



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
County Administration Building -- County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Lorraine Dennis, the Honorable Anthony Dennis, Sheriff; Chief Deputy, Hampton Gardner, Allen Dailey, Adrienne Sarvis, Helen Roodman, Joe Perry and Chris Hilditch.

MEDIA PRESENT: Rachel Pittman, **The Item**

CITIZENS PRESENT: Approximately 27 members of the public were in attendance.

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

INVOCATION: Council Member, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, gave the invocation.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 12, 2019

The Clerks to Council introduced the members of Boy Scouts of America Troop #86 from First Presbyterian Church of Sumter, South Carolina. The youth are working on their Citizenship Badge. Each young man introduced himself to Council members.

1. Noah Tavarez
2. Mikey Fisher
3. Luke Zellars
4. Johnny Brawner
5. TK Brawner, Asst. Scoutmaster
6. Chris Hilditch, Asst. Scoutmaster

Secondly, the Clerk to Council asked Council members to readjust the agenda by hearing Item #3 under New Business and afterwards hear Item #2. (The numbers shifted to #1, #3, #2, and #4.)

The Clerk also recognized the new Item Newspaper reporter, and the Chairman asked for the young lady to introduce herself; the new reporter is Rachel Pittman who has assumed the position once held by Adrienne Sarvis. Ms. Sarvis is now employed in Sumter County Sheriff's Office. After all introductions and adjustments to the agenda, the Chairman called for a motion on adopting the agenda as amended.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday February 26, 2019

Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion concerning action on the minutes of Council's meeting held on February 26, 2019.

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

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests

- (1) **RZ-19-01 – First Reading -- 4980-4984 Cane Savannah Road (County) -- Request To Rezone A +/- 5.0 Acre Parcel Located At 4980-4984 Cane Savannah Road From Agricultural Conservation (AC) To General Commercial (GC) Or In The Alternative, General Residential (GR). The Property Is Represented By Tax Map # 157-00-04-001.**

Helen Roodman from the Planning Department stated that this request is to rezone a five acre parcel from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to General Commercial (GC) or to General Residential (GR). Both of these zonings would allow for the continuation of the mobile home park use on the property. The applicant and owner, Mr. Charles Smith, was present on behalf of this request.

The property is located on Cane Savannah Road, near the intersection of Cane Savannah Road and McLaurin Road. Within a larger context, the subject property is located in the eastern portion of the county and is located between Shaw AFB and Poinsett Electronic Combat Range. All property adjacent to the site is within the AC Zoning District and is being used for single family Residential Zoning purposes.

Mrs. Roodman stated that the site is the location of the Oak Grove Mobile Home Park, a 10-lot mobile home park that has been less than 50% occupied for more than six months. Mobile home parks are not permitted within the AC District, and the use of this site is non-conforming and subject to the provisions of Article 6 – Non-Conforming Zoning Uses and Sites within the *Sumter County – Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance*.

Section 6.c.3. Loss of Legal Nonconforming Status (Mobile Home Parks) states:

“A nonconforming mobile home park must be discontinued when 50% or more of the homes in the park become uninhabitable as determined by the Sumter Building Official or remain vacant for a period of six months or longer. Resumption of the use of the property as a mobile home park may be permitted if the use is permitted in the then-current district and conforms to Development Standards for mobile home parks.”

According to Sumter County Tax Assessor’s records, four (4) of the ten (10) lots within the park are currently on the tax records. The last mobile home moving permit was issued in May of 2018 and no replacement mobile home installation permits have been issued since this time. Therefore, the subject property has exceeded a 50% vacancy for a time period of over six months. Based on Ordinance thresholds, the mobile home park has been discontinued and no new or replacement mobile home installation permits can be issued. As such, the existing four (4) mobile homes on site cannot be replaced with new mobile homes. The applicant is requesting this rezoning in order to allow for the mobile home park to be legally reestablished.

The only two zoning districts within the County that allow for mobile home parks are the General Commercial (GC) Zoning District and the General Residential (GR) Zoning District. In both of these Zoning Districts, mobile home parks are Conditional Uses.

The purpose of the GC District is to accommodate the broadest possible range of commercial uses, determined principally by market conditions, while protecting the environment from potentially objectionable uses. The purpose of the GR District is to accommodate higher density residential development and a variety of housing types on small lots.

Mrs. Roodman further stated that the Planning staff did not recommend approval during the Planning meeting. The decision of the Planning staff was based on adopted 2030 Comprehensive Plan Policies. The subject property is located squarely within the Military Protection Planning Area; the intent of this designation is to protect Shaw Air Force Base and Poinsett Electronic Combat Range from encroachment of incompatible land uses and to reduce the accident and noise potential to citizens in areas adjacent to these two critical military installations.

According to applicable policies, the County supports very low-density residential uses of one acre or more and supports commercial, agricultural, and industrial development which will significantly limit the concentration of people in areas with the Military Planning designation. She also said that rezoning the property, either to GC or GR, will have the potential to create residential densities on the property greater than what is supported by the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Lastly, Mrs. Roodman stated that the Planning report indicates that if the Planning Commission wished to forward a favorable recommendation for this request, staff recommends that the GC Zoning District is more favorable than the GR Zoning District based on applicable 2030 Comprehensive Plan policies.

Councilman Edens stated that Council used to look at mobile home parks as areas where mobile homes were so close to each other that you could stretch out your arms and be able to touch a mobile home on each side of you. However, it appears that this mobile home park has enough property on it to allow one mobile home per acre. Councilman Edens further stated that the ordinance needs to be reviewed and some changes made to accommodate less dense areas. Also, Councilman Edens said that he would like to discuss these possible changes with Planning staff and the property owner.

Ms. Roodman reminded Council that the rezoning is the first step to this process; however, there is a Conditional Use part of this request and that process will need to be completed before the entire project can be completed.

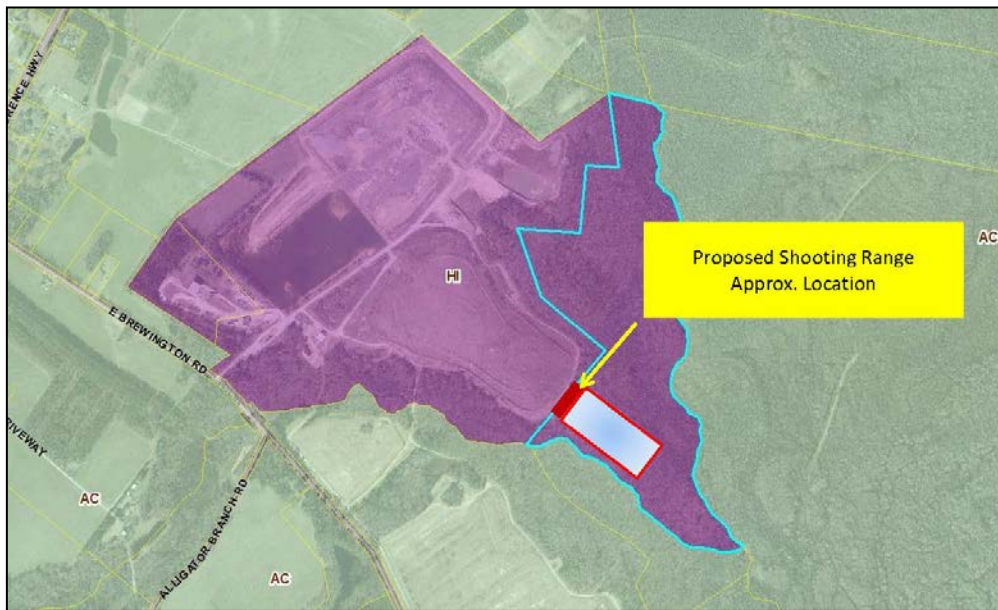
After all discussions on this matter, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading of the proposed rezoning request.

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

- (2) **OA-19-02 -- First Reading -- Outdoor Pistol, Rifle, Or Skeet Ranges In HI District (County) - (19-906) -- Amend Article 3 Section 3.L.4: Heavy Industrial District (Special Exception), Exhibit 5: Permitted**

And Conditional Uses In The Commercial Industrial, Agricultural, And Conservation Districts, And Article 5 Section 5.B.3.F: Special Design Review Criteria (Outdoor Pistol, Rifle Or Skeet Range) Of The Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance In Order To Include The Outdoor Pistol, Rifle Or Skeet Range (SIC Code 7999) Use As A Special Exception In The Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoning District.

Helen Roodman presented this ordinance amendment to Council for first reading consideration. She stated that the applicant for this text amendment request is the Sumter County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office desires to construct an outdoor shooting range on property owned by Sumter County at 2185 E. Brewington Road. This property is within the Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoning District, as shown in the graphic below.



Per Article 3: Section 3.1.1 - Purpose (HI District), the intent of this district is to concentrate heavy industrial uses in areas where they will flourish without adversely affecting adjacent less intensive uses, and to preserve prime industrial lands for future industrial development. Toward these ends, residential development is not permitted, nor is the establishment of this district on other than a major road or highway.

Ms. Roodman stated that outdoor shooting ranges are not permitted in the HI District. Within the *Sumter County - Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance*, this use is included under the larger classification of Amusements & Recreation (Not Classified) SIC Code 7999. Currently, outdoor shooting ranges could be approved via special exception within the Neighborhood Commercial (NC), Limited Commercial (LC), General Commercial (GC), Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W), Mixed-Use Industrial (MUI), and Agricultural Conservation (AC) Zoning Districts.

The request is to amend the text of the Ordinance to allow outdoor pistol, rifle or skeet range uses in the HI Zoning District as a Special Exception Use.

Special Exception Uses are evaluated and ultimately approved or denied by the Sumter City-County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) on the basis of the following criteria:

- The use complies with all applicable development standards contained elsewhere in the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance, including landscaping and buffer yards, off-street parking, and dimensional requirements.
- The use will be in substantial harmony with the area in which it is located.
- The use will not discourage or negate the use of surrounding property for uses(s) permitted by right.
- In granting a special exception, the BZA may impose additional stipulations, conditions, or safeguards as, in its judgment, will enhance the siting of the special exception.

In addition to the standard evaluation criteria for special exceptions referenced above, *Article 5 Section 5.b.3.f - Special Design Review Criteria* outlines the following standards that are applicable to this specific use:

Section 5.b.3.f - Outdoor Pistol, Rifle or Skeet Range

- *The site shall not be located within one thousand (1,000 ft.) feet (measured in a straight line) from any residential use, nor within two thousand five hundred (2,500 ft.) feet (measured in a straight line) at and between a 45 degree angle on either side of the direction of fire, of any residential use on the down range side of said use.*
- *The site shall be oriented away from habitable areas.*

Special exception uses involve a staff review and recommendation to the BZA, written notification to property owners within 500 ft. of the property subject to the request, publication of a meeting notice in the newspaper, public hearing notice(s) posted on the property, and a formal public hearing.

Proposed Text Amendment

A strike-through of the proposed text amendments are attached as "Attachment #1". The proposed amendments would impact the following sections:

1. *Amend Article 3: Section 3.1.4 - Special Exception (Heavy Industrial District)* to include Outdoor Rifle, Pistol or Skeet Range (SIC Code 7999) as a use subject to special exception approval.
2. *Amend Article 3: Exhibit 5 - Permitted and Conditional Uses in the Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural, and Conservation Districts* to specifically list Outdoor Rifle, Pistol or Skeet Range (SIC Code 7999) on Exhibit 5 (as opposed to being grouped within a larger SIC Code category) and to allow this use via special exception approval in the HI zoning district and all other zoning districts where currently permitted via special exception approval.

After all comments, Council members took action on first reading.

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

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) 19-903 -- An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 18-888 Of Sumter County, South Carolina (The 2018-2019 Sumter County Budget Ordinance) By Changing The Amount Of Anticipated Funds, Moneys And Revenues Estimated To Be Received By Sumter County From All Resources And Changing The Amount To Be Allocated Toward The 2018-2019 Budget Of Sumter County. (County Council Will Take Action On Third Reading Immediately After Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)

The County Administrator, Mr. Gary Mixon, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for review and public hearing. Mr. Mixon stated that the ordinance includes the following:

- ✓ \$100,000 for the purchase of two used fire trucks.
- ✓ \$40,000 for digital imaging in the Register of Deeds Office.
- ✓ \$50,000 for the Sheriff's Office to allow off duty law enforcement officers to be paid; the revenue will be reimbursed by Sumter School District and the expenditure will be accounted for through the Sheriff's budget line item.

After the Administrator's presentation, the Chairman called for a public hearing on this ordinance. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to this proposed ordinance. No one spoke during public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on third reading as listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) A Request For County Council's Approval For The Recommendation Of The Company To Begin Work On The Shannontown Project.

Chris Hilditch, Property Manager for Sumter County, presented this item to Council for consideration of approval. He stated that he is working with Santee Lynches Regional Council On Governments as they manage the Shannontown Project. There are currently 19 houses that will benefit from this grant project. On February 21, 2019, a bid opening was held to select a vendor for the "asbestos assessment portion" of the project as required by the grant. The company, Summit ELT, was selected to perform the work for asbestos assessment; however, the grant requires that the governing body approves the selection of the company for the asbestos assessment. Mr. Hilditch asked Council to approve the recommendation for Summit ELT to conduct the asbestos assessment for the Shannontown Project. After the presentation by Mr. Hilditch, Council took action on the approval of the request.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the bid selection for the Company Summit ELT to conduct the asbestos assessment for the Shannontown Project. (See letter below).

GARY M. MIXON
ADMINISTRATOR



Sumter County
Sumter, South Carolina
29150

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
13 EAST CANAL STREET
TELEPHONE: (803) 436-2102
FAX: (803) 436-2108

February 26, 2019

Mr. Chris McKinney, Director
Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments
2525 Corporate Way, Suite 200
Sumter, SC 29154

RE: Shannontown Project

Dear Mr. McKinney:

Sumter County Government has reviewed the bids received on February 21, 2019, for the Asbestos Assessments, Project Designs, and Air Monitoring for the nineteen dilapidated houses in the Shannontown neighborhood. The County recommends approval of Summit ELT to perform this work. This recommendation will be presented to County Council at their next meeting on March 12, 2019.

Sincerely,

Gary Mixon
County Administrator

"The Gamecock County"

(2) Discussion Concerning Sumter County Council Providing Sumter School District With Three Years Of Look-Back- Millage As Allowed By Act 388.

The Chairman introduced this item and asked for a motion from Council to discuss this matter as listed on the agenda.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried to grant approval to discuss this matter as presented.

Councilman Baten stated that he is concerned about that for the last two years, Sumter County Council has denied the millage request from Sumter School District. The School District is allowed to receive the money through S. C. Act 388. There has been a law passed that requires every school district in South Carolina to have one month of operating funds on hand. Sumter School District needs \$12,000,000. Councilman Baten stated that if the millage is given to the Sumter School District, would be able to meet their needs of the district. Councilman Baten stated that the School District is a nine member non-partisan board; however, Sumter County Council consists of a seven member partisan board. Yet, Sumter County Council can take action on the funding for the School District; Councilman Baten asked Council members whether they want to be a part of the solution or a part of the problem for the School District.

ACTION: Received as information; no action taken.

- (3) Request For Council To Send A Letter To Sumter County Legislative Delegation Concerning Fiscal Autonomy For Sumter School District.

The Chairman introduced this item and asked for a motion from Council to discuss this matter as listed on the agenda. Councilman Baten offered a motion, then Councilman McGhaney stated that she would offer a second to the motion to get this matter on the table for discussion.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried to grant approval to discuss the request to send a Letter to Sumter County Legislative Delegation requesting that they grant Fiscal Autonomy for Sumter School District.

Councilman Baten stated that there are 81 school districts in South Carolina. Approximately 26 school districts have fiscal autonomy and they still must adhere to the requirements of Act 388. Also, he said that there are 27 districts within South Carolina that have limited authority, and the remainder are like Sumter County. However, those counties are smaller counties than Sumter County. In comparison, Sumter County is more like Florence, Richland, and other larger counties; yet Sumter County is treating the School District like the smaller counties such as Jasper, Hampton, Lee, etc.

Councilman Baten said that the only governing body that can grant the School District Fiscal Autonomy is the Sumter County Delegation. Therefore, he stated that it is his recommendation that Sumter County write a letter to the Delegation asking the members to grant fiscal autonomy for Sumter School District.

After all comments Chairman McCain called for action on the request as discussed.

ACTION: MOTION made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilwoman McGhaney to request a letter from the Sumter County Legislative Delegation to grant fiscal autonomy to Sumter School District. Councilman Baten and Councilman McGhaney voted in support of the motion; Council members Baker, Byrd, Edens, Sumpter, and McCain voted in opposition. The motion did not carry.

- (4) It Is Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Receive Legal Advise Leading To A Pending Claim, And It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Economic Development Matter, Receive A Legal Briefing, An Employment Matter, Or Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session, And Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter If Required. (This Item Will Be Held After Public Comment.)

No executive session

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) 19-903 - Third Reading --An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 18-888 Of Sumter County, South Carolina (The 2018-2019 Sumter County Budget Ordinance) By Changing The Amount Of Anticipated Funds, Moneys And Revenues Estimated To Be Received By Sumter County From All Resources And Changing The Amount To Be Allocated Toward The 2018-2019 Budget Of Sumter County.

The County Administrator presented this ordinance to Council for third reading consideration. After a public hearing, Council took action on third reading.

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

- (2) 19-904 -- Second Reading -- Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of An Infrastructure Credit Agreement To Provide For Infrastructure Credits To A Company Identified For The Time Being As Project Batch; And Other Related Matters.

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, stated that this is second reading for ordinance 19-904 which is authorizing the execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement for Project Batch. Mr. Bryan stated that Ray Jones is representing the Company; Mr. Bryan further stated that he will talk with Mr. Jones about Article 2.3 in the ordinance which looks like there is a typographical error in this section. Other than that section, everything else is fine in the ordinance. Then the Chairman called for a motion on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading to this ordinance as presented by the attorney.

- (3) 19-905 - Second Reading -- Amending The Master Agreement Governing The Sumter-Lee Industrial Park Dated December 31, 2012, Between Lee County, South Carolina And Sumter County, South Carolina So As To Expand The Boundaries Of The Park To Include Certain Property Owned And/Or Operated By A Company Identified For The Time Being As Project Batch; And Other Related Matters.

Mr. Bryan stated that this ordinance will amend the Sumter Lee Industrial Park agreement by allowing Project Batch to be located in this Multi-County Industrial Park. It was noted by Mr. Bryan that there are no changes to the ordinance. Therefore, the Chairman called for a motion on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading to this ordinance as presented by the attorney.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) Internal Affairs Committee Meeting To Be Held At 4:45 p.m. On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in County Council's Conference Room. (Byrd, Baker, and Sumpter)

The Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman James Byrd, gave the following report and recommendations.

- ✓ **Accommodations** - The Committee recommended approval of the appointments in conjunction with the City of Sumter for the following persons: Tommy Sorrell, Caleb J. McGowan, and Earl Wilson.

ACTION: Motion and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation as presented.

- ✓ **Alcohol And Drug Abuse** - No action taken.

- ✓ **Cultural Commission** - The Committee recommended to appoint Kala Robbins and Christina Richardson.

ACTION: Motion and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the appointments of Kala Robbins and Christina Richardson to the Cultural Commission.

- ✓ **Planning Commission** - The Committee recommended to James Price to the Planning Commission.

ACTION: Motion and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the appointment of James Price to the Planning Commission.

- ✓ **Zoning Board of Appeals** - The Committee recommended to appoint Harold Johnson to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

ACTION: Motion and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the appointment of Harold Johnson to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- (2) **Public Safety Committee Meeting To Be Held At 5:00p.m. On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, In County Council's Conference Room. (Sumpter, Baten, and Byrd)**

The Chairman of the Committee, Councilman Chris Sumter, stated that all committee members were present at the meeting. The Committee received information on the following, but no action was taken:

- ✓ Tethering Laws and Dog Adoption in Sumter County
- ✓ Sheriff Dennis gave a presentation about the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center

- (3) **Fiscal, Tax, And Property Committee Meeting To Be Held At 5:30 p.m. On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, In County Council's Conference Room. (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney)**

The Committee Chairman, Chairman James T. McCain, stated that the Committee discussed the retention of Webster Rogers for an additional year as the County's external audit company. The Committee recommended approval of the request. The following action was taken by Council.

- ✓ **EXTERNAL AUDIT COMPANY:** MOTION and second were received from the Committee and unanimously carried by Sumter County Council to engage Webster Rogers Company for one more year as the external audit company for Sumter County.

- (4) **Report From Council Members** On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences; And Any Other Council Comments.

- Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave a report about the 2019 Summit. Chairman McCain also attended the 2019 Summit. One of the speakers encouraged the Counties to have its citizens improve their credit scores which can impact the overall growth of the County.
- Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney thanked the Sheriff's staff for cleaning up Cannery Road.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) Sheriff's Department Monthly Report
- 2) Festival On The Avenue
- 3) Chamber Annual Gala
- 4) High Heels In High Places
- 5) Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting March 13, 2019

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. High Street and Industrial Road have been paved.
2. Second Mill Dam - Certificate of Completion has been received. The testing of the dam structure is being conducted. There are four spillways and three of them work perfectly; however one is not closing all the way; Public Works will continue to monitor it along with the construction company.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lashone Hamm -talked about her concerns with the gym at Recreation Department.
2. Johnny Hilton talked about the Inspire Festival scheduled for April 4-7, 2019.
3. Regina Tucker, the Chairman of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Citizens' Community Relations Advisory Board gave a report on the Advisory Board and the things that the Board would like for Council to consider during the budget process. (See attached report at the end of the minutes.)
4. Litter and Road Conditions
5. Mr. Glenn Button spoke to Council about the Henry Shelor 2019 **Eighth Annual Barbecue Cook-Off Benefiting the Boy Scouts of America Henry Shelor District** -- The Eighth Annual *Barbecue Cook-Off Benefiting the Boy Scouts* will begin on Friday, March 29, 2019, at the Sumter County Fairgrounds Agricultural Building located at 700 West Liberty Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to closing, the Chairman thanked the Boy Scouts for coming to the meeting tonight and wished them well on pursuing their Citizenship Badge.

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. after a motion by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. McCain, Jr.
Chairman or Vice Chairman

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council

Sumter County Council

Sumter County Council

Approved: _____

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

Public Notified: Yes

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

Date Posted: March 11, 2019

Media Notified: Yes

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

Date Notified: March 8, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council



SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANTHONY DENNIS, SHERIFF

March 12, 2019

Members of Sumter County Council
13 East Canal Street
Sumter, SC 29150

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of Council:

I am Regina Tucker and I serve as Chairwoman of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Citizens' Community Relations Advisory Board. I am joined tonight with esteemed members of that Board. The Board has been engaged with the Sheriff's Office for approximately two (2) years and has been working on community projects where community and citizen involvement can improve quality of life for residents of Sumter County. Board members embrace their responsibilities very seriously and are required to attend Sheriff's Office training sessions and become familiar with the Sheriff's Office state and federal policies and procedures. The Board represents all facets of the Sumter community.

The Board was organized in January 2017. The purpose of the Board is to provide more operational transparency, increase communication between the Sheriff's Office and Sumter County residents, and to share and receive information regarding policing and public affairs. We meet at least once per quarter, and rotate those meetings to locations throughout the county to encourage wide participation. The Board has a public comment section near the end of each meeting. We often hear comments that may not be directly related to law enforcement, and we appreciate the opportunity to share some of those comments with you this evening.

We are here tonight to express our concern and request Sumter County Council's help in two (2) important areas within the county. Our concern involves litter and road conditions in the Rembert area of our county. We know that you, too, are aware of and share these concerns as many members of the Rembert community have been addressing this body over the last few months. Litter in the Rembert community has become a major impediment and black eye on areas near the Rembert Recycling Center. Communities situated near recycling centers typically require more litter enforcement initiatives and trash pickup resources.

Recognizable litter in this area of the county consists of household waste materials such as paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, cardboard, Styrofoam, and other non-degradable byproducts, to larger items such as small appliances and furniture dumped alongside isolated stretches on residential roadways. In addition to the contamination, the deteriorating litter imposes on vegetation, water sources, and soil, the contamination is further being transmitted directly to local residents by

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animals who consume the decaying by-products, causing a host of diseases. Research studies confirm that people who live in clean areas with lots of green spaces have much better mental and physical health than those people who live in area with litter problems.

We are requesting Sumter County Council's help to address litter in the following high impact areas (due to their proximity to the recycling center):

Dais Road, Rembert, SC

Dennis Road, Rembert, SC

Dinkins Mill Road, Rembert, SC

Spencer Road, Rembert, SC

The second issue of concern involves our county's rural roads. The decaying and pothole-ridden roads in many of our county's rural areas are on the cusp of collapse if resurfacing and/or repaving projects are not implemented. The deferred maintenance on these roads and lack of road improvements, have resulted in severe road deterioration, especially in rural areas such as the Rembert and Dalzell communities.

Nationally, damage caused by potholes to automobiles is estimated to cost drivers and governing jurisdictions \$3 billion a year.

Typical Pothole Damage to Automobiles:

- Tire puncture, damage or wear
- Wheel rim damage
- Premature wear on shocks and struts
- Suspension damage, including broken components
- Steering system misalignment
- Exhaust system damage
- Engine damage

The practice of jurisdictions continually filling potholes with asphalt that typically dissipates in a matter of days only worsens the fundamental problem for citizens. The problems are not limited to mere property damage to vehicles. The health and safety concerns cannot be overlooked. When emergency vehicles cannot readily and timely reach a residence due to deplorable road conditions, the very lives of our citizens are endangered. Likewise, our citizens are endangered when road conditions impede and jeopardize everyday safe travel on the roadways. The solution must be comprehensive, and it must begin without further hesitation. It also requires long-term plan implementation and funding for road resurfacing and paving projects.

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As a citizens board representing community interests, we are requesting Sumter County Council's help in developing an action plan to address critical road repairs in the Rembert/Dalzell communities. The plan should also serve as a blueprint to address other rural areas throughout the Sumter County road system. Mr. Carlton B. Washington, Board Member, will serve as the point of contact for this project. Mr. Washington is a resident of Rembert and serves as Chairman, of ICAR, I Care About Rembert (contact at cbwashington64@gmail.com).

Finally, during the last two years, the Citizens' Community Relations Advisory Board has had many first-hand opportunities to personally witness the dedication and professionalism displayed by employees of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, often in situations that are heart-rending and without recognition or appreciation. The Sheriff's Office, both in the law enforcement division and detention division, strives to provide the highest level of services to help ensure the safety and security of all Sumter County residents. In order to meet this objective, it is vital that deputies and detention officers are compensated at a competitive level in order to both recruit and retain the highest caliber of officers.

Sheriff Dennis has one of the highest retention rates in the State for his deputies, but must be able to better compensate his deputies in order for his high retention rate to continue. With regard to detention officers, you are likely aware that it is difficult to retain quality officers in this field. Sheriff Dennis has worked diligently since assuming control of the detention center to recruit and train high caliber officers. However, we do not want to see our detention center as merely a training ground for officers who leave for higher-paying facilities.

Both law enforcement officers and detention officers put their safety and their very lives on the line each day. It is incumbent upon those of us whom they serve to make sure they have the best training, best facilities, and are adequately paid for the dangerous and vital functions they provide to all of us. We, the Sheriff's Office Citizens' Community Relations Advisory Board, strongly urge the County Council to act favorably upon requests made by Sheriff Dennis regarding pay increases for his staff. The citizens of Sumter County should not bear the burden of training high quality officers only to see them leave for other jurisdictions. Please help Sheriff Dennis ensure that these officers remain in Sumter County and utilize their training and experience to protect and serve the residents of *our* County.

Many thanks for your help in promoting the very best quality of life in Sumter County.

Regina Tucker
Chairwoman
Sumter County Sheriff's Office
Citizens Community Relations Advisory Board

SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 1281 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 430
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29151-0430



**Sumter County Sheriff Citizens
Advisory Board**

**Holding its scheduled meeting at 6 P.M.
April 29, 2019**

**Pinewood Community Center
130 Epperson Street
Pinewood SC 29125**

Opening remarks by Mayor Sarah Mathis

**Presentations will be given by
Sr. Corporal Albert Harvin,
Investigator Mike McCauley, Crime Scene Unit
Ms. Barbara J. Wiley, Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate**

For additional information call: (803)436-2000

***Free and open to the public signup sheets will be available
prior to the meeting, comments limited to two (2) minutes.***