

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 23, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 23, 2022.

The following were present:

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

Absent: Councilman Cecil Thornton

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 January 23, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda

Dennis Spilde clarified that he was not talking about council meetings, and referenced minutes from the November 14, 2022 Council meeting. He also questioned the duplication of walking trails and the location of the Sandy Run Walking Trail.

Joanne Stone spending approvals. Council should have first say in what is spent in any amount.

Tris Waystack spoke regarding Ordinance 2023-1, on the agenda for First Reading. He offered that the limits listed in the ordinance should be changed, with administrator having a \$15,000 limit and \$15,000 - \$50,000 emergency use limits.

Amy Hill thanked everyone on behalf of the family of Mr. Roger Hill. She told that her councilwoman was not informed and briefed on Ordinance 2023-1, which discussion on began prior to her taking office.

Jennie Redmond voiced concerns regarding Ordinance 2022-26 for Boards and Commissions and asked that it be tabled until the Historic Commission has a chance to review and give some recommendations for updates to the language. Councilwoman Bonnette informed that both the Fire and Historical Commission were removed from the ordinance and will be revisited separately.

Public Comments on other matters

None

Public Hearing

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on 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. There were no questions or comments; therefore, the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2022-28. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2022-28, and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury and seconded by Councilman Carson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

None

Appointments

Chairman Haigler made a motion to appoint Councilman Carson to the Lower Savannah Council of Governments Board, to fill Mr. Hill's vacancy. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Proclamations

None

Appearances

Judge Jeff Bloom appeared to give a quarterly update regarding the Calhoun County Magistrates. All of the judges were reappointed and Judge Bloom informed Council of the upcoming endeavor to review and upgrades to Magistrates' compensation. Also, he asked that council review and approve the Magistrates' schedules. He also looked toward future needs, possibly considering a county jail and highlighted that a new Magistrates' Office will be needed in the upcoming years.

Councilwoman Bonnette thanked Judge Bloom for the litter pick up assistance and inquired about the possibility of nonviolent criminals providing certain work. Judge Bloom favorably answered and give some particular requirements.

Dr. Ron Gimble of Clemson Rural Health of Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg Counties, appeared and gave an overview of the organization and their endeavors to reach out in rural and underserved communities. He highlighted the set clinic and mobile clinics, with aims to bring the mobile unit into Calhoun County to serve and improve outcomes for patients in the area. Vice-Chairman Westbury inquired about the processes with the merger with MUSC being included in the plans. Dr. Gimble informed that he was familiar with the entities.

Resolutions

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Ordinances

1. ORDINANCE 2022-26

Second Reading

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS was presented for **Second Reading**. Vice-Chair Westbury informed a meeting would be held with the Historical Commission and Fire Commission, and reiterated that those entities are no longer included in this ordinance. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-6. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. ORDINANCE 2023-1

First Reading

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, REGARDING AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR VARIOUS COUNTY CONTRACTS

Councilwoman Bonnette gave input regarding the spending limits within the ordinance. Vice-Chairman Westbury and Councilman Carson offered input as well. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to amend 2023-1 to include language of the department head limits and up to \$50,000 for emergency use, to be confirmed by the Chair and Vice-Chair. Vice Chairman Westbury seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-1, as amended. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator McLaughlin told that Councilman Thornton was absent due to attending the Insurance Trust meeting. He also spoke regarding Matchboard program for applying to Boards and Commissions, announced the temporary railroad closure at Highway 176 in Cameron for repairs, and also thanked Food Lion Warehouse for donating dog food to the animal shelter.

Vice-Chairman Westbury highlighted the need for and satisfaction of being a public servant, asking individuals interested to apply for appointments through Matchboard.

Chairman Haigler reiterated that he would like to continue to communicate with citizens regarding needs in the county.

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with Vice-Chairman Westbury seconding. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



James E. Haigler, Chairman



Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council