



**Minutes**  
**Sumter County Council Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2023 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Sumter County Administration Building**  
**Third Floor, County Council Chambers**  
**13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC**

*Social Distancing Is Encouraged At All 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 R. Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Eugene R. Baten, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Carlton B. Washington.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Valerie Brunson, Regina Giles, and two Sheriff Deputies.

**MEDIA PRESENT:** Shelbie Goulding, The Item Newspaper, was in attendance.

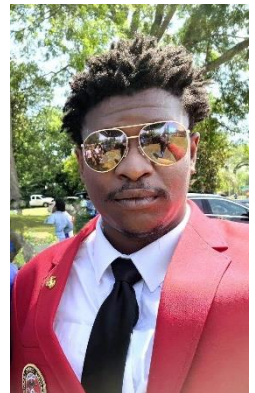
**PUBLIC PRESENT:** There were six members of the public in attendance at this meeting.

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

Chairman James T. McCain, Jr. called to order Council's meeting of May 23, 2023.

**INVOCATION:** Councilmember Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by US Marine Veteran Matthew White who served our Country from October 2008 to March 2011. He is the Junior Vice Commandant in the Sumter Marine Corps League #1202. He currently lives in County Council District 5. Thank you for your service.



**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk to Council if there were any changes to the May 23, 2023, agenda. Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes to the agenda. Then the Chairman called for a motion on the agenda.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Chairman McCain asked for a motion concerning approval of the minutes of May 9, 2023.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023, as presented.

**LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:**

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests: **None**

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

**OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- (1) **Ordinance #23-988** --- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, Of Sumter County, South Carolina, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$3,500,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bonds; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bonds; Providing For The Payment Of The Bonds And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. (County Council May Take Action On Second Reading For This Ordinance Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)

Chairman McCain asked the County Administrator to present this matter before Council prior to the public hearing. Mr. Mixon stated that this ordinance will allow for the County to have a \$3,500,000 General Obligation Bond for items that are necessary for the operations of different departments within the County. Mr. Mixon also stated that the Bond Attorney, Ms. Frannie Heizer was present, and he asked her to make comments concerning the proposed Series 2023 Bond.

Ms. Heizer thanked Council for allowing her to work with Sumter County since the beginning of the adoption of South Carolina’s Act 388 as it relates to the County’s limitations on millage increases. A list of the projects are listed below and Sumter County’s bond rating should be low, but it depends on how the market is at the sale of the bonds.

After comments from the Administrator and Ms. Heizer, Chairman McCain called for a public hearing as listed below.

Department	Request	Recommendation
EMS	147,040	147,040
Fire District	2,901,000	551,000
Emergency Management	16,700	-
Detention Center	197,030	52,670
Sheriff	371,800	351,928
Crystal Lakes	53,938	53,938
Parks and Rec	31,500	31,500
IT	1,193,500	1,162,796
Public Works	450,900	365,000
Landfill	613,099	-
Public Buildings	458,075	222,059
Human Resources	5,935	2,500
Vehicles-Sheriff	793,669	793,669
Vehicles-Other Departments	510,100	432,800
Total Request	\$ 7,744,286	\$ 4,166,900
Total GO Bond Revenue		3,500,000
Road User Fund		365,000
Solicitor Fund		36,900
Title IVD		265,000
Balance		\$ -

Chairman McCain asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance as presented by the Administrator and the Bond Attorney, Ms. Frannie Heizer. No one spoke during the public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on second reading listed under Old Business.

- (2) **Ordinance #23-987 --- An Ordinance To Provide For A Levy Of Taxes For County Purposes Of Sumter County, S. C., (Known As The Budget Ordinance) For The Fiscal Year Of Said County Beginning July 1, 2023, To Direct The Expenditures Of Said Taxes And Other Funds Of Said County, And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. (County Council May Take Action On Second Reading For This Ordinance Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Mr. Mixon, the County Administrator, stated that during the Budget Workshop, which was held earlier today, he, along with the Finance staff presented a balanced budget to County Council with Revenues at \$59,512,534 and Expenditures at \$60,171,706, with a difference of \$659,172. Mr. Mixon also stated that the needed revenue will be provided through a 2.0 mill increase, which will offset by the Local Option Sales Tax Credit. This offset will make up the difference of revenue and expenses (\$659,172) and balance the budget. See additional budget information that is included in the budget as listed below:

**REVENUE**

- 2.0 mill increase (with Local Option Sales Tax Credit to offset the 2.0 mill increase)
- Fund Balance \$659,172
- Change the Fee In Lieu of Taxes from 3% to 5% to go into the General Fund; \$158,800.

**EXPENDITURE**

- 3.7% increase in health insurance (January to June 2024) – Required - \$465,972
- 1% increase in retirement- Required- \$228,302
- 3% COLA for County employees - \$892,277
- Increase employees earning less than \$25,000 annually- \$34,531.

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION**

- Solid Waste Tipping Fee Increase By \$2.80 (\$48.70 To \$51.50)
- C&D Tipping Fee Increase By \$1.00 (\$33.00 To \$34.00)
- Fire District Mill Increase
- District 1 Increase By 2.1 (28.06 Mills To 30.2 Mills)
- District 2 Increase By 1.4 (17.1 Mills To 18.5 Mills)

After Mr. Mixon’s presentation, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this proposed ordinance. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the ordinance. No one spoke during public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and called for a motion on second reading as listed under Old Business.

- (3) **Ordinance #23-986 -- An Ordinance To Approve A Storm Water Drainage Easement On Property Adjacent To Brewington Road. (County Council May Take Action On Second Reading For This Ordinance Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Mr. Johnathan Bryan, the County Attorney, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading and public hearing. He stated that this ordinance will allow for the property owner, Mr. Justin David Gause, which owns adjoining property on the north side of the property that is owned by Sumter

County to allow for a storm water drainage easement across Sumter County’s property to help Mr. Gause with the drainage problem on his property. After all comments, the Chairman called for a public hearing on this proposed ordinance. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the ordinance. No one spoke during public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action second reading listed below.

*WHEREAS, Sumter County owns the property identified on the 2023 Sumter County Tax Maps as parcel 201-00-04-016 having received a deed to the parcel from Graytop Builders, LLC recorded November 18, 2021, in Book 1294 at Page 2152 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County; and*



*WHEREAS, Justin David Gause owns the adjoining property on the north of the Sumter County property and has requested a storm water drainage easement across the Sumter County property, parallel to Brewington Road, so that he may construct a ditch from his property to a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe which crosses under Brewington Road and connects to a drainage ditch in the right-of-way on north side of Hill Road; and*

*WHEREAS, the Sumter County Council has determined that granting the easement to Justin David Gause will assist with the drainage of storm water in the area; and*

*WHEREAS, Sumter County Council believes it is in the best interest of the citizens of Sumter County to grant the requested storm water drainage easement and granting the easement does not interfere with any public purpose,*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AT ITS REGULAR MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:**

- 1. That Sumter County hereby approves granting the permanent easement and the temporary construction easement requested by Justin David Gause.*
- 2. That the Sumter County Administrator has complete authority to execute any deeds or other legal instruments necessary to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance including the draft of the Easement which is Attachment A to this Ordinance.*
- 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- (1) Request For Approval Of A Proclamation, Proclaiming The Entire Month Of June 2023 As Vitiligo Awareness Month, In Sumter County, South Carolina.

Chairman McCain presented this proposed Proclamation to Council asking that June 2023 be known as Vitiligo Awareness Month in Sumter County, South Carolina. Afterwards, he called for a motion on the adoption of the proclamation. Then the Chairman allowed for Ms. Tiffany Williams to speak on behalf

of Vitiligo Awareness Month and took pictures with Ms. Williams as he presented the proclamation to her.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the proclamation as presented and directed the Chairman and the Clerk to Council to execute and deliver the proclamation s as presented.

*Whereas, vitiligo is a noncontagious autoimmune disease causing loss of pigment from areas of the skin and resulting in irregular white spots or patches on a person with the disease; and*

*Whereas, this disease affects approximately five million Americans of various age groups, gender, race, and ethnicity; additionally, doctors and scientists have several theories about its origins including heredity, a disorder of the autoimmune system, or a result of a single event such as a sunburn, exposure to a chemical, or emotional distress; and*

*Whereas, while vitiligo is usually not physically painful, it appears to be more common in individuals who have a family history of the disorder or certain other autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, or thyroid disease; and*

*Whereas, the Sumter Vitiligo Support Group of Sumter, South Carolina, founded in 2010, is raising public awareness to this disease, and there is continued research which can help increase the understanding of this disorder, improve therapies, and provide some preventive measures for individuals affected by this disease.*

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved that, I, James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman of Sumter County Council on behalf of members of Sumter County Council, do hereby proclaim the entire month of June 2023 as:*

**VITILIGO AWARENESS MONTH**  
**In**  
**Sumter County, South Carolina**

*Be It Further Resolved that Sumter County also acknowledges that World Vitiligo Day is observed on June 25, 2023.*

*Given under the seal of Sumter County, on 23rd day of May 2023.*

- (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 In Open Session If Necessary.

No executive session was held.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- (1) **Ordinance #23-988 - Second Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, Of Sumter County, South Carolina, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$3,500,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bonds; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bonds; Providing For The Payment Of The Bonds And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

The County Administrator, Mr. Mixon, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading and a public hearing. After Mr. Mixon's comments, then the Bond Attorney, Ms. Frannie Heizer made comments on this proposed ordinance. After all comments, the Chairman convened a public hearing; no one spoke during public hearing. Then Chairman McCain closed the public hearing and Council took action on second reading.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval for Ordinance 23-988 as presented.

- (2) **Ordinance #23-987 - Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Provide For A Levy Of Taxes For County Purposes Of Sumter County, S. C., (Known As The Budget Ordinance) For The Fiscal Year Of Said County Beginning July 1, 2023, To Direct The Expenditures Of Said Taxes And Other Funds Of Said County, And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto.**

Mr. Mixon, the County Administrator, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading approval. After Mr. Mixon's presentation and the public hearing was convened by the Chairman; however, on one spoke during the public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing, and Council acted on second reading.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval for Ordinance 23-987 as presented. Council members Byrd and Edens voted in opposition to the ordinance as presented.

**NOTE:** Prior to action on second reading, Councilman Edens stated that his nay vote is based on the hopes of staff finding more revenue to offset the \$659,000 and to try to decrease the expenses so that there will not be a mill increase.

Councilman Baten thanked the Administrator for recommending the increase for the County employees' base salaries that are currently making less than \$25,000 per year. He also stated that he hopes that the County can continue to help the County Employees due to the increase in inflation.

- (3) **Ordinance #23-986 - Second Reading - An Ordinance To Approve A Storm Water Drainage Easement On Property Adjacent To Brewington Road.**

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading approval and public hearing. After Mr. Bryan's presentation, Chairman McCain convened a public hearing. No one spoke during public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval for Ordinance 23-986 as presented.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) Budget Workshop Scheduled For Tuesday, May 23, 2023, At 5:00 p.m. In The County Administrator’s Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC 29150.

The Chairman asked the Administrator if he had any additional information concerning the budget; Mr. Mixon stated that there were no further comments about the budget.

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

Chairman McCain asked Council members if they had any reports on Meetings, Trainings, and Conference. The following Council members spoke during this section of the agenda.

Councilman Washington introduced his oldest son to Council and the public, Carlton Washington. Secondly, the Councilman stated that he and Chairman McCain attended a meeting sponsored by staff from Shaw AFB concerning water that has been contaminated starting back during the 1980’s. Initially, the contamination was kept in the confines of Shaw AFB, but it eventually seeped out to the neighboring communities. Since that time, several citizens have complained about a variety of illnesses including cancer and lupus. Councilman Washington also said that there has been a variety of testing done; however, the residents in the community that attended the meeting had a lot of “energy” in their discussion with Shaw AFB. Councilman Washington suggested that there be a meeting between Council, and the Congressional Delegation including Graham, Scott, Norman, and Clyburn. He also said that the people from Shaw that are working with this water contamination problem has noted that to correct the issue will be rather pricey. Councilman Washington stated that the Congressional Delegation controls the purse string so they need to be at the table to help correct this problem in our community.

Chairman McCain also commented on this matter stating that the material that was previously used to distinguish fuel fires has been found to have somehow gotten into the aquifer and moved into flow of the water.

Councilman Baten stated that to his knowledge, people are still trying to find out when this problem first started and it has been told to him that it started earlier than the 1980’s; however, Councilman Washington and Chairman McCain stated that Shaw AFB’s staff have informed them that it is in the 1980’s.

Councilman Baker stated that he has previously heard that when Shaw AFB had a dry-cleaning business on the base, that there were some problems from that prior to 1980.

Lastly, Councilman Washington stated that he had the opportunity to be the keynote speaker at Rafting Creek Elementary school for 21 Kindergarten graduates. He added that the speech he prepared was the hardest speech he has ever written. Nonetheless, he encouraged Council members to engage with the younger people in attending and participating in a program for the youngsters.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

- 1) Memorial Day 2023 Activities
- 2) Sumter Soil and Water Conservation: Local Work Group Meeting

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Mixon announced that the staff has entered into the J. Graham Mitchell Award Competition sponsored by South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC). The staff will present the Stash-The-Trash program to the presenters on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at SCAC’s Office. Mr. Mixon thanked Mrs. Dennis for handling the application process for the County, and Karen Hyatt, John McLeod, and Joe Perry for all their work that they have done on this Awards Presentation. The winners will be announced at the South Carolina Association of Counties Meeting in August.

Councilman Edens announced that during the last Litter Advisory Board meeting, they were informed that Sumter County has picked up 75 tons of litter just in the County which is beyond the City of Sumter and the State of South Carolina for litter pick-up since January 2023.

**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.

No comments were made by the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. after a motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary W. Blanding  
Clerk to County Council  
Sumter County Council

Approved: June 13, 2023



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

Public Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agendas posted on Television on first floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: May 22, 2023

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 Spectrum Cable.

Date Notified: May 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary W. Blanding*  
Clerk To County Council