

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

May 22 2023

5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, May 22, 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 May 22, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Randy Stabler, county firefighter, gave support of the efforts to raises in the Sheriff's department, but not with tax increases to do so. He questioned what the county is giving up and the need for two administrators in a county with a population of 15,000. His ask was to cut to one administrator.

Amy Hill voiced concerns that the budget process is not transparent and the requirements to submit FOIA requests to obtain information. She asked for Council to address what is not being reported and a more transparent process.

Larry Wagner echoed comments given by Mrs. Hill. He recommended Council not have ordinance first readings by title only and have readings only once the complete ordinance is drafted. He asked that Council review the budget carefully to see what can be eliminated or reduced. He also spoke about the golf course and recommended selling it or turning it into a place for solar panels, or selling off

lots. He wants ordinances made available by posting online after the first reading to allow citizens to get involved. He told that there was no miracle cure and Council has hard jobs.

John Cantrell is a new resident, coming from Goose Creek, now living on the golf course. He told that he would not mind solar panels or other uses if the course is not making money. He asked Councilman Thornton for the budget ordinance and says he was told to submit a FOIA request, and did not think that was reasonable. He asked about the procedures regarding readings for ordinances. Chairman Haigler explained to him rules of agenda appearances and public comments. He asked that Council be more transparent.

Public Hearing

Calhoun County Emergency Preparedness Project

The purpose of the meeting is to give an opportunity to become acquainted with a proposed Rural Development project consisting generally of the Calhoun County Emergency Preparedness Project. Requested is a generator for the Creston EMS and Fire Station. The project was discussed. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the grant through USDA, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 8, 2023 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

None

Appointments

Fire District appointments done by Resolution further in agenda.

Proclamations

None

Appearances

None

Resolutions

Resolution 11-2023 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT THE AT-LARGE MEMBER, AUSTIN COPE, TO THE CALHOUN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT was presented.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve Resolution 11-2023, appointing Austin Cope to the CCFD, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

RFP 2303 – Approval of ClearWater Solutions (CWS) Proposal for the On-Call Water, Sewage, Drainage Utility Emergency and Repair Services. After discussion, Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve ClearWater Solutions Proposal, and was seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

RFP 2306 – Construction Services for Remodel of Agricultural Building. After discussion, Vice Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the bid submitted by Blake Bolen Residential Builders in the amount of \$35,025.00. Second was given by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2023-6 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 GOLD, 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 2023-6. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-7 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL was presented for Second Reading. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-7. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-8 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FOR THE OPERATION, DEBT SERVICE, BUILDING FUND AND FOOD SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, THE ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AND THE CALHOUN COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD (INCLUDING THE L. MARION GRESSETTE CENTER); TO PROVIDE FOR DEPOSIT AND DISBURSEMENT

OF FUNDS AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALHOUN COUNTY was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Thornton made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-8. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-9 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE FOR CALHOUN COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND FOR THE EXPENDITURE THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-9. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-10 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FEES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN WATER AND WASTEWATER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-10. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-11 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FEES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN CALHOUN HILLS GOLF COMPLEX FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF CALHOUN HILLS GOLF COMPLEX was presented for Second Reading. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-11, with a second by Councilman Carson. Councilwoman Bonnette voiced that she would be voting no because she wants to get rid of the golf course. Vote was then taken. Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-11 passed with a 4-1 vote (Haigler, Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Ordinance 2023-12 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF 4.2 MILLS TAXES TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE SANDY RUN FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND TO APPROPRIATE OTHER FUNDS FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE SANDY RUN FIRE DISTRICT was presented for Second Reading. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-12. Councilman Carson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-13 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE FUNDS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE CALHOUN COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF, TO PROVIDE 2 MILLS FOR DEBT SERVICE, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-13. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Ordinance 2023-14 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for Second Reading. Councilwoman Bonnette made motion to table second reading of Ordinance 2023-14, telling that while it is desired to provide raises for the Sheriff's Department, it should not be done by raising taxes. The motion died not receiving a second. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-14, with a second by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Carson asked for Administration to look at ways to decrease the budget, which was agreed upon. The motion for Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-14 passed with a 4-1 vote (Haigler, Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Ordinance 2023-15 FIRE DISTRICT COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE was presented for First Reading. Administrator McLaughlin explained that the purpose was to recover costs incurred by the fire service. After some discussion, Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-15. Second was given by Vice-Chairman Westbury, and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator McLaughlin told that on Wednesday, May 24 at 9:30 am on ETV, Calhoun County will be presenting the Community Paramedic Program for the SCAC Awards Completion. EMS Director, Crystal Youmans, and Human Resources Director, Brandy Roberson will be making the presentation, and the event will be live-streamed.

Also, there will be a hydrology study to address flooding in Calhoun County and solutions for flooding at intersections. The dates are: June 12 (Sandy Run) and June 20 (St. Matthews).

Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in Administration. Motion was made by Councilwoman Bonnette, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously.

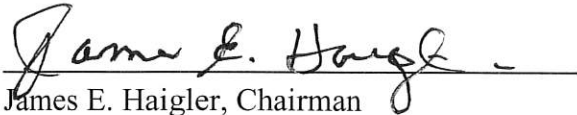
Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to come out of Executive Session, bringing forth two items. Second was made by Councilwoman Bonnette and the motion passed unanimously.

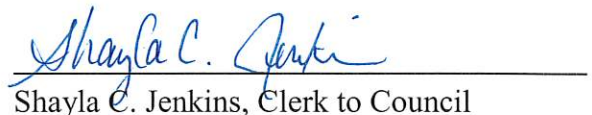
Council returned from Executive Session and presented Administrator John McLauchlin with a Letter of Commendation for his work and efforts in bringing Blanchard Machinery to Calhoun County. Motion to approve the Letter of Commendation and have it added to Mr. McLauchlin's employee file was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury and seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made motion to hold another Budget Work Session for Council to review, tentatively scheduled for June 2. Second was made by Councilman Carson, and the 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 7:19 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council