



Minutes  
Sumter County Council  
Special Meeting And Budget Workshop  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023 - Held at 5:15 p.m.  
County Administration Building -- Third Floor  
County Administration Conference Room  
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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*Social Distancing Is Encouraged At All 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, 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, and Joe Perry

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** No one from the public attended this meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman James T. McCain, Jr. called to order Council's Special Meeting and Budget Workshop of June 13, 2023.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

Chairman McCain called for a motion on the approval of the agenda for the Special Meeting and Budget Workshop.

**ACTION:** 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) It Is Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss Employment Matters, And It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Economic Development Matter, Or Receive A Legal Brief And Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session. Council May Need To Take Action On These Matters Thereafter.

Chairman McCain asked for a motion to enter executive session to discuss an employment matter. *(Note: All staff members were asked to leave the room for this executive session.)*

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to enter executive session to discuss an employment matter.

At the conclusion of executive session, Motion was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to enter open session.

Chairman McCain stated that members of Council discussed the details of the County Administrator’s Contract during executive session. Then the Chairman called for a motion concerning the extension of the Administrator’s contract.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried to extend the County Administrator’s (Gary Mixon) employment contract for four years commencing on July 1, 2023.

(2) Continued Discussion On Sumter County Council’s 2023-2024 Budget And If Necessary To Take Action On Items Discussed During This Meeting.

Gary Mixon presented the proposed 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget to Council as listed below.

General Fund Recap					
	April 25, 2023	May 2, 2023	May 9, 2023	May 23, 2023	June 13, 2023
Revenues	\$ 58,288,334	\$ 58,288,334	\$ 58,718,334	\$ 59,512,534	\$ 59,514,776
Expenditures	58,935,389	60,036,150	59,982,350	60,171,706	60,172,521
Fund Balance	-	-	-	659,172	657,745
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (647,055)	\$ (1,747,816)	\$ (1,264,016)	\$ -	\$ -

Mr. Mixon gave the following overview of what will help balance the County’s budget. He also reminded Council that the

REVENUE

- 1.5% growth projections \$353,090
- Infrastructure 5% to General Fund \$158,800
- 2 mill increase (LOST credit offset)
- Fund Balance \$657,745

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

The Administrator also gave Council members an overview of the Capital requests by departments.

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		\$ -

Lastly, Mr. Mixon mentioned to Council that other requests that will be in the budget are as follows:

- 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)

Then Councilman Washington stated that there was an article in The Item Newspaper which showed that the City has increased the starting salaries of the City Police Department to \$45,000. Yet, the Sheriff’s starting salary is \$42,000 per year. Councilman Washington recommended that the County allow additional funds from the County’s Fund Balance to be used to bring the Sheriff’s Deputies starting salaries up to \$45,000 per year and to adjust other staff members due to the residual affect of increasing the starting salary. He asked Council to consider providing up to \$250,000 for this adjustment in pay. After discussion on this matter with the Administrator and other Council members, the Chairman called for a motion on this matter.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman McGhaney, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to secure up to \$250,000 from the County’s Fund Balance to be used for increasing the entry level pay to \$45,000 per year and to make additional adjustments for other Sheriff’s Department employees due to the residual effect of increasing the entry level pay, effective in the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

NOTE: The Administrator stated that the use of funds from the County's Fund Balance will change from \$657,745 to \$907,745 and will change the bottom line for the overall County's General Fund Budget by \$250,000.

**OLD BUSINESS**

(1) None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: June 9, 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: June 9, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding  
Clerk To County Council