

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 13, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 13, 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 McLauchlin
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 March 13, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda

Lanier Walling, resident of Fort Motte, spoke regarding solar farms, and his decision to change property that he owns from agricultural use to having it used for solar property. He gave background information regarding his decision and the benefits of solar farms, and applauded Council's decision to make sure they are safe with the six-months to study.

Jimmy Sikes appeared to discuss the solar farms and highlighted that everyone should think of new ways for power, as we all use it each day. He is not in favor of the government of individuals telling him how to use his land.

Jeannie Redmond had comments on Ordinance 2023-2, which is regarding the Historical Commission, but did not speak because she appeared to discuss this topic previously.

Francis Mack had comments on solar farms, but did not speak because he discussed this topic previously and told that Council is aware of where he stands on the issue.

Public Comments on other matters

Alicia Scott appeared to introduce herself to Council as Deputy Treasurer. She will be filling in for the unexpired term of Rebecca Furtick, who appointed her previously.

Public Hearing

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 27, 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.

Committee Reports

None

Appointments

None

Proclamations

A Proclamation in Recognition of March as American Red Cross month was presented. Administrator McLaughlin reported that the American Red Cross had helped twelve (12) families in 2022. He also recognized Emergency Management Director, Dave Chojnacki, and told that the Red Cross is looking for volunteers in Calhoun County. Vice-Chairman Westbury made comments regarding the value to the community, and made a motion to pass the proclamation recognizing March 2023 as American Red Cross month. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carson, and passed unanimously.

Appearances

Dr. Walt Tobin appeared to give updates regarding Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. He spoke on the development of at 32,000 sq. ft. training facility for companies in the Orangeburg-Calhoun area to provide hands on training to employees. The college is looking to offer and enhance access to post-secondary education and continuing education, while focusing on practices to further student success. He spoke on renovation projects underway and the transition with the hospital to MUSC and building connections there.

Sheriff Thomas Summers appeared with a number of deputies to report on the needs of the Sheriff's Department. He gave history regarding the department over the years, stating that the department has not grown in number of deputies in thirteen (13) years, while the needs of the community and amount of calls has increased. He stated that he has lost deputies because of the rate of pay needed to be increased. As the number of staff decreases, the response time increases. He told that the county has spent money and cited recent projects, and asked that Council put funds into the responders in the

department. Sheriff Summers asked for consideration, ahead of the budget, to invest in his staff and the deputies. Chairman Haigler told that he wants to look at all departments and this will be looked at during the budget cycle.

Resolutions

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2023-2 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, WITH RESPECT TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION was presented for **Second Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to amend the ordinance section 2-272 (c) removing “under the administrator” and to adding the Banks Estate to the museum properties in sections 2-273 (5) and (10). The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette, and passed unanimously. Vice-Chairman Westbury then made a motion to pass Second Reading of the amended Ordinance 2023-2. Councilwoman Bonnette 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 **Second Reading**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-4. Vice-Chairman Westbury 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 APPLICATON OF THE PENDING ORDINANCE DOCTRINE was presented for **Second Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury and Councilman Carson recused themselves (statements attached).


Councilman Thornton made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-5. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, with the three (3) votes (Thornton, Bonnette and Haigler).

Administrator

None

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with seconding by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.



James E. Haigler, Chairman



Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

