

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 24, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 24, 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
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 April 24, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

J. S. White is the owner of an arms and ammunition shop in the Sandy Run Community, and appeared to talk about funding and budgeting priorities. He plans to open the \$500,000 investment in August 2023, and told of his and other businesses need of the Sheriff's Department, as well as wanting to serve the needs of the Sheriff's Department as well. He referenced his deployment to Iraq. His request was to consider the department as a budgeting priority.

Public Hearing

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **ORDINANCE 2023-3 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND THE COMPOSITION, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DUTIES OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS FOR THE CALHOUN COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT AND THE SANDY RUN FIRE DISTRICT;**

AND TO PROVIDE THAT THESE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS SHALL BE OPERATED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF CALHOUN COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. There were no questions or comments, and the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-3. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-3, and seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 10, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilwoman Bonnette and seconded by Councilman Carson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

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. Readings for the new ordinance will be forthcoming.

Appointments

None

Proclamations

None

Appearances

Tris Waystack appeared to give input on county needs, and highlighted the needs versus wants. He told that the county is a business producing quality of life for taxpayers, and the top need when budgeting is safety. He compared neighboring counties and disagrees with the statements that Calhoun County is not as dangerous as others, which he supported with statistics on the number of calls. He told that law enforcement deserves support, referencing the officer recently shot in Bamberg and starting salaries of deputies in Lexington County. He read a letter from Zeus Industrial Products and said that the company wanted him to reiterate the need. Regarding wants and needs, he referenced recreation, concession stands, etc. as wants. After research from various conversations he has had, he told that every dollar spend on recreation has to have one spend on emergency services. He also spoke regarding fire fees. Councilman Thornton inquired as to whether Mr. Waystack was speaking on behalf of the Sheriff, to which Mr. Waystack replied that he was not. Councilman Thornton told that he had spoken with Sheriff Summers and the county is working along with him to get what is needed.

USDA Representative, James Leslie, appeared to get approval of the Tanker Grant for the SR Fire Department, with the letter establishing the conditions of the grant. The purchase amount of \$420,000 will be offset with \$50,000 from USDA and the county will pay the remaining \$370,000 from the penny sales tax. Vice-Chairman noted a section of the document in which the contributions above

were reversed, and made a motion to approve the USDA grant document with the correction of the dollar figures. Councilman Carson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution 7-2023 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE EXISTING AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK BY AND BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND LEXINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ENLARGE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARK TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE HEREAFTER OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY GATEWAY 1, LLC AND GATEWAY 3, LLC LOCATED IN LEXINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER RELATED MATTERS was presented.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve Resolution 7-2023, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

Procurement – Software for Probate Court – Administrator McLauchlin explained that the management software for the department, that that is had gone through the appropriate procurement processes. The amount of purchase is \$22,470.00. Vice Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the request and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Rural Fire District Board Appointee from Jumper Station Volunteer Fire Department – Administrator McLauchlin read the request letter from JSVFD nominating Christopher Sanders to replace Carson Krasselt. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve Christopher Sanders to the Rural Fire District Board, and was seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances

None

Administrator

Twenty-six (26) volunteers picked up 67 bags of trash during the Countywide Litter Pick-Up on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Administrator McLauchlin thanked everyone involved with the 2023 Purple Martin Festival held Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2023. Chairman Haigler and Councilman Thornton reiterated.

Chairman Haigler spoke regarding funds to the county being used for specific, designated purposes. He also congratulated SCAC Scholarship Recipient, Gabriel Golden, of Calhoun County High School. Chairman Haigler then recognized Dr. Molnar of LSCOG.

Dr. Molnar commented on attending and enjoying the Purple Martin Parade and Festival. He spoke about the initiative bringing broadband to rural areas and asked everyone to complete the survey using the QR code on the cards that he brought with him.

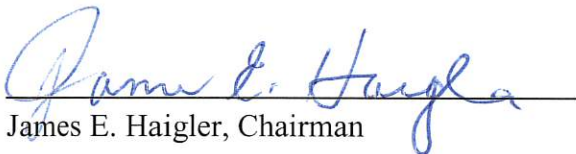
Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session to discuss and Economic Development Matter – Project Gold. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury and passed unanimously.

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

Adjournment

Councilman Thornton made a motion to adjourn with seconding by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

