



Minutes
Special Meeting
Sumter County Council
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 - Held at 5:00 p.m.
County Administration Building -- Third Floor
County Administration Conference Room
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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, Lorraine Dennis, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Karen Hyatt, Kelsey Andrews, Alfred Conyers, and Robert Galloway.

MEDIA PRESENT: Tylor Fedor

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Of County Council – The Honorable James T. McCain, Jr. called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the agenda as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) **Discussion And Possible Action Concerning APRA Funding.**

The County Administrator, Gary Mixon along with Kelsey Andrews, the Finance Director, gave Council members an update concerning the overall funding from the APRA Funding:

Expenditure Categories	Obligated	Spent	Balance
Public Health/Public Sector	\$ 10,079,843.59	\$ 5,897,834.71	\$ 4,182,008.88
Negative Economic Impact	1,254,978.00	267,706.48	987,271.52
Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	966,000.00	966,000.00	-
Premium Pay	1,252,265.98	1,252,265.98	-
Infrastructure	5,668,054.99	25,860.99	5,642,194.00
Revenue Replacement	1,508,159.44	1,087,045.36	421,114.08
Total	\$ 20,729,302.00	\$ 9,496,713.52	\$ 11,232,588.48

All ARPA funds must be spent by December 31, 2026. Therefore, the projects that are still outstanding must be completed prior to the December 31, 2026, date. Then Mr. Mixon asked the Purchasing Director, Public Works Director, and the Stormwater Management Director to provide Council members with an overview of upcoming projects that will use the ARPA Funds.

Purchasing Projects: One of the projects that was discussed was the Dabbs Cross Road Fire Station. It was noted that the fire station infrastructure upgrade for water pressure from the water tower was not cost effective at this time. Although the project is very much needed, the cost factor for getting water and water pressure to Dabbs is not feasible at this time. Mr. Mixon also pointed out that it appears that the Turbeville Water has been expanding closer to the Sumter area. Therefore, it will probably be more practical for some type of arrangement be made with the Turbeville Water Company for the Dabbs Cross Road Fire Station rather than the previously discussed agreement with Oswego Water System.

Councilman McGhaney also stated that she understands that regionalization is the priority at this time when it comes to grant funding and other resources that the Federal and State Governments may have for cities, counties, and townships. Therefore, she asked to be placed on record that Sumter County should seek the expansion of the Turbeville Water Company to the Dabbs Cross Road Fire Station so that additional Fire services can be provided for the rural area. Mr. Mixon mentioned that the regionalization concept is also associated with having the small water companies to combine with each other which will help them to be able to seek after funds in a more collaborative manner.

Mr. Robert Galloway provided information concerning purchasing and construction projects.

Project Description and Budget:

- Fire Station Fire Suppression \$ 195,000
 - Cherryvale, Wedgefield, and Bethel
- Fire Truck \$ 400,000
- Dabbs EMS \$ 650,000
- Dalzell Fire \$ 1,339,925
- Detention Center Renovations \$ 270,000
 - Replace roof A/C units
- Crystal Lakes \$ 175,000
 - 3 possible options
- Patriot Hall/Mood Ave/SLT \$ 430,000
- Civic Center \$ 560,000
 - A/C units

It was noted that Sumter County Patriot Hall received \$4,600,000 for renovation purposes during fiscal year 2023. It was also stated that during the renovation process, Patriot Hall will be closed from May or June to December 2024.

Councilman McGhaney asked if the funds that were allocated for Dabbs EMS could be used for another project in County Council District #5, such as constructing a building for an EMS structure instead of continuous use of the current mobile home where the EMS is housed.

Councilman McGhaney also stated that she hopes that when the MEGA Industrial Site begins to be developed, that when water lines are considered, that Shiloh Community should be included in the discussions to ensure that water can come to the people in this area.

Sumter County Water Systems: Then Mr. Alfred Conyers presented a power point concerning the Wedgefield Water Company and the Shiloh Water Company projects. He informed Council that Sumter County applied for the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program Grant in September of 2023 and was awarded a Rural Infrastructure Grant of \$10,000,000 in April of 2023. The Match for the grant is \$2,687,963.

Mr. Conyers said that the Wedgefield Stateburg Water Systems needs New Wells and Treatment Facilities. He also mentioned this same system needs improvements to its elevated tank. The Shiloh Water system needs improvements and upgrades to its existing wells and treatment facilities. There are also funds in this project to be allocated for the water tap assistance program.

The water tap assistance program will extend to both Wedgefield-Stateburg and Shiloh Water System residents. The program will allow for a waiver of the \$50 application fee to existing inactive customers and to reduce the tap fee from \$1,000 for short tap and \$1,200 for long tap to \$300 and \$500, respectively.

Mr. Conyers also informed Council that there will be a mailing that will go out in Shiloh to those residents that have the water line in front of their homes but have not yet connected to the water lines. Councilman McGhaney asked to receive a list of those persons that will be receiving the letters so that she too can do her due diligence.

Lastly, Mr. Conyers stated that the water projects should be completed by June 1, 2026.

Councilman Washington voiced his concern about what it will take to get the pipes at the Wedgefield-Stateburg Water System 90-100 % improved. Mr. Mixon stated that once the system is updated, then it will lower the maintenance cost, which allows monies to be freed to continue with updating the Water System.

Public Works Department: Karen Hyatt stated that the additional projects that have not been completed for the Litter Program include the purchasing of one Flashing Sign and two Gators.

She also noted that there are funds for paving the recycling centers' "Center Circle", and the Concrete slabs where the runoff occurs. It is hoped that five centers will receive this upgrade, but it may be a possibility that six of them will be upgraded which include Cane Savannah, Bethel Church, Rainaire, Stamey Livestock, and Alligator Branch.

Then Ms. Hyatt stated that there are approximately three roads that can be paved from the ARPA funds and Assistance from SCDOT, as well as CTC Road Paving Funds. The three roads that are recommended are Cannery Road, Keystone, and Josh Wells. After Mrs. Hyatt's presentation, Council acted on this recommendation.

Councilman Washington stated that the County must find a way of having a funding stream for road maintenance and paving.

Chairman McCain asked for a motion concerning the recommendation to pave three roads as mentioned in Ms. Hyatt's presentation.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the paving of Cannery Road, Keystone Road, and Josh Wells Road.

2. Executive Session: It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss Matters Appropriate For Executive Session And Take Necessary Actions After The Executive Session As Necessary.

No executive session

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Mary W. Blanding, Clerk

Approved: September 12, 2023