

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 9, 2023**  
**5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided  
Vice-Chairman Ken Westbury  
Councilman Richard Carson  
Councilman Cecil Thornton  
Councilwoman Elect Rebecca Bonnette  
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](http://calhouncounty.sc.gov).

**Call to Order**

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

**Invocation**

Invocation was offered by Vice-Chairman Westbury.

**Swearing In Ceremony**

The following Council Members were sworn in and took the Oath of Office, administered by Judge Jeffrey Bloom:

James Haigler – District 5 (reelected in November 8, 2022 General Election)  
Cecil M. Thornton, Jr. – District 4 (reelected in November 8, 2022 General Election)  
Rebecca A. Bonnette – District 3 (elected in November 8, 2022 General Election)

***Skip to item XIII.***

Resolution Honoring Mr. Roger Hill was presented to Mrs. Barbara Hill and family.

**Election of Officers**

Councilman Thornton made a motion to reelect James Haigler as Chairman, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. There were no other nominations and Vice-Chairman Westbury called for a vote. James Haigler was unanimously elected as Chair.

Councilman Carson made a motion to reelect Ken Westbury as Vice-Chairman, and Councilwoman Bonnette seconded. Councilman Thornton made a motion to close nominations and was seconded by Councilman Carson. Ken Westbury was unanimously elected at Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Westbury made a motion to elect Rebecca Bonnette as Chaplain. Councilman Carson seconded. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to close nominations and was seconded by Councilman Thornton. There were no other nominations and Rebecca Bonnette was unanimously elected as Chaplain.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to amend the January 9, 2023 meeting agenda, to include Executive Session for a Personnel Matter, and approve the amended agenda. Councilman Thornton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments on Agenda**

Jennie Redmond commented with concerns regarding the ordinance on boards and commissions (2022-26), such as advisory only boards, administrative control and specifically, the implications for the museum.

Tris Waystack also spoke in reference to Ordinance 2022-26, referencing the vote during the General Election regarding the form of government. He asked Council to vote no on the ordinance reading.

Christian Wolfe commented on Ordinance 2022-27 and told that the Sandy Run Fire District has not been informed of the changes and asked for postponement until it had been discussed.

### **Public Comments on Other Matters**

None

### **Public Hearings**

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **ORDINANCE 2022-24** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 42, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, OF THE COUNTY OF CALHOUN CODE OF ORDINANCES. Deputy Administrator Hall gave a briefing of the ordinance. There were no comments or questions; therefore, the Hearing was closed.

**Third Reading of Ordinance 2022-24.** Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2022-24. Councilman Carson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **ORDINANCE 2022-25** AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF TMS# 021-00-00-011 FROM

RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL TO COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL. There were no comments or questions; therefore, the Hearing was closed.

**Third Reading of Ordinance 2022-25.** Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2022-25. Councilman Carson seconded. Councilwoman Bonnette wanted to go on record that she would be voting “no” because the constituency has voiced opposition. The motion to approve Third Reading of Ordinance 2022-25 passed 4-1, with Chairman Haigler, Vice-Chairman Westbury, Councilman Carson and Councilman Thornton voting in favor. Councilwoman Bonnette voted in opposition.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the December 12, 2022 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

Chairman Haigler noted that appointments will be made to Standing Committees.

### **Appointments**

None

### **Proclamations**

None

### **Appearances**

Representative Russell Ott commended the citizens for coming to the meeting and being a part of the county governing process. He also congratulated the Council Members sworn in. Rep. Ott gave a report on funding and economic updates in the state, and also the projects that had been completed to date. He spoke regarding upcoming funds and wanting to ensure the county receives its fair share.

Councilman Thornton and Chairman Haigler thanked Representative Ott for his dedication to the county and the help he has provided.

### **Resolutions**

Resolution 1-2023, Honoring Mr. Roger Hill, was presented earlier in the meeting.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the Tri-County Multi County Industrial Park Agreement; was seconded by Councilman Carson, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Carson made a motion to accept Wild Cherry Ct into the County Road Maintenance System, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve RFP 2207 for the Concessions Buildings at the Sports Complex to JR Barden Construction, which was the lowest of six bids, at \$375,000; and was seconded by Councilman Thornton, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Ordinances**

Ordinance 2022-26 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to table Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-26 to await revisions to the ordinance language and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2022-27 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE II, TO DISSOLVE THE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE III, REGARDING THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SANDY RUN FIRE DISTRICT AND THE CALHOUN COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT was presented for First Reading. Vice-Chairman Westbury made the motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance 2022-27 and was seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed with a vote of 4-1. Chairman Haigler, Vice-Chairman Westbury, Councilman Carson and Councilman Thornton in favor; and Councilwoman Bonnette opposed.

Ordinance 2022-28 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 ARTICLE II AND ADD ARTICLE III TO REQUIRE A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR CONVALESCENT TRANSPORTATION IN CALHOUN COUNTY was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-28, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Administrator**

Administrator McLauchlin addressed questions presented to Council at the previous meeting regarding fire fees and economic development.

### **Executive Session**

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Second was made by Councilman Thornton, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to come out of Executive Session, not bringing any matters out, and was seconded by Councilman Thornton. 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 7:11 p.m.

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James E. Haigler, Chairman

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Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council