



## Minutes Special Meeting

### Sumter County Council

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 - Held at 4:30 p.m.  
County Administration Building -- Third Floor  
County Administration Conference Room  
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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*Social Distancing Is Required At All of County Council's Meetings,  
And Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.*

**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 Carlton B. Washington.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gary Mixon, Johnathan Bryan, Mary W. Blanding, Joe Perry, Uvette Rogers, Robert Galloway, and Bruce Haskins.

**MEDIA PRESENT:** The Item, Shelby Goulding.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** One member of the public was present.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman McCain called the meeting to order

**INVOCATION** – Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – December 14, 2021

Chairman McCain asked if there were any changes to the agenda; Mr. Mixon stated that there was one item that needed to be added to the agenda under New Business:

**First Reading – Ordinance #21-970** -- An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 21-950 Of Sumter County, South Carolina (The 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 Budget Of Sumter County. (Title Only)

Then Chairman McCain said he would entertain a motion concerning the approval of the agenda.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously approved by Council to approve the agenda as amended to add First Reading to Ordinance #21-970 under New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- (1) Executive Session: It Is Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To: (1) Discuss An Economic Development Matter, (2) Receive A Legal Briefing Pertaining To A Contractual

Matter, And (3) Consider Adding Any Appropriate Executive Session Matter If Necessary; And To Take Appropriate Actions After The Executive Session As Needed.

Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion to go into executive session to discuss an Economic Development Matter and to Receive a Legal Briefing Pertaining To A Contractual Matter.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to enter executive session. At the conclusion of executive session Motion and second were made by Vice Chairman Byrd, and seconded by Councilman Baker, to re-enter open session.

The Chairman stated that Council members received a report on an economic development matter from Mr. Jay Schwedler. This matter is on the main agenda for second reading and public hearing and will be discussed further during the main meeting.

Then Chairman McCain said that he would entertain a motion concerning the second item discussed in executive session pertaining to a Legal Briefing referencing the on-going legal matter in reference to South Carolina Opioid Litigation, the following motion was given.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Baker to authorize Mr. Mixon to execute the participation agreement and return the agreement to the attorneys (HW Harrison/White PC) located in Spartanburg, SC which will be held in trust.

(2) Sumter County Fund Balance Request For Up To \$150,000 In Reference To The Purchase Of A Fire Truck.

Mr. Mixon presented this request for Council to consider allowing staff to use funds from the Reserve Fund to purchase a new Fire Truck. The total cost of the fire truck is approximately \$250,000. Mr. Mixon further stated that the Insurance Trust has agreed to pay an additional \$50,000 therefore, the request is now up to \$100,000. After discussion on this matter, the Chairman called for a motion on the request.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to authorize the use of up to \$100,000, from the County's Reserve Fund to be used to assist in the purchase of a fire truck.

(3) First Reading - Ordinance #21-970 -- An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 21-950 Of Sumter County, South Carolina (The 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 Budget Of Sumter County. (Title Only)

The County Administrator, Mr. Mixon, also presented this proposed ordinance to Council for first reading approval. Mr. Mixon stated that because of the need to use the \$100,000, from the County's Reserve Fund for the purchase of the fire truck, the action will require for

a budget amendment; therefore, this ordinance will allow for the request of funds to be used from the reserve fund. He asked for Council's support of this ordinance amendment. Chairman McCain asked for a motion on first reading by Title Only.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading to Ordinance #21-970 by Title Only.

(4) Update On APRA Update And APRA Request.

Mr. Mixon stated that Mr. Robert Galloway is present on behalf of the ARPA Mobile Home Repair Program. Then Mr. Galloway gave the following report on how the County came to the final conclusion as to the agencies that will provide the service for the Mobile Home Repair Program.

- A. The County used its normal procurement process where the County advertises on the website, in *The Item*, and mail-outs for Request For Qualifications.
- B. Three agencies responded to the Request For Qualifications. One of the companies that responded was not a nonprofit Company. The other two companies were nonprofits: Sumter County CDC and Sumter United Ministries.
- C. Then the County evaluated the responses from these two agencies and they both qualified to participate in the Mobile Home Repair program. Additionally, phone interviews were conducted with Mark Champagne and Gwendolyn Clyburn.
- D. The County's Finance Director, Uvette Rogers, is reviewing the applications for those that will be applying for help. It is necessary that the forms from both agencies be uniform to assist the County and the agencies to work together and to be used as needed for reporting on the use of the funds.
- E. After discussing matters with the two agencies, Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Galloway met with Mr. Mixon and agreed to start a pilot program of \$100,000 for each agency.
- F. A draft agreement was developed which will be between the County and the agencies. This agreement was discussed with input from Mr. Mixon, Mrs. Rogers, and Mr. Galloway. Currently, the agreement is with Mr. Bryan, the County Attorney, to review for the legal aspect.
- G. It is the goal of the County to start the Mobile Home Repair Program in early January.
- H. The agencies are aware that once the \$100,000 is used, additional funds can be secured since there is a total of \$500,000 for this project.

The Mr. Mixon reported that when the Sheriff's Office was given the Premium Pay, the tax amount should have been included; however, since it was not included Mr. Mixon requested an additional \$61,000 for the Sheriff's Office, and an additional amount for EMS and Volunteer Firefighters totaling \$165,000. This will then account for the first round of ARPA Funds \$10,364,651.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the request to use \$165,000 for Premium Pay as requested by the Administrator for The Sheriff's Office, EMS, and Volunteer Firefighters.

Also, Mr. Mixon stated that in January, Council will receive a more detailed list of the projects and allow for those projects to be placed in a Resolution so that the funds can be followed through the resolution. The resolution will be placed on Council's agenda sometime in January.

Lastly, Mr. Mixon mentioned that the County expects to receive another \$10,000,000 in April 2022. Once the funds are received, he and staff members will come back before Council with a plan for those funds.

(5) Update On Sumter County Council Redistricting Information And Process.

Mr. Mixon stated that Council was informed at the last meeting that the "Raw Data" was received from the South Carolina Revenue and Finance Office. Mr. Bruce Haskins, from the County's Assessor Office, has reviewed the raw data, applied the information to data layers, and started the process for redistricting.

The information that Mr. Haskins has been working with was sent to each Council member and Councilman Baten received his copy from the Clerk's Office.

Mr. Haskins then showed Council members how the data is used and how simple the processes can be by moving lines from one area and adding the right population to another area. Mr. Haskins informed Council that each line within the raw data are neighborhoods and census tracks. Each census blocks (tracks) have demographics including populations with it unless it is something like a swamp, an agricultural field, etc.

Mr. Haskins stated that District One and District Seven lost population since the last census. District Two has grown tremendously. As lines are moved, the benchmark must be at 5% of the desired population of 14,900.

Mr. Mixon also informed Council that this item tonight is only for a presentation as to the software, but not to change any of the lines. The decision as to how Council will come up with the new redistricting lines is solely up to Council; however, the County does have the software to help Council along in developing the lines.

After Mr. Haskins demonstration, Mr. Mixon gave Council members history on how the 2010 redistricting lines were developed. Former Chairman Blanding and Vice Chairman Byrd worked together to move the lines according to the desired population as well as keeping each Council representative informed of what was going-on. All proposed maps were brought to Council for review and the final draft was voted on by Council for approval of the lines of Sumter County Council.

It was suggested that Council schedule a workshop for the purpose of working on the redistricting process. The workshop was scheduled for January 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. The redistricting process must be completed by March 2022.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. None

Special Meeting of Sumter County Council

Page 5

December 14, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

After all comments, Motion was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary W. Blanding*

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Approved: **January 11, 2022**