



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 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 9, 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, February 23, 2021.

Councilman McCain asked for a motion to approve the minutes for County Council's February 23, 2021, Regular Meeting as prepared by the Clerk to Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the revised minutes of February 23, 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) - First Reading -- 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).**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director, stated that this is a request to rezone +/- 6.4 acres of land consisting of TMS#s 203-05-01- 001, 203-05-01-003, and 203-05-01-009 (herein referred to as the property) from Residential-9 (R-9) to General Commercial (GC). A small portion of TMS# 203-05-01-009 is already within the GC zoning district, so this request is only applicable to the portion of this parcel zoned R-9.

As shown by the location map to the right, the property is located along Camden Highway (US-521) near its intersection with Jefferson Rd. (S-53). Additionally, a small portion of the property has frontage on Jefferson Rd. (S-53). Further, the property is bisected by undeveloped city road right-of-way (Herman Street).



She also stated that this rezoning request is being initiated by two separate property owner interests. Rento C. Del Beni, the authorized agent for the owner of TMS#s 203-05-001 and 203-05-01-003 (a combined area of 0.53 acres), requesting GC zoning to establish a real estate sales office, and Jay Davis, the authorized agent for the owner of TMS# 203-05-01-009. Mr. Davis is requesting GC zoning for this +/-5.84 acres to better market the property for future development.

Since these parcels are contiguous, and since 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 property is adjacent to undeveloped land to the north, small commercial office uses to the south and west, residentially used land to the south, and residentially used land to the east. Property to the west, on the opposite side of Camden Hwy (US 521), is undeveloped.

After all comments, Chairman McCain called for a motion on first reading of this proposed rezoning request.

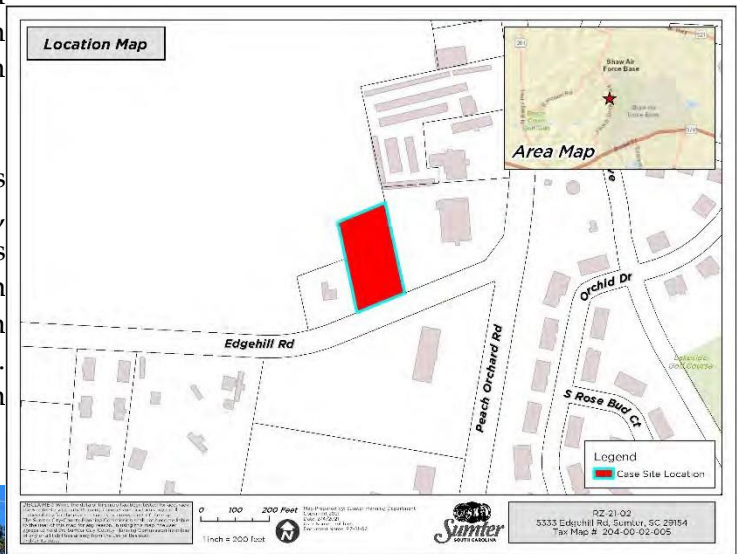
ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading approval of this rezoning request.

(2) **RZ-21-02 -- 5333 Edgehill Road -- (County) - First Reading -- 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.**

Mrs. Roodman stated that this request is to rezone +/- 0.91 acres of land identified as TMS# 133-02-01-011 (herein referred to as the property) from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to General Commercial (GC). The applicant, Mr. Steve L. Dinkins is requesting the rezoning on behalf of the property owner to increase the property value for future property sale.

As shown by the location map to the right, the subject property is located on the north side of Edgehill Road west of Peach Orchard Road and abuts the parcel situated on the northeastern corner of the Peach Orchard/Edgehill Rd. intersection.

Property to the immediate west contains a single-family residential dwelling, while property to the immediate north is an undeveloped portion of the Korean American Presbyterian Church property which fronts on Oakland Dr. Development to the east and south contain commercial uses.



The purpose of the GC district is to accommodate the broadest range of commercial uses, determined principally by market conditions, while protecting the environment from potentially objectionable uses. The Sumter City - County Planning Commission recommended rezoning the property from General Commercial to Limited Commercial primarily because in the General Commercial zoning district, residential by right permitted uses; in the Limited Commercial zoning districts they are conditional uses and also it is more of a transitional zoning.

The Planning Staff is supportive of Limited Commercial instead of General Commercial. It is Mrs. Roodman's understanding that Mr. Dinkins, property representative, has been approached about the change in the preferred zoning designation.

NOTE: Mrs. Roodman will check to see if Mr. Dinkins is in support of Limited Commercial for the request as recommended by the Planning Commission. Also, Mrs. Roodman stated that the community members have been sent notification of the proposed rezoning and a sign has been posted on the property.

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and carried by Council to grant first reading approval of this rezoning request from Agricultural Conservation to General Commercial as listed in the caption of the rezoning request. Councilman Baten voted in opposition.

- (3) **RZ-21-03 -- 419 N. Pike E. (County) - First Reading -- 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.**

Mrs. Roodman stated that this is a request to rezone +/- 2.57 acres of land identified as TMS# 248-07-03-005 from General Commercial (GC) to Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W). The applicants are Renee and John Bittner. The applicant is requesting the rezoning in order to operate an industrial and machinery business on the site.

As shown by the aerial map to the right, the subject property has frontage on N. Pike E. and contains an existing building. The existing building was designed for light industrial warehousing uses. The property is adjacent to undeveloped land to the north, east, and west.

The Planning staff recommends approval of this request. The property is adjacent to LI-W zoning to the east, is located along the frontage road of a



major expressway (US Hwy 378), allows for the continued use of a site originally developed for light industrial warehouse purposes, and is in alignment with the goals and policies of the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

The current building is shown on the picture below. The Planning Commission does recommended approval of the rezoning.



After Mrs. Roodman's presentation, the Chairman asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked; therefore, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and carried by Council to grant first reading approval of this rezoning request as presented.

- (4) **OA-21-02 -- Zoning Districts Established and Free-Standing Zoning Areas (County) - First Reading - 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.**

Mrs. Roodman presented this rezoning request on behalf of Mr. Greg Googer, Coastal Development Partners. She stated that the request would allow the County to Amend 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.

The applicant, Coastal Development Partners, 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 in situations where a free-standing zoning area consists entirely of land zoned Neighborhood Commercial (NC).

The Planning Director stated that currently, Article 2, Section 2.a.2 states that the minimum size of any free-standing zoning area shall be two acres. A free-standing zoning area is defined in

this section as being an area where common types of zoning are contiguous. Common zoning types are identified as:

- **Commercial** (*General Commercial - GC, Limited Commercial - LC, Neighborhood Commercial-NC, and Professional Office - PO*)
- **Industrial** (*Heavy Industrial - HI, Light Industrial-Warehouse - LI-W, and Multi-Use Industrial - MUI*)
- **Residential** (*Residential-15 - R-15, Residential-9 - R-9, Residential-6 - R-6, General Residential - GR, and Residential Multi-Family - RMF*)
- **Planned Development,**
- **Agricultural** (*Agricultural Conservation - AC and Agricultural Conservation-10 - AC- 10*)
- **Conservation Preservation.**

Also, Mrs. Roodman mentioned that this provision is primarily applicable to rezoning requests. Any land where a new zoning designation is requested must either be 1) contiguous to adjacent land within the same common zoning type grouping where such adjacent land provides for a combined area that is at least two acres in size or two acres or greater in size on its own.

Free-standing zoning area requirements are a common feature of local zoning ordinances. The intent of such areas is to protect local governments from spot zoning claims. Spot zoning is an invalid use of zoning power and was defined by the South Carolina Supreme Court in *Bob Jones University, Inc. v. City of Greenville (1963)* as the process of singling out a small parcel of land for a use classification totally different from that of the surrounding area, for the benefit of the owners of the property and to the detriment of other owners.

It was also noted by the Planning Director, that having the requirement for at least a 2-acre minimum free-standing zoning area is typical language in many South Carolina local government zoning ordinances to address "spot zoning concerns", although a minimum acreage size is not specifically prescribed in South Carolina planning enabling legislation. Further, guidance outlined in the SC Municipal Association's *2018 Comprehensive Planning Guide for Local Governments* suggests that small areas may be rezoned provided the action is not arbitrary or unreasonable. This further establishes the important relationship that exists between individual zoning decisions and broader policies outlined in the local government's comprehensive plan.

Additionally, in the process of reviewing this text amendment request staff noted minor inconsistencies between zoning districts listed in Article 2 and the names of zoning districts provided in Article 3. This text amendment also addresses these issues. These consistency changes are minor in nature and do not represent substantive changes to established districts or underlying requirements.

Proposed Text Amendment

The proposed amendments would impact the following sections:

1. Amend Article 2, Section 2.a.1 to make revisions and additions to established zoning districts consistent with those described in *Article 3 - Zoning and Development District Regulations*.

2. Amend *Article 2, Section 2.a.2* to allow the minimum size of a free-standing zoning area that entirely consists of land zoned NC to be 1.5 acres in size.

Staff recommends approval of this request. The proposed changes to minimum free-standing zoning area size are only applicable to areas consisting entirely of NC Zoning. The intent of the NC zoning district is to meet the commercial and service needs that are generated by nearby residential development. Goods and services normally available in this district are of a "convenience variety" and the size of NC districts are intended to relate to the surrounding residential market area. Uses in the NC district are also intended to be smaller and generally compatible with nearby residential development.

Further, a large majority of unincorporated Sumter County is within the Agricultural Conservation (AC) zoning district. While many of the uses permitted in the NC district are allowed conditionally in the AC district, in most instances such conditional approval requires obtaining written authorization from at least 2/3 of property owners and tenants within a specified distance of the use. This can be problematic for use proposals requiring such approval, even if there is no neighborhood/local opposition, due to complexities involving unclear chains of title and heir's property.

Mrs. Roodman stated that approval of this text amendment would remove a barrier to developing neighborhoods serving commercial uses in appropriate locations supported by the County's comprehensive plan and other applicable long range planning policies. Additionally, approval of this text amendment would correct inconsistencies found within Article 2.

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and carried by Council to grant first reading approval of this ordinance amendment as presented.

- (5) **OA-21-01 -- Development Density in the Airfield Compatibility District (County) - Second Reading - (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. (Public Hearing Will Be Held At Third Reading.)**

Mrs. Roodman presented this proposed ordinance amendment to Council for second reading consideration. She reminded Council that this ordinance amendment was before them in February and went back to the Planning Commission and Staff for further study and recommendations.

She gave the following background about the proposed ordinance 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.

It was also mentioned 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 (1) unit per gross acre.

Mrs. Roodman stated that a majority of the undeveloped property in proximity to Shaw AFB is zoned Agricultural Conservation (AC), a district that requires a minimum one (1) acre lot size. However, because AC development standards permit a minimum lot width of 60 ft. with no required minimum width to depth ratio and allow for residential side lot setbacks of only 12 ft., dwellings may be located as close as 24 feet together. This permits clustered development configurations at the roadway as opposed to dispersing density across a tract of land. While clustering of development does allow for the preservation of open farmland, it is not ideal for areas along extended center lines of runway approach/take-off paths identified on runway specific "Approach Plates".

Additionally, the Planning Director noted that the extended centerline of the main runway at Shaw Air Force Base is the most likely place for an aircraft accident to occur outside of the designated APZ districts. Therefore, development in the immediate proximity of the centerline is at higher risk of being impacted by aircraft failure. Should an aircraft experience failure with a resulting crash, clustered development is at greater risk for loss of life and property. Allowing clustering of residential development along the extended centerline of the main runway at Shaw Air Force Base is contrary to JLUS report recommendations and is inconsistent with the purposes and intents of the Military Protection Area designated in the 2040 Plan. Knowingly creating a public safety risk is not acceptable.

In the intervening year since Plan adoption, development regulations have been under review to further protect Shaw AFB from incompatible development. **Article 3, Section R: Airfield Compatibility Districts (ACD)** in the **Sumter County - Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance** establishes higher regulatory standards for development within Accident Potential Zone 1 (APZ-1) and Accident Potential Zone II (APZ-2) – areas identified in the 2016 JLUS.

Mrs. Roodman emphasized that 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. 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.

Proposed Text Amendment

A strike-through of the proposed text amendment was provided for Council's review.

The proposed amendments would impact the following sections:

1. Amend Article 2, Section 2.a.1.c to add the DDZ to Airfield Compatibility District Special Purpose District.
2. Amend Article 3, Section 3.n.5. Development Standards (AC District) to reference ACD supplementary development standards.
3. Amend Article 3, Section R to add regulations specific to the Density Dispersion Zone as follows:
 - Section 3.r.2. to add "DDZ, Density Dispersion Zone"
 - Section 3.r.5. Performance Standards to include the following: Minimum Lot Width - 220 ft.
Minimum Lot Area - 1
Acre Setbacks -
Front: 35 ft. local/Collector; 45 ft.
Arterial Sides: 50 ft.
Rear: 50 ft.
 - Exhibit 7 Airfield Compatibility District (ACD) Use Regulations to include the DDZ

Mrs. Roodman stated that all property owners that could be impacted by this ordinance amendment, approximately 200 people, have been notified about the upcoming public hearing. She also stated that the Planning Commission and staff are recommending that *"if the parcel exists today and has been platted prior to third reading of this proposed ordinance, then the property owner would develop with the regular AC standards."* However, any new development after third reading would need to adhere to the new regulations for this area.

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on second reading.

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

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) 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 21-945 - Third Reading -- An Ordinance To Amend Sumter County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Article II, Section 26-26, Relating To Business License Renewal Deadline.**

The County Attorney, Mr. Johnathan Bryan, presented this ordinance to Council for third reading consideration. Mr. Bryan stated that there have been no changes to this ordinance since first reading. The ordinance will allow for changing the Business License Renewal Deadline from March 15 to May 1 annually. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading.

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

- (2) **Ordinance 21-947 -- Third Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Declaration Of Restrictive Covenants On Land On Highway 521 South, St Matthew Church Road And Race Track Road.**

Mr. Bryan also presented this proposed ordinance to Council for third reading consideration. He stated that this ordinance will allow for Restrictive Covenants to be placed on property on Highway 521 South, St. Matthew Church Road and Race Track Road, known as the Pocatigo Industrial Park. This will allow for the Industrial park to be more desirable for potential prospects.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) **Fiscal, Tax, And Property Committee Meeting, Held On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 5:00 p.m. Held In The County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney)**

Chairman McCain, also Chairman of the Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee, presented the following recommendations from the Committee meeting.

- **Hospitality Funds:** A motion and a second came out of the Committee meeting recommending to allow \$150,000 from the County's Hospitality Fund to provide for the County's share to assist in funding a "playground equipment project" with additional funds coming from the City of Sumter and from the State of South Carolina Recreation Department.

Prior to action on the motion, discussion was presented as follows:

- ✓ Councilwoman McGhaney stated that she is in support of this request, especially since the County is going into partnership with the State of South Carolina and the City of Sumter to complete this project through funds from the Hospitality account. However,

she stated that very rarely does the County allocate Hospitality Funds for the rural areas. She also asked if Council and staff would consider looking at ways to enhance the facilities in the rural areas for those kids that may never use the SportPlex at Patriot Park.

- ✓ Councilman Washington also stated that County Council District #1 used the Rafting Creek Community Center to disburse 1,100 boxes of food to residents in District #1 who have food scarcity. He further stated that he was embarrassed by the condition of the corners of the Community Center. The corners of the Community Center are rotting, the entrance where you go back you cannot use. Councilman Washington further stated that he is amazed that Council is talking about upgrading a park that is in pristine condition. He then stated that for that matter, I will not be able to support this issue. Councilman Washington further stated that as a result of the event that was held, several constituents from all Council Districts except District #4, Councilman Edens' District, have contacted him about the food program, roads, litter, and asked to be on his email list. He stated that several citizens raised concerns about the litter issue where Council discussed having the Sheriff's Advisory Board being a part of the Litter Advisory Board. Although the Sheriff will have a seat on the Advisory Board, it was the decision of Council to not add a Seat to the Litter Advisory Board for a representative from the Sheriff's Advisory Board where litter is a very bad problem in Sumter countywide. Councilman Washington also stated that someone must have a plan; however, he informed Chairman McCain that he will be proposing a plan to present to the Chairman and Council to address litter. Councilman Washington ended his statements encouraging Council members to consider other areas beside the area of Patriot Park. He added that the City received two million dollars for the tennis center and through the State and now the State, City, and County are providing funding for the same vicinity. Councilman Washington mentioned that Council is in existence to provide basic services to all the citizens of this community. He ended his comments by stating that he will, at a later date, have more to say about the rural communities needing more services.
- ✓ Chairman McCain stated that he does agree with Councilman Washington about Rural Parks/Community Centers. However, the Chairman stated that he has not heard any of the Rural Councilman representatives asking for these type of services at the Community Centers. The Chairman further stated that Councilman Washington and any other Rural Council Member who knows of any concerns, needs, or desires is to bring the matter to the County Administrator and Mr. Mixon will ensure that the matter is resolved or brought back to Council for funding, etc.
- ✓ Councilman Washington stated that his constituents are telling him that they are not getting basic services, they are not getting their fair share, and they are upset about these matters. Councilman Washington reemphasized that he is getting calls from Districts 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. It was suggested by Councilman McGhaney for Councilman Washington to send those calls to each Councilman concerning problems in those districts. Councilman Washington stated that he has absolutely redirected the citizens to their Council representative; however, the citizens have chosen to speak to him because he is talking about the concerns of the rural community constituents. Councilman Washington stated that any Council member can check his Facebook and see which

citizen is commenting on his Facebook account and what the concerns are in that district.

The Chairman called for action on the motion on the floor to approve the recommendation from the Committee meeting.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee to approve the use of \$150,000 from the County's Hospitality Fund to be used in conjunction with funds from the State of South Carolina Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Sumter to develop playground areas including equipment for Patriot Park SportsPlex. Council members Baker, Byrd, Baten, Edens, McGhaney, and McCain voted in support of the motion; Councilman Washington voted in opposition of the motion. The motion carried.

- **Rail Road Repairs:** A motion and a second came out of the Committee recommending to allow for \$8,855 from the Infrastructure Funds to replace railroad ties at sites of the County.

ACTION: MOTION and a second were received from the Committee to approve the use of \$8,855 from the County's Infrastructure Funds to replace railroad ties at sites of the county. The motion was unanimously carried.

- **Purchase Property On Brewing Road:** A motion and a second came out of the committee recommending to allow for the Administrator and other appropriate staff to act on behalf of the County to purchase property on Brewington Road, Sumter, SC. The motion was unanimously carried.

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

- Councilman Baten stated that there are 9,631 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and there are 175 deaths. There is a large number of veterans that are dying. He stated that from December 8, 2020, to March 9, 2021, there have been 71 veterans that have died. Councilman Baten also read an article about the increased amount of veterans that have PTSD and how it has impacted the veterans during this COVID-19 pandemic. He asked Council members to be mindful of the needs of the Veterans Affairs Office as Council approaches the budget cycle.
- Councilman Baker stated that Rafting Creek was the first Community Center built in the County and it was approximately 20 years ago. Therefore, there are things that may need to be done to improve this Center.
- Councilman Washington thanked Councilman Baker for his comments. Then Councilman Washington stated that he agreed with what Councilman Baten said about the needs of the Veteran Affairs Office. Councilman Washington said that he is aware that there are approximately 3,000 veterans that did not get services last year due to a lack of staffing in the Veteran Affairs Office. He further stated that this is a basic need and County Council has to address basic needs. Councilman Washington said the Veterans also want to participate in the Litter Control Program.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. COVID-19 Repot

2. Ethics Statement Of Reporting

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke during public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

After all business of Sumter County Council and comments, motion was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 6:53 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: March 23, 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 5, 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 4, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding
Mary W. Blanding