



Minutes
Special Meeting
Sumter County Council
Tuesday, November 23, 2021 - Held at 4:45 p.m.
County Administration Building -- Third Floor
County Administration Conference Room
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

*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 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, Uvette Rogers, Kelsey Andrews, Christin Russell, Johnathan Bryan, and Joe Perry.

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

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

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

INVOCATION – Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – November 23, 2021

Chairman McCain asked for a motion to approve the agenda of this Special Meeting of Sumter County Council.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Discussion And Possible Action Concerning Redistricting Process For Sumter County Council's Voting Lines.

Mr. Mixon presented this agenda item to Council for information. He informed Council that as of November 16, 2021, staff, along with the Chairman provided information to Kathryn Kelley, in the S. C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (SCRFA). This office provides information to municipalities, townships, etc. as it relates to redistricting. Sumter County Council must have its redistricting lines completed by March 2022 prior to candidates filing for the primaries.

It was required that three directions had to be given to the SCRFA: (1) That Sumter County would develop its redistricting lines with statistical information coming from the office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, (2) Allow the contact person to be Johnathan W. Bryan, County Attorney, who was the former contact person during the previous redistricting process, and (3) provide the names, addresses, and districts of the incumbents.

Mr. Mixon also said Sumter County's Liaison, Johnathan Bryan, and Bruce Haskins, Sumter County's GIS Coordinator, will coordinate and verify that the SCRFA has the most current GIS data accurately reflecting the County's current districts. They will also work with staff and Council to ensure that this process is completed in an efficient and timely manner.

ACTION: Received as information.

(2) Discussion And Possible Action Concerning Ordinance 21-967 – An Ordinance To Repeal All Ordinances Regarding The Sumter County Cultural Commission.

Mr. Mixon, Vice Chairman Byrd, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee, and Mrs. Lorraine Dennis, Assistant County Administrator who has also managed the Cultural Center since the resignation of the Director earlier this year, presented this item to Council.

Mrs. Dennis on how the office has been managed including the most recent events that have been held including the C. C. Winan's Concert. Also, she reported on how the Civic Center is currently one of the areas under the jurisdiction of the Civic Center. Mr. Mixon reported that it is in the Administrator's authority to manage the alignment of the departments and staff within the departments; therefore, he is in support of the realignment of the Recreation Department by placing Patriot Hall under the Recreation's jurisdiction. Lastly, Vice Chairman Byrd stated that he is in support of the realignment, but would like to wait one year before council takes any action on this or a similar ordinance as it relates to the Sumter County Cultural Commission. He asked for Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Mixon to monitor the work of the Cultural Commission for a year and then report back to Council their recommendation as to whether or not the Commission needs to be dissolved. *(Note: This matter should be placed on one of Council's agenda in November 2022, or as soon as possible if there is a need.)*

(3) Report, Discussion, And Possible Action Concerning Sumter County's Mini Grant Program.

Mr. Mixon recognized Mrs. Lorraine Dennis, Mrs. Uvette Rogers, Mrs. Kelsey Andrews, Mrs. Christin Russell, Mandy Pearson, Maribel Alicea.

1. The team of six people worked diligently non-stop for two days. The applications were reviewed individually, then they were reviewed collectively by the review team. The review of the applications occurred on November 16 and 17, 2021.
2. Seventy-nine applications were reviewed.
3. The total monetary request was \$1, 147,907.56.
4. A total of forty-eight grants were approved.
5. The grant awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$15,000

6. The amount of the award was determined by several factors: allowable by ARPA, the budget details, the reasons supporting the requested amount including supporting details.
7. Grant applicant award includes requests for utility support, food bank, revenue replacement support to assist with building projects, better virtual equipment.
8. There were 31 projects that were not approved which included projects that were not in Sumter County, not a non-profit agency, agencies with multiple tax ID numbers, did not match the Treasurer's guidelines, did not align with the Treasury guidelines; some were new organizations and did not have any current or past supporting documentation to support the requests, 29 of the 31 did not provide any of the 501c3 documentation.
9. Several applications did not have signatures.
10. Some agencies did not provide the Tax ID Number, but met all the other requirements; therefore, a letter was sent to the agency requesting the Tax ID Number prior to releasing of funds.
11. Churches represented 98% of the 79 applications that requested funds.
12. All agencies will be required to provide the County with receipts and an explanation of the expenditures.
13. The funds must be spent by June 2022.

Letters of denial and granted will be sent to applicants on November 26, 2021. Also, official notification of the grants will be placed on the County's website by December 10, 2021.

Council members thanked Mrs. Dennis and other staff for all the work that they did. Mr. Mixon also thanked the group for working to ensure that if the agency/church was not granted the entire amount, the team worked to make sure that some funding was appropriated according to ARPA standards.

- (4) **Executive Session: It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss Matters Appropriate For Executive Session And Take Appropriate Actions After The Executive Session As Necessary.**

No executive session was held.

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) None

ADJOURNMENT

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion to convene the Special Meeting. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding

Mary W. Blanding, Clerk
Sumter County Council

Approved: December 14, 2021