

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 8, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided
Vice-Chairman Ken Westbury
Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette
Councilman Richard Carson
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

Councilman Carson made the motion to approve May 8, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Public Hearing

None

Approval of Minutes

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

Committee Reports

Councilman Carson reported that the Public Services Committee met regarding the county collection sites. There will be a test run at the Sandy Run and Riley Road sites with additional morning hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 am - 11:00 am. Also, these sites will be collecting tires and electronics. The trial run will be advertised and will be used to determine hours going forward.

Vice-Chairman Westbury reported that the Executive Committee met to look into the ordinance outlining Rules and Procedures to bring the information current and streamlining the ordinance to make it clearer. The ordinance is on this meeting's agenda for First Reading.

Appointments

None

Proclamations

None

Appearances

None

Resolutions

Resolution 8-2023 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY") AND PROJECT GOLD, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (THE "COMPANY") WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (THE "PROJECT"); AND (2) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO was presented.

Councilman Carson made a motion to approve Resolution 8-2023, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 9-2023 regarding Calhoun County Fire Commission appointments as follows:

- Ross Binsley – Belleville Volunteer Fire Department (Term Expires: June 30, 2025)
- Scott Pate - Midway Volunteer Fire Department (Term Expires: June 30, 2025)
- Christopher Sanders – Jumper Station Volunteer Fire Department (Term Expires: June 30, 2027)
- Caroline Sandlin – Fort Motte Volunteer Fire Department (Term Expires: June 30, 2025)
- Nick Stabler – Caw Volunteer Fire Department (Term Expires: June 30, 2027)
- Christian Wolfe – Sandy Run Volunteer Fire Department (Term Expires: June 30, 2027)

Councilman Carson made a motion to approve Resolution 9-2023, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. Chairman and Vice-Chairman gave an explanation of the staggered terms. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-2023 RESOLUTION OF RESPECT HONORING ATTORNEY MARY P. MILES was presented.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve Resolution 9-2023, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. Chairman Haigler gave an explanation of the Resolution and commended Attorney Miles on her work. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

Procurement – RFP for Calhoun Hills Clubhouse Roofing – Administrator McLauchlin explained that the bid of \$26,250.00 from Reliable Roofing and Repairs, LLC, and that they have done work previously for the county. The funds for this project have been budgeted for. Vice Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the proposal and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2023-6 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) AND PROJECT GOLD, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (THE “COMPANY”), PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (THE “PROJECT”); (2) THE INCLUSION OF THE PROJECT IN A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK, IF NOT SO ALREADY INCLUDED; (3) THE APPROVAL OF PROVIDING CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2023-6. Councilman Thornton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-7 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL was presented for First Reading. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-7. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-8 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FOR THE OPERATION, DEBT SERVICE, BUILDING FUND AND FOOD SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, THE ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AND THE CALHOUN COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD (INCLUDING THE L. MARION GRESSETTE CENTER); TO PROVIDE FOR DEPOSIT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AND TO

PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALHOUN COUNTY was presented for First Reading. Councilman Thornton made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-8. Councilman Carson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-9 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE FOR CALHOUN COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND FOR THE EXPENDITURE THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for First Reading. Councilman Thornton made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-9. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-10 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FEES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN WATER AND WASTEWATER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for First Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-10. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-11 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FEES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN CALHOUN HILLS GOLF COMPLEX FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF CALHOUN HILLS GOLF COMPLEX was presented for First Reading. Councilman Thornton made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-11, with a second by Vice-Chairman Westbury. Councilwoman Bonnette voiced that she would be voting no because her constituents do not want the golf course. She told that while the roof is needed, the golf course needs to be sold. Vote was then taken. First Reading of Ordinance 2023-11 passed with a 4-1 vote (Haigler, Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Ordinance 2023-12 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF 4.2 MILLS TAXES TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE SANDY RUN FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND TO APPROPRIATE OTHER FUNDS FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE SANDY RUN FIRE DISTRICT was presented for First Reading. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-12. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and offered explanation of the change from 4.18 to 4.2 mills, telling that the State rounds figures up. The motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-13 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE FUNDS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE CALHOUN COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF, TO PROVIDE 2 MILLS FOR DEBT SERVICE, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT was presented for First Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-13. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-14 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for First Reading by Title Only. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-14, with a second by Vice-Chairman Westbury. Councilwoman Bonnette inquired as to whether taxes would be raised. Administrator McLaughlin confirmed, and told that the mill is subject to change, and could not be set yet. Councilwoman Bonnette voiced that she would be voting no because an important part of her campaign was to not raise taxes. She referenced citizens struggling to make ends meet and having to pay more in taxes. She told that she would like to see Administration sacrifice and detailed ways for that to happen, to include pay cuts and staffing changes. Vote was then taken. First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2023-14 passed with a 4-1 vote (Haigler, Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Administrator

Administrator McLaughlin made comments regarding the upcoming improvements to Exit 119. He thanked Senator Setzler, Representative Ott and everyone involved with making this happen, also adding that the improvements would include 12th Street Extension and create wastewater opportunities.

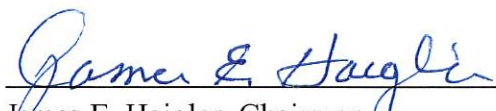
Executive Session

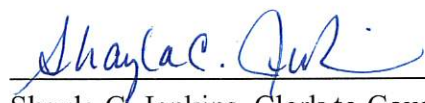
Council went into Executive Session to discuss and Economic Development Matter – Project Volta-Pile and Personnel Matter. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

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

Adjournment

Councilman Thornton made a motion to adjourn with seconding by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council