

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 11, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided  
Vice-Chairman Ken Westbury  
Councilman Richard Carson  
Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette  
Councilman Cecil Thornton  
Administrator John McLauchlin  
Deputy Administrator Richard Hall  
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](http://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 the December 11, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

James Darryl Williams, a resident of the county in the coverage area of Caw Caw Fire Station, made comments in support of the station's endeavors for a new fire truck. He noted a modern truck provides safety for all involved, as well as highlighting faster, more efficient and more reliable service.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the November 27, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilwoman Bonnette and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

Vice-Chairman Westbury reported that the Economic Development Corporation met on Thursday, December 7, 2023 and highlighted the purpose and composition of the organization, which is a 501c3. The group was updated on three potential economic development projects.

**Appearances**

Zachary Tarrant, Recreation Director, recognized the Calhoun County Youth Sports Soccer 10U and 12U teams. Both teams participated in the South Carolina Academic Program Soccer Tournament,

and had a great experience. Each player was introduced and the coaches, with comments being made about the accomplishment, goal of recreation and benefit of the sports complex for the youth.

Calhoun County Fire Commissioner and Caw Caw Fire Station Chief, Nick Stabler, appeared to ask Council for a commitment in the budget for a new fire truck, for which a FEMA grant application has been submitted. With growth of the area and aging equipment, the department has to be prepared. Tris Waystack spoke on behalf of the Caw Caw Fire Station, telling that the group worked hard and obtained three bids, with the desired being a Metro Star Custom Cab truck for \$810,000.00. He also gave specifics about the truck and details of the FEMA grant, which would be for approximately \$450,000.00 and will require a commitment that Council will budget the remainder.

### **Resolutions**

Resolution 21-2023 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2018 FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND LONE STAR SOLAR, LLC TO MODIFY THE DEFINITION OF INVESTMENT PERIOD; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS. Councilman Carson recused himself from the vote, due to interest in Lone Star Solar. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve Resolution 21-2023, was seconded by Councilman Thornton and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval - Amendment to Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement (Lone Star Solar) is required to reflect Resolution 21-2023. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the amendment, was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and the motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule – Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.


### **Administrator**

Administrator McLauchlin reported to Council that the Department of Revenue has revised the county's status, changing from a Tier II county to a Tier III county.

### **Adjournment**

Councilman Thornton made a motion to adjourn with second by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

  
James E. Haigler, Chairman

  
Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

December 11, 2023

I, Richard Carson recuse myself from voting at the December 11, 2023 meeting regarding the FILOT agreement for Lone Star Solar.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Carson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Carson

Calhoun County District 1