



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building, Third Floor
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

*Council members and the public will be required to wear a face mask
and have temperatures checked upon arrival. Social Distancing is also required.*

<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, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, Helen Roodman, David Shadoan, Les Vandevander, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Allen Daily, and three Sheriff Deputies.

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

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

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

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone in attendance repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

Councilman McCain asked the Clerk, Mrs. Blanding, if there were any changes to the agenda. Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes to the agenda. Then Councilman McCain called for a motion on the approval of the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Councilman McCain asked for a motion to approve the minutes for County Council's March 9, 2021, Regular Meeting as prepared by the Clerk to Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Washington, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the revised minutes of March 9, 2021, that were sent out by the Clerk and are before Council tonight.

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.

- (1) **RZ-21-01 -- 1335 Camden Highway -- (County) - Second Reading/ Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone +/- 6.4-Acres Of Land From Residential-9 (R-9) To General Commercial (GC). The Property Is Located At 1335 Camden Hwy. And Is Represented By Tax Map #'S 203-05-01-001, 203-05-01-003, & 203-05-01-009(Portion). (Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Matter Prior To Action On Second Reading Of This Rezoning Request.)**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director, introduced the rezoning request for second reading and public hearing. She stated that there are two separate owners, Mr. Renato C. Del Beni and Mr. Jay Davis, for two separate parcels.

The original request was to rezone 6.4 acres of land from Residential-9 to General Commercial in proximity from Camden Highway, Jefferson Road, and Herman Street. The property is near the Jefferson Road and Camden Highway intersection. There are several residential dwellings on the property and the purchaser hopes to change these dwellings into a real estate office.

It was also mentioned by Mrs. Roodman, that since these parcels are contiguous, and because the 0.53-acre land area being represented by Rento C. Del Beni is not of sufficient size to establish a free-standing zoning area of at least two acres in size as required by *Article 2, Section 2.a.2* of the *Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance* (“the Ordinance”), the two separate ownership interests are being treated as one consolidated rezoning request. The design for the proposed commercial development is in compliance with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Roodman also stated that the Planning Commission and the Planning staff are in support of rezoning 4.63 acres of property to General Commercial which is west and south of Herman Street. However, it is recommended by the Planning staff and Commission to allow for the +/- 1.77 acre area on Herman Street to remain within the R-9 zoning district due to its closer proximity and relationship with existing residential development along Jefferson Road.

Mrs. Roodman also stated that she spoke to Mr. Jay Davis about the recommendation of the Planning Commission, and Mr. Davis is in agreement with allowing the property on Herman Street, as mentioned earlier, to remain R-9. After all comments from Mrs. Roodman, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this rezoning request.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- **Ms. Carol Russell**, who lives at 1870 Jefferson Road, stated that she lives almost across the street from Herman Street. She stated that it would be best if the Council agrees with the Planning staff to allow for the 1.77 acre area on Herman Street be left as R-9 zoning.

She further stated that her suggestion is based on the traffic from Jefferson Road trying to get on Highway 521; several times a day the traffic is backed up at that location. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the public hearing and asked for a motion on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman McGhaney, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously by Council to approve the 4.6 acres of land to be rezoned as recommended by the Planning staff and Planning Commission and to allow the 1.77 portion to remain as R-9 at this time.

- (2) **RZ-21-02 -- 5333 Edgehill Road -- (County) - Second Reading/ Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone +/- 0.91-Acres Of Land From Agricultural Conservation (AC) To General Commercial (GC). The Property Is Located At 5333 Edgehill Road And Is Represented By Tax Map #133-02-02-011. (Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Matter Prior To Action On Second Reading Of This Rezoning Request.)**

Mrs. Roodman presented this proposed rezoning request to Council for second reading and public hearing. She stated that the Authorized Agent for the request, Mr. Steve L. Dinkins, hopes to have the property rezoned in order for future sale and development on the property.

The property fronts on Edgehill Road; it abuts to a strip of commercial zoning which runs north and South along Peach Orchard Road. Also, the request is speculative in order to increase the value of the property. The property to the immediate west does contain a single family dwelling and the property to the north contains the Korean Church which will be preserved and kept as the Church property. Development to the east and south do contain commercial uses and commercial designation. Mrs. Roodman also stated that the land is under the 2040 Comprehensive Plan as Military Protection and it is the goal of this area to protect Shaw Air Force Base from encroachment. The plan does support commercial development in Military Protection Areas provided care is given to limit the concentration of people.

Mrs. Roodman stated that when the Planning Commission reviewed this request, they recommended to rezone it to Limited Commercial in lieu of General Commercial Zoning; however, Mrs. Roodman stated that Commercial Zoning is in alignment with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. However, the Limited Commercial Zoning would provide additional buffering. The Applicant/ Authorized Agent agree with allowing the property to be rezoned to Limited Commercial instead of General Commercial. (See attached letter.)

After all comments, the Chairman convened a public hearing. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to this proposed rezoning request. No one spoke to this issue; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously approved by Council to grant second reading to this request to rezoning the property from Agricultural Conservation to Limited Commercial as recommended by the Planning Commission and approved by the Property Owner and the Authorized Agent.

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Kyle Kelly

From: Steve Dinkins <stevedinkinsr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Kyle Kelly
Subject: Re: RZ-21-02 - 5333 Edgehill Rd Rezoning

This commendation is OK with the seller and with me and thank you for trying to help us.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 10, 2021, at 4:20 PM, Kyle Kelly <kkelly@sumtersc.gov> wrote:

Steve,

Thanks for speaking with me this afternoon about the 5333 Edgehill Rd rezoning case. As we discussed, the Planning Commission has recommended to County Council that the property be rezoned to Limited Commercial (LC) zoning, instead of the General Commercial (GC) that was requested via the original application.

If you would do me the favor of indicating via response email whether your client is in agreement with or in disagreement with rezoning to a Limited Commercial (LC) classification, I will update our case file accordingly and County Council will continue with 2nd and 3rd readings of the rezoning ordinance.

Best,
Kyle

Kyle Kelly, AICP
Senior Planner
Sumter City-County Planning Department
PO Box 1449 (12 W. Liberty St.)
Sumter, SC 29151
803.774.1612
KKelly@sumtersc.gov
<image001.jpg>

- (3) **RZ-21-03 -- 419 N. Pike E. (County) – Second Reading/ Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone A +/- 2.57-Acre Parcel From General Commercial (GC) To Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W). The Property Is Located At 419 N. Pike E. And Is Represented By Tax Map # 248-07-03-005. (Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Matter Prior To Action On Second Reading Of This Rezoning Request.)**

Mrs. Roodman stated that Renee and John Bittner are the authorized agents for this rezoning request. The applicants, hope to have this property rezoned from General Commercial to Light Industrial which is near property that is industrial and commercial in nature. Currently zoned Commercial but it abuts Light Industrial. The rezoning request is to allow for the sale of the property to a Light-Industrial user for some retail purposes, however, mostly it will be used for Light Industrial and Warehouse Uses. Historically, the site has been used for light industrial use, but the building has been vacant for a significant number of years. Therefore, any grandfathered use has expired.

After all comments from Mrs. Roodman, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this proposed rezoning request. Chairman McCain asked if anyone wished to speak in support of or opposition to the rezoning request.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- **Windy Miller** stated that she is not in opposition to the applicants wanting to rezone the property; however, she owns the 120 acres behind the property and wants to make sure that it is something that would not have a lot of noise.
- **Frank McLeod** stated that he is one of four commercial owners of a lot approximately two lots from the proposed rezoning. Mr. McLeod stated that he and his partners do not necessarily have a problem with the request, they have more questions about things such as noise pollution, operation ours (M-F), will there be a lot of truck movement, effluent, etc.
- **Jack Bittner** spoke in support of the rezoning request and to clarify any concerns of Mr. Frank McLeod. He stated that his company is in the Forklift parts business. His company stores parts in the warehouse for the forklifts. Some of the parts are in boxes, and are on pallets and racks. The parts are received by UPS and occasionally, a tractor trailer will come to the business to deliver parts. Mr. Bittner further stated that most of the business is conducted by phone or the internet because the company has a high internet presence. He also stated that there are usually only two to three cars in the parking lot. Mr. Bittner stated that his business is somewhat like AutoZone, however, his company services commercial and industrial businesses and he ships parts all over the United States. Lastly, Mr. Bittner stated that this company does not do any blow torches, loud noises, etc. It is a very quiet run business.
- **Mr. Frank McLeod** spoke again and stated that since this company is not a manufacturing company, but more of a warehouse with parts coming in and being shipped out; he and his partners have no problem with the proposed request.

Chairman McCain asked if there were anyone else wishing to speak to this matter. No one else spoke; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on second reading for this rezoning request.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously approved by Council to grant second reading approval to this rezoning request as presented and recommended by the Planning Commission and Planning staff.

- (4) **OA-21-02 -- Zoning Districts Established and Free-Standing Zoning Areas (County) – Second Reading/ Public Hearing – 21-948 -- To Amend The Sumter County – Zoning And Development Standards Ordinance Article 2, Section 2.a.1 And Article 2, Section 2.a.2 To Allow For The Establishment Of A Smaller Minimum Free-Standing Zoning Area When Such An Area Consists Entirely Of Land Zoned Neighborhood Commercial (NC) And To Make Other Minor Adjustments Identified By Staff For Consistency Purposes. (Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Matter Prior To Action On Second Reading Of This Ordinance Amendment.)**

The Planning Director, Mrs. Roodman, presented this proposed ordinance amendment to Council for second reading and public hearing. The applicant, Coastal Development Partners represented by Mr. Greg Googer, is requesting an amendment to the *Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance* in order reduce the minimum size of a free-standing zoning area from 2 acres to 1.5 acres. This request would be based on situations where a free-standing zoning area consists entirely of land zoned Neighborhood Commercial (NC). The Planning Commission is in support of the request as presented in the staff report on this request.

After Mrs. Roodman's presentation, the Chairman convened a public hearing. He asked if anyone wished to speak in support or opposition to the rezoning request. The following person spoke during public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING:

➤ Mr. Greg Googer stated that he along with the company he represents, Coastal Development Partners have developed several Dollar Generals in the rural area of Sumter County. Mr. Googer stated that currently, if Dollar General wants to develop a new store, it most make sure that two acres of property is available which can sometimes be a problem; especially when only about 1.5 acres is needed to complete the entire job. He asked Council to consider approving the request as presented by Mrs. Roodman.

No one else spoke during public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on second reading as presented.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously approved by Council to grant second reading approval to this ordinance amendment as presented and recommended by the Planning Commission and Planning staff.

- (5) **OA-21-01 -- Development Density in the Airfield Compatibility District (County) - Third Reading/Public Hearing - (21-949) -- A Request To Amend Article 3, Section R: Airfield Compatibility District To Create An Additional District Within The Airfield Compatibility District (ACD) As Well As Implementation Of Development Standards That Result In A Dispersed Pattern Of Development Within The Newly Created District. (Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Matter Prior To Action On Third Reading Of This Ordinance Amendment.)**

Due to the amount of people attending the meeting, several members of the public were downstairs, Mrs. Roodman asked the Clerk to make sure that anyone interested in this Public Hearing to come to the Chambers. Mrs. Blanding assured Mrs. Roodman that all those wanting to attend the public hearing for this matter were in Chambers. Mrs. Roodman stated that she sent out over 100 notifications about the public hearing to persons owning property in this area and could be affected by this particular ordinance amendment.

She gave Council and the public some background about this proposed amendment. In December 2019 Sumter County Council adopted the 2040 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. An overarching goal of the 2040 Plan is to protect Shaw Air Force Base (AFB) and Poinsett Electronic Combat Range, including its facilities and its mission, from unwanted and

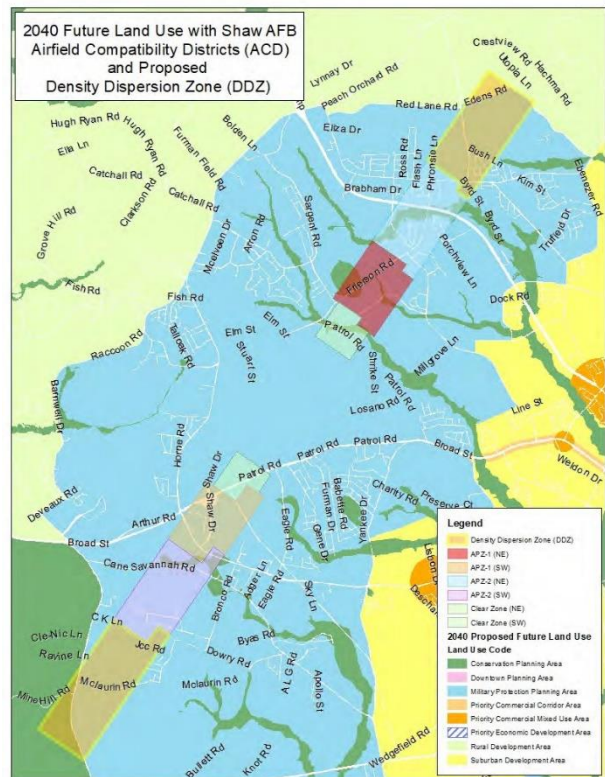
incompatible development encroachment. The 2040 Plan adopted a designated Military Protection Area (MPA) to further this goal.

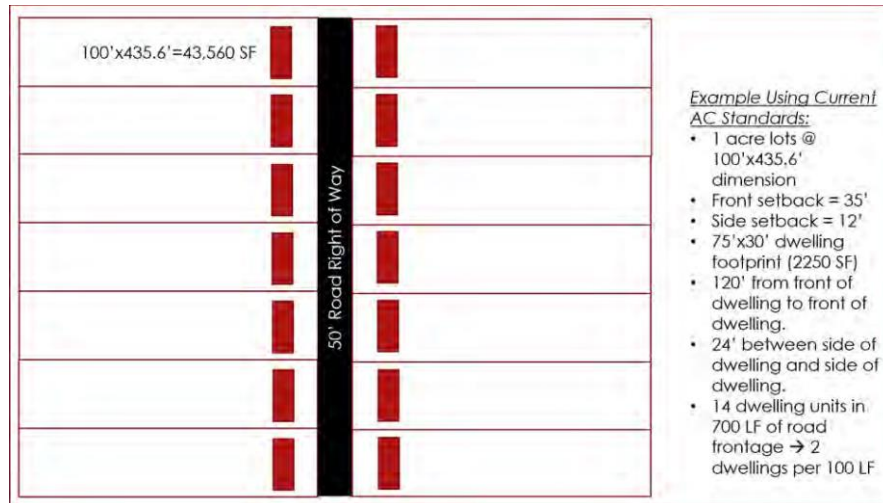
She also said that the boundaries and extent of the MPA were revised based on recommendations found in the 2016 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The 2016 JLUS report supports a one unit per acre development density in the areas impacted by military operations outside of the Clear Zone, Accident Protection Zone I (APZ I) and Accident Protection Zone II (APZ II) In early 2020, zoning designations in areas in and around the MPA were evaluated for encroachment impacts. As a result of this analysis several properties to the northeast of Shaw were rezoned to Agricultural Conservation (AC), reducing potential development densities on those tracts to one per gross acre.

The intent of the ACD is to prevent incompatible land uses or the creation of flight hazards which would impair the utility of, and public investment in, Shaw AFB. While applicable ACD requirements include prohibition on development of new residential subdivisions within the APZ-1 and APZ-2 areas, areas just outside of the designated APZs have no such development restrictions. These areas outside of the designated APZs are still susceptible to aircraft accidents *but are only subject to use and development standards in alignment with the underlying zoning district*. Inclusion of a new Airfield Compatibility District that regulates how density is dispersed across a tract will address concerns in and around the extended centerline of the runway. The map below shows the proposed “Density Dispersion Zone” in relation to the existing APZ-1 and APZ-2.

Mrs. Roodman also provided Council members with diagram of what the property would look like if the ordinance amendment was changed. (See information listed below).

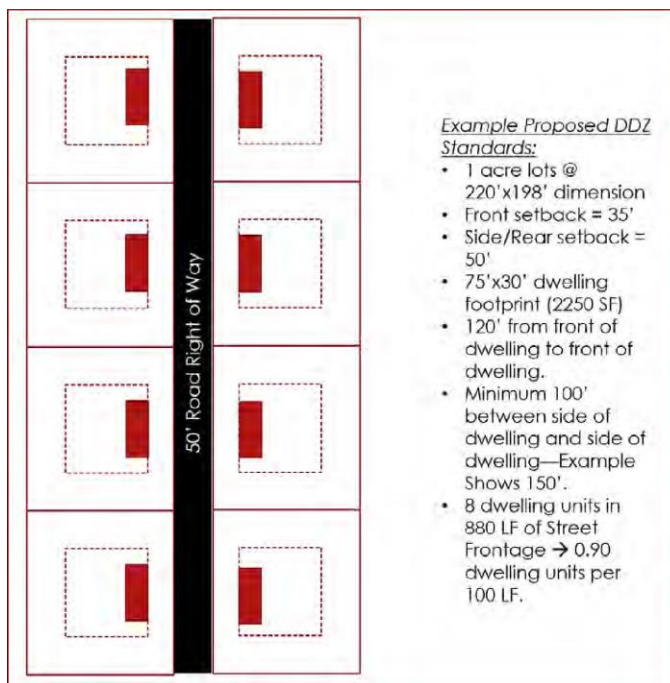
The following graphics show the impact of implementing modified development standards within the proposed Density Dispersion Zone (DDZ).





Above: Typical AC 1-acre lot development using 100 ft. lot widths and standard setbacks.

Below: 1-acre lot development using proposed DDZ lot width and setback standards.



As shown in the graphic, implementation of more stringent lot minimums and building setbacks spreads out the density of development underneath the extended centerline of the runways. This dispersion of density places structures further apart and prevents clustering of development, thus limiting the potential for unnecessary loss of life or property should there be an aircraft failure.

Mrs. Roodman stated that this request is recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. She also mentioned that this change, if approved by Council, will only apply

to lots that are created after final reading of this ordinance amendment. Any development prior to March 23, 2021, can still develop under Agricultural Conservation Development standards.

After Mrs. Roodman’s presentation, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this matter. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the ordinance as presented. A gentleman from the public asked if Mrs. Roodman’s presentation could be provided to him. The Chairman asked that Mrs. Roodman give a copy of her presentation at this meeting to the gentleman, and she provided the copy to the gentleman.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Angle Tristian spoke and stated that she did receive the information sent out by the Planning Staff concerning this Ordinance Amendment. Ms. Tristian said that she wanted to know if the flight pattern will change. Ms. Roodman stated that the flight pattern will not change. The development matters that were stated in the presentation are the proposed changes before County Council for action tonight.

There being no further comments from the public, the Chairman closed the public hearing. Then Councilman Baker said that for clarification, he wanted the public to know that they can still develop their property with “one acre lots”; however, the lots will be wider and less frontage, which equates to less density. The change is for the protection of the property owners as well as for Shaw Air Force Base. After all comments, the following motion was given and acted upon.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval and adoption of this ordinance amendment as presented by the Planning Staff and recommended by the Planning Commission.

7. OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) R-21-03 – Consideration Of A Resolution Designating April 2021 As Fair Housing Month In Sumter County, South Carolina.

Chairman McCain presented this resolution to Council for adoption. He stated that each year Council declares April as Fair Housing Month in the County which will allow the County to seek after grants through the Council On Governments as it relates to Housing matters. After review of the resolution, the Chairman called for a motion.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, 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 Sumter County Council.

RESOLUTION:

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 2021 marks the 53rd 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.*

- (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.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) Public Safety Committee Meeting, Held On Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 5:00 p.m. Held In The County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Washington, Baten, and Byrd)

Councilman Carlton B. Washington, Chairman of the Public Safety, stated that this was the first Public Safety Committee meeting for the year and the following items were discussed.

- Sheriff Dennis and Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner presented information concerning the needs of the Sheriff's Office and the Detention Center for the upcoming budget year.

The budget will be discussed further in detail as the County proceeds during its budgetary process.

- Litter Project – Councilman Washington said that this matter was discussed including a Litter Program proposal that he has been working on, and he along with other members of the Public Safety Committee will present the proposal within the next couple of weeks. Councilman Washington also said that he will be traveling to Greenville, SC to review the operations of a litter truck which has a vacuum on it and it goes down the side of the road and sucks-up the trash from the road. Additionally, there will be a need for some Litter Crews and other additional things that can be put in place to get a handle on the Litter issues throughout the County. Lastly, Councilman Washington stated that there are community groups that are willing to work with the Litter Project.

(Note: Sumter County Council members as well as City Council, and the Chamber of Commerce have been working on a litter program for the past year. Sumter County Council passed its Litter ordinance during March 2021. It is projected that the City Council will be taking action on a Litter Ordinance in April 2021.)

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

- Councilman Baten reported on COVID-19 cases in Sumter County. He stated that all are aware that people are getting vaccinated against COVID-19 virus. However, Sumter County is still not out of danger for this virus. He added that over the past 14 days there has been a big increase in the COVID-19 cases – 360 new cases of COVID 19 in Sumter County. This equates to at least 14 new cases per day. The Mayor of the City of Sumter and Sumter City Council extended the Mask Mandate on March 16 for another 30 days by a vote of 6 to 1. Councilman Baten read a portion of a news article citing that the Mayor believes that even though the COVID-19 cases are trending down, caution still needs to be taken as it relates to this virus. Councilman Baten said that his “hat is off” to Mayor Merchant for the concern about the life safety of the citizens of Sumter.

Councilman Baten also presented each Council member with a Magazine from the Sumter ITEM call Community & COVID-19. He further stated that one of the articles in the magazine, which was written by Kayla Green, Executive Editor, The Sumter Item, details the COVID-19’s Impact – *The numbers show there’s a disparity in COVID’s Impact on African Americans.*

Councilman Baten informed Council that six more veterans have died since Council’s meeting on March 9, 2021. Approximately 77 veterans have died since December 2020.

Councilman Baten then asked Council again to consider passing a Mask Mandate Ordinance that is similar to the Mask Mandate that is in place in the City of Sumter. Also, Councilman Baten stated that what seems to be ridiculous about Sumter County not passing a Mask Mandate up to this point, is that some of County Council areas are predominately in the City and it is already being required in those areas of the City Limits. He also said that the City and County lines may have one person on one side of the street in the City and on the other side of the street a person would be in the County.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) Planning Commission and Building Department Report

- 2) COVID19 Update
- 3) Sheriff's Department Monthly Report

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Budget Process: Mr. Mixon reported that the County is currently in its budget process and the Finance staff along with Department Heads, and himself are working diligently with the budget. On April 13, 2021, Council will hold its first budget workshop. See budget calendar below.

April 13, 2021	Council Workshop
April 20, 2021	Council Workshop (Elected)
April 27, 2021	Council Workshop
May 4, 2021	Council Workshop
May 11, 2021	Workshop – 1 st Reading
May 25, 2021	Workshop – 2 nd Reading –Public Hearing
June 8, 2021	Workshop – 3 rd Reading and <i>School District Resolution</i>

PUBLIC COMMENT -- *Citizens Desiring To Speak Are Limited To No More Than Three (3) Minutes; Comments Are To Be Made Through The Chairman Of Sumter County Council.* [Chairman McCain also asked each person to spray the microphone once they are finished speaking to protect others who will be speaking.](#)

- **Angel Brown** - stated that she lives in Sumter County in the Forest Drive community and has lived in Sumter for 45 years. She stated that her story started back on April 30, 2002, when she gave birth to Jackson Brent Garcia; he is her 18 year-old-son. Ms. Brown stated that he has been missing since December 26, 2020. She stated that it has been a long 12 weeks for herself and her family; some members of her family were also present at the meeting. Ms. Brown stated that she has spoken to the Mayor of Sumter and to Mrs. Blanding about the passion that she has to bring awareness to the missing people of Sumter County. She stated that as of tonight there are 19 people of Sumter County that are missing and they date back to 1978. Ms. Brown also stated that she is working with the other family members of missing people from Sumter County and they would like to hold a vigil honoring the missing persons. Also, it is hope of these families that they will be able to erect some sort of light that will automatically come on in the evening as a shining light for those that are missing. It was initially thought to have the light placed on the Courthouse grounds; however, Ms. Brown said that the families are in support of any other location that would be appropriate to recognize the missing persons. Ms. Brown stated that she and her family call themselves “Brent’s Army” and they have already sought after donations to help for the pictures, banners, etc., that will help with the vigil. She also stated that they are willing to provide the light too. Ms. Brown also brought a large picture to the Chambers so that Council members could see the faces of those that are still missing.

The large grouping of pictures was passed around so that all Council members could see the pictures of those missing. Lastly, Ms. Brown stated that each of these people have a face and she does not want them forgotten.

Chairman McCain thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation and information; he asked her to stay in touch with Mrs. Blanding until the Administrator can make a recommendation to Council about what can be done.

- **Larry Banstra** stated that he is concerned about a matter that is on Easy Street in Council District #1. Mr. Banstra stated that he and his partner builds houses and they are about to invest \$2,000,000 in this area. Currently, there are 11 homes in the area and he and his partner plan to Build 14 more homes in this location. Mr. Banister stated that when it rains in the area, the front part of Easy street becomes very muddy and slippery. There are elderly and disabled people that live in homes on this street and it becomes impossible for them to leave their homes after a rain. Mr. Banstra asked Council to help these families and potential families with the issues on the street. Mr. Banstra also gave Council members some pictures of the area when it is in bad condition.
- **James Clea** said that he lives off of Dennis Road and all the rain is causing problems for the people on this street. He also said that the street he lives on is like Easy Street, the emergency vehicles cannot come on the road during a rain and after it has rained. He asked Council for help. Mr. Clea also asked for help as it relates to Dennis Road off of Dinkins Mill Road and T. D. Wright Road with the large pot holes on the road. He stated that there are a lot of potholes on this road. Although, the Public Works Department came to repair the roads a few weeks ago, the rain just washed the dirt away. Mr. Clea stated that approximately 50 people are living in homes on this road, and the road is definitely a safety hazard.

Councilman Washington thanked Mr. Banstra and Dea. Clea for their attendance and concern. He also stated that the issues presented by Mr. Banstra and Dea. Clea are issues that he talked about during his campaign. Councilman Washington stated that these are issues that he has raised since he has been on Council. He stated that the community needs to know that the blue sign are private roads, the roads with green signs are County roads, and the roads with the green signs with black markers are state roads. Council must get basic services right. Basic services include roads and alleviation of the litter problem. He also said that Council will be discussing the Penny Tax later this year; the current Penny Tax helped fund resurfacing and paving of many of the roads in the County. Councilman Washington further stated that he will be very scrutinizing throughout the upcoming the upcoming Penny for Progress process. He added that since it costs approximately \$500,000 to pave one-half miles, the funds don't go far with \$9,000,000 for road paving. Councilman Washington also asked the public to stay engaged and in tune. The road paving issues and the litter problems impact economic development and tourism. Lastly, Councilman Washington noted that the picture that Ms. Brown presented to Council with the missing persons had a picture of Shelton Sanders that went missing approximately 20 years ago. Shelton's parents (former Judge Sanders and his wife) are making some headway about Shelton's case. Councilman Washington stated that he would talk with Ms. Brown after the meeting about some possible means that she may want to try to help find her son.

Councilman Baten stated that when he came on County Council the first time back in 2005, one of the first things he did along with Councilman McGhaney, the Public Works Director, and Roland Robinson who represented District #1, took a tour of the county roads. He said that his

comment at that time was that Sumter County has some terrible roads in Sumter County. Since that time, Council has been trying to work on the roads diligently since that time. Although there are a lot of citizens that come in to talk to Council about their problem roads, their concerns are valid. The Road User fee has been increased to assist with the maintenance of roads and paving roads if there are funds to do so. Many of the roads have been funded through the Penny Tax. Increasing the Road User Fee and using funds through the Penny Tax has been done throughout the years, yet it is still not enough for the road pavement and resurfacing needs. There are just too many dirt roads in Sumter County. Many of the citizens on dirt roads have said, we pay taxes too. Council needs to come up with ways to pave the dirt roads in Sumter County. If it takes raising taxes to pay for the repair of these roads, then Council needs to discuss this. People living in the City, they do not have problem with their roads. However, it must be understood, that if it is a problem for a person in the outlying County, it is also a problem for the County in the City area. All citizens need to have a safe road when it rains or if it is sunshine.

Councilman McGhaney stated that Council members usually do not say much during comments from the public; however, she wanted Ms. Brown to know that when the vigil takes place, she will be there to support her and the other families. Then Councilman McGhaney stated that those Council members that represent the rural areas of Sumter County do have problems with the dirt roads and repairs of roads that were paved many years ago. Although it takes patients, we must continue working with the County Administrator and his staff.

Councilman Washington also stated that he wants to thank Mr. Mixon and the Public Works Department for all that they are trying to do to help with the dirt roads and other road conditions in the rural areas. However, the Penny Sales Tax is not going to be enough money to fix the road condition in Sumter County. It was suggested by Councilman Washington, Councilman Baten, and Councilwoman McGhaney that more needs to be done. Councilman Washington stated that there has to be a way to tame this beast but we will need help from the Legislative Delegation. Councilman Washington also stated that this Council needs to talk to the Delegation about the road needs in Sumter County.

Sheriff Deputy James Walker, who was on duty for the Council meeting asked if he could speak. He stated that Council has a big responsibility and many needs from the community. It's like "a one-eyed cat in a fish factory." He asked Council for permission to pray for all those present because there were many hurting people in the meeting. Chairman McCain granted him permissions to Pray:

Father, I cannot begin to understand what it means or what it must be like to have a lost child. I know you know because you gave your only son that we might have life and have it abundantly. God, we have some people here to night that are hurting and they are in need of easement from their hurt and they need healing. They need time to grieve together and they need support from the County Council, the City Council, and whoever to help them relieve their grief. Lord, we appeal to a higher power than any of us, your mercy and grace, that wherever these children are, no matter how old they are, that you give us some answers. Lead someone to say something, to do something to help these families. We pray knowing that some may end in further grief, but Lord we cannot lose hope in your willingness and your ability to help your children. So it is in your holy a precious name that we pray and

commit to prayer continuously until there is not another parent in here worried about their lost child. It is Christ name we pray. Amen.

Chairman McCain that Sheriff Deputy James Walker for the prayer and then he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

After all business of Sumter County Council and comments, motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council

Approved: April 13, 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 Television first floor of the Administration Building.
- Date Posted: Friday, March 18, 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: Thursday, March 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding