

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

June 26, 2023

5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 26, 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

Councilman Carson made the motion to approve June 26, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Toni Boyd, a county employee in the Tax Assessor's office, commented on her appreciation to the current administration, the recent efforts to get salaries to more competitive wages, and getting to know the functions and duties of all departments. She spoke about her considerations when making the choice to work in the county. She thanked the Council and Administration.

Public Hearings

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

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-8. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-8, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-9. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-9, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-10. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-10, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **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. Larry Wagner offered comments asking what the long term plans were for the golf course. He also addressed irrigation and revenue loss, asking Council to make an effort to remove that loss by selling to a private entity or investor. He asked that a committee be implemented to determine feasibility. Tris Waystack asked if someone was willing to buy the course, if Council would entertain the notion. With no more questions and comments, the Hearing came to a close.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-11. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-11, with a second by Vice-Chairman Westbury. Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-11 passed with a 3-1 vote (Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

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

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-12. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-12, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-13. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-10, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **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. Tris Waystack decided not to read his speech, and instead, challenged Council to appoint a committee and give them the power to review the budget. He also addressed take home vehicles. There were no additional questions or comments, and the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-14. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-14, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. Councilwoman Bonnette thanked citizens that voiced concerns to her and reiterated that she did not want to raise taxes. The motion for Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-14 passed with a 3-1 vote (Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2023-15** FIRE DISTRICT COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE. Councilwoman Bonnette asked if there were changes to the ordinance after the last (second) reading. Deputy Administrator Hall responded that two of the departments asked for changes, which were made. There were no additional questions or comments, and the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-15. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-15, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the June 12, 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

Councilwoman Bonnette reported that she and Councilman Carson held a meeting with Animal Control, and that the department is very busy and kennels are full. She has given discretionary funds to the department to purchase large and small crates. They plan to meet with volunteers as well and discuss their help in getting rescues out.

Appointments

None

Proclamations

None

Appearances

Dargan Etheredge appeared to tell of the noise and guns at the event business next to his property, telling that neighbors have been complaining and are worried about devaluation of their homes, as well as possibility of stray bullets. He told that he has called the Sheriff's Department several times, and the disturbance would be shut down temporarily, but would start back again. He told that the regulations do not have "teeth" and outlined penalties he would suggest. Chairman Haigler told Mr. Etheredge that the matter would be looked into.

Resolutions

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Ordinances

None

Administrator

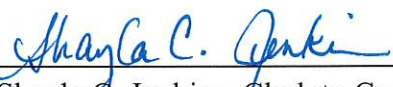
Administrator McLaughlin reminded that the 4th of July Fireworks show will be held on Saturday, July 1st, and invited everyone to participate.

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.



James E. Haigler, Chairman



Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

