

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 27, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 27, 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

Vice-Chairman Westbury made the motion to approve February 27, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda

Francis Mack commented on solar farms, telling that he is not opposed to solar fields, but that they should be properly located. He referenced the fields being placed in already commercial and industrial areas. He asked council to vote in favor of the moratorium, and not allow federal government to determine what is best for Calhoun County.

Rick Roe of Fort Motte asked that the moratorium last longer than six (6) months to give adequate time for through studies regarding the environment, tax revenue benefits, economic study, etc. He told that the solar panels have life spans of 10-15 years and inquired about what would happen after that time.

Jeannie Redmond commented on Ordinance 2023-2, which is regarding the Historical Commission. She appreciated council giving the time needed to for the Commission to provide input

and Deputy Administrator Hall for his assistance in trying to make sure the wishes of the Commission are maintained.

Richard Watkins spoke regarding the natural and cultural resources in the county. He stated that there needed to be thoughtful planning put into the Comprehensive Plan. He also urged Council to pass the moratorium on solar farms.

Bobby Temple distributed a handout to Council and asked that they view the website "Citizens for responsible solar." He reiterated that he is not against solar farms; only wants to have them in the "right place."

Dennis Spilde commented regarding the walking trails, telling that we should use what is already in place at the Sandy Run Community Park. He also remarked on the FILOT, referencing the fire district and the needs that will arise with the expansion of industries in Sandy Run. He spoke on the needs for a new station, equipment, etc. and asked that Council approach the growth carefully.

Doug Doster is a part of the SC Revolutionary War Sestercentennial Commission and echoed sentiments regarding solar farms. He told that he would be coming to Council in the future for approval with the projects surrounding the sestercentennial celebration, and that the group is pursuing grants for these projects. Solar farms in certain areas distract from the historic aspects of the area.

Public Comments on other matters

None

Public Hearing

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2023-1** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, REGARDING AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR VARIOUS COUNTY CONTRACTS. There were no questions or comments; therefore, the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-1. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-1, and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 13, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

None

Appointments

None

Proclamations

None

Appearances

Crystal Youmans and Tim Moore of Calhoun County EMS appeared to recognize accomplishments of the following employees:

- Steven Jared Starr was Paramedic of the Year 2022
- Michael Cogdell was EMT of the Year 2022 and promoted from a Private First Class to a Sargent since he is now a National Registered Paramedic.
- Jeff Hammond was Rookie of the Year 2022.
- Kelsey Willis promoted to Captain of D-Shift (Supervisor).

Resolutions

Resolution 2-2023 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY") AND PROJECT CHATEAU, 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"); AND (2) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Resolution 2-2023. Councilman Carson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 3-2023 A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO A LEASE OF THE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER OF ORANGEBURG AND CALHOUN COUNTIES; DIRECTING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER OF ORANGEBURG AND CALHOUN COUNTIES TO ENTER INTO THAT CERTAIN LEASE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER OF ORANGEBURG AND CALHOUN COUNTIES, EDISTO REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, INC., AND, FOR CERTAIN LIMITED PURPOSES, ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND CALHOUN COUNTY, AND SUCH OTHER NECESSARY AGREEMENTS RELATED THERETO; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN FURTHER ACTIONS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Resolution 3-2023. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

RFP 2301 - Museum Roofing. Nine (9) bids were received, with the lowest at \$63,500. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to award RFP 2301 to Reliable Roofing and Repairs, LLC for the amount of \$63,500. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of a potential additional opioid settlement contingent upon the allocation agreement similar to the previous opioid settlement that was approved. Chairman Westbury made a motion to participate in the new opioid settlement, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously

Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2023-2 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, WITH RESPECT TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION was presented for **First Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-2. Councilman Carson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2023-4 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 CHATEAU, 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**. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2023-4. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2023-5 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON APPLICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING FOR APPROVAL OF SOLAR PROJECTS OR FARMS OF MORE THAN ONE ACRE SOUGHT OUTSIDE OF INDUSTRIAL AREAS AND WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CALHOUN COUNTY; AND INVOKING APPLICATION OF THE PENDING ORDINANCE DOCTRINE was presented for **First Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury and Councilman Carson recused themselves (statements attached). Councilman Thornton made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-5. Chairman Haigler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, with the three (3) votes (Thornton, Haigler and Bonnette).

Administrator

Administrator McLaughlin informed that 2024 Comprehensive Plan input is welcomed and citizens can go to the county's website to fill out the survey. Councilman Thornton also told that they information has been published in The Calhoun Times Leader.


Administrator McLauchlin welcomed Dr. Molnar of Lower Savannah Council of Governments, who presented a Resolution for Mr. Roger Hill to Amy Hill. Dr. Molnar and Chairman Haigler remarked on the years of dedication by Mr. Hill.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to adjourn with seconding by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



James E. Haigler, Chairman



Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

From: Richard Carson
Calhoun County Council
St. Matthews, SC 29135

To: James Haigler, Chairman
Calhoun County Council
St. Matthews, SC 29135

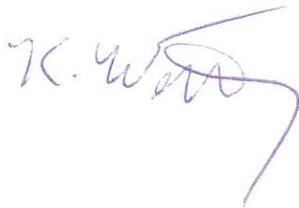
Date: February 27, 2023

I hereby recuse myself from participating in any vote impacting a Solar Farm, due to being a solar farm landowner.



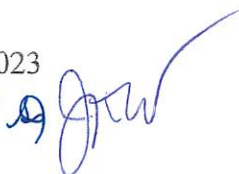
Richard Carson

FROM: Ken Westbury, Vice Chairman
Calhoun County Council
St. Matthews, SC 29135



TO: James Haigler, Chairman
Calhoun County Council
St. Matthews, SC 29135

DATE: February 13, 2023

27th 

I hereby recuse myself from participation in any discussion or vote impacting a Solar Farm on property now or formerly belonging to Wiles Farm in Calhoun County for the following reason:

Erline B. Wiles is my family member (sister-in-law) by state ethics law. She is a landowner in the Solar Farm.

I request to be allowed to leave the room during any such discussion or vote.