. The City grant folks can apply for the City grants and the County grants. He further stated that when he proposed this program it was intended, at least in his mind, for rural organizations. The City has now followed suite with the City Grant program. Councilman Washington said that he will be watching very closely. He wants special emphasis on rural organizations receiving the money.

Councilman McGhaney stated that she wanted to give the County Administrator credit for initially saying that the grant funding would be five hundred thousand dollars. However, the Administrator did say that he would be flexible and after review of the applications, it would be considered to add more funds for the mini grant program. It was further stated by Councilwoman McGhaney as to who or how the grant project was initiated, all Council members were a part of the discussions and we worked together to get this project moved forward. She also stated that with many of the Council districts having rural areas and problems with roads and other issues sometimes silence gives consent. However, she and other council members have been working hard during Council's meetings and at other times throughout the years. Lastly, Councilman McGhaney said that the 2014 Penny for Progress had several roads that were in the rural community that received surfacing and some that received paving and it is hoped that more roads will receive paving, surfacing, and resurfacing in the rural communities. Sumter County is a Team; she said that although we may disagree with the principles of things, we all agree with the services that are needed. Councilman McGhaney stated that she appreciated the Councilman from Rembert for being very vocal.

Councilman Baten stated that he is asking the County Administrator and staff to please not cut these projects based on the amount of grant requests that have been received. He asked the Administrator to add additional funds. Councilman Baten also said that he is fully aware of the needs of road work in the rural community and he and others have continued to work with the Administrator on these roads. However, there are State Laws that the County must follow as well as the existing policies within the County to ensure that the road issue is handled properly.

The Chairman also asked Council to remember that there has been \$1,000,000 appropriated for help with special projects: \$500,000 for the Mini Grant Program, and \$500,000 for the mobile home project. Once the staff have reviewed the applications Council will have the opportunity to make further decisions if necessary; it is not a be all and end all 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.

- William Odom thanked Council for all the work they have done to ensure that the Veterans Retirement Home is placed in Sumter. He also thanked Council for all the other work they are doing in the Community. He also said to Councilman Baten that the reason the veterans are dying is because they are old.
- Jimmy Johnson spoke to Council about Duffy Drive and how messed up the road is. He stated that he was born here but was reared up north. Since being in back in the South, he has enjoyed the area, but the condition of the roads are not good and the rules about the roads is crazy. He asked Council for some help for the people on Duffy Drive. He also said that if a road has a blue sign and it cannot be paved because the sign is blue, then the sign color should be changed to green.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. after a motion by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, 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: November 9, 2021

I certify that public and media notification of the above-mentioned meeting was given prior thereto as follows required by Freedom of Information:

Public Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agendas posted on bulletin board on third floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: October 21, 2021

Media Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agenda Information is listed on Sumter County's Home Page, and E-mailed to The Item, The Chamber, WIS-TV, WBTW, and Time Warner Cable.

Date Notified: October 21, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council