

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 28, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided
Vice-Chairman Ken Westbury
Councilman Richard Carson
Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette
Councilman Cecil Thornton
Administrator John McLaughlin
Deputy Administrator Richard Hall
Clerk to Council Shayla Jenkins
Human Resources Director Brandy Roberson

The following press was notified of the meeting by mail, electronic mail, or by fax in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: The Calhoun Times, The Times and Democrat, and Sandy Run News. An Agenda was also posted on Calhoun County's website calhouncounty.sc.gov.

Call to Order

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Invocation was offered by Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette.

Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Westbury made the motion to approve August 28, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Julian Wiles spoke regarding the solar ordinance and told that he and his family were in support. Nina Mack, a resident of Fort Motte, commented on the solar ordinance. She asked for Council to address in the ordinance the following: pollution legal liability coverage; setbacks required to be from property lines, not structures; and the buffer requirement, requesting an opaque vegetative buffer.

Public Hearing

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2023-16 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE III OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO ALLOW FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE BOUNDARIES OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AREAS UPON APPROVAL BY THE CALHOUN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**. There were no questions or comments, and the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-16. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-16, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July 24, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments

Chairman Haigler requested appointment for Councilman Carson to Lower Savannah Council of Governments Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haigler requested appointment for Amanda Sievers to Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously. Administrator McLauchlin introduced Amanda Sievers as the Planning and Grants Director, and commented on her experience and knowledge.

Appearances

Crystal Youmans reported that the EMS department was the State Runner-Up for the J. Mitchell Graham Award for the community paramedic program. Administrator McLauchlin and Councilman Thornton commented on the proactive program and the impact on the community. Chairman Haigler told that he appreciated the department and their willingness to go above and beyond in the community. Tim Moore also appeared to recognize retired EMS employee, Thomas Fleming.

Reta Westbury appeared to give updates regarding Calhoun County Cares and recent accomplishments. She told that the organization needs volunteers, shoppers and donations. Chairman Haigler thanked Mrs. Westbury and the organization for efforts in the county.

Old Business

The Vehicle Policy was presented to Council after some previous concerns being addressed and an attorney review. Councilwoman Bonnette posed questions, related to items 3, 4, 15, 16 and 17 (personal errands, passengers, travel outside of the county, IRS regulations). The policy was tabled in order for the concerns raised by Councilwoman Bonnette to be reviewed and addressed.

New Business

Extension of RFQ 2103 – Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering (County Transportation Committee). Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the extension of RFQ 2103, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2023-17 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CALHOUN COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE BY REMOVING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INSTALLATIONS FROM ARTICLE VII, REPLACING SECTION 7:13 WITH UPDATED REQUIREMENTS, AND UPDATING RELATED TABLES FOR CONDITIONAL USES AND SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS was presented for **First Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-17, and Councilwoman Bonnette seconded. Councilman Thornton confirmed that there would be opportunity to review and/or make changes to the ordinance based on comments. The motion to pass First Reading of 2023-17 passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator McLauchlin encouraged everyone to stay safe and monitor for the potential for bad weather due to Hurricane Idalia.

The Calhoun County Sports Complex Grand Opening will be held on September 22, 2023.

The 7th Calhoun County Annual Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament will be held on October 20, 2023.

Chairman Haigler recognized Dr. Molnar of Lower Savannah Council of Governments, who thanked Council for the appointments, commended Crystal Youmans and EMS, and spoke about the Workforce Mobile Unit.


Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session to discuss and Economic Development Matter – Contract Discussion. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to come out of Executive Session, brining nothing forward. Second was made by Councilman Carson and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council