

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 23, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, October 23, 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 McLaughlin  
Deputy Administrator Richard Hall  
Clerk to Council Shayla Jenkins

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**

Vice-Chairman Westbury made the motion to approve the October 23, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the October 9, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Appointments**

Council appointed the following to the RMC Executive Committee: John McLaughlin (County Administrator), Richard Hall (Deputy Administrator) and Rosyl Warren (Town of St. Matthews Administrator). The motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

### **Proclamation**

Administrator McLauchlin read the Proclamation recognizing November as Family Court Awareness Month. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve the Proclamation, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Appearances**

Fire Coordinator, Jeff Price, gave updates to Council regarding the Fire Commission. While there have been challenges in combining the commissions, Mr. Price highlighted the following positives: annual DOT inspections, completion of the burn building and utilization, committees organizing and adopting uniform standards. The group will work on combining the budgets and working together to improve fire services in the county.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Approval – Participation in Insulin Claim – Administrator McLauchlin explained the Insulin Claim, telling that it is similar to the opioid litigation, and recommended Council move forward with participation. Chairman Haigler confirmed that there was no cost to the county. Councilman Carson made a motion to approve participation, was seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval - Development Agreement Calhoun County Replacement Class 2 Landfill Project – Administrator McLauchlin spoke regarding selling the DHEC lease to Access Materials, LLC for the property in the Sandy Run area. The site will accept construction and demolition materials only. After some discussion, Councilman Carson made a motion to approve the Development Agreement, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Ordinances**

Ordinance 2023-19 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUILDINGS CODE AND REGULATIONS was presented for **First Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-19. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2023-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND PROVISIONS FOR THE EMERGENCY ABATEMENT OF A PUBLIC NUISANCE was presented for **First Reading**. Judge Jeff Bloom has worked with Deputy Administrator Hall on the ordinance and made comments and explanation to Council. After some discussion, Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-20. Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 2023-21** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE 1.SEC.2-1 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO DESIGNATE LEGAL HOLIDAYS FOR CALHOUN COUNTY, AND FOR OBSERVANCE THEREOF was presented for **First Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-21. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Administrator**

Administrator McLaughlin recognized Mr. Harvey Elwood of WOCS, who was present recording the meeting. He made an announcement regarding upcoming railroad closures for repair during the month of November. The Veterans' Day Celebration will be held on November 11 at 11:00 am, after the parade at 10:15 am. He commended VA Officer, Robin Rucker and the staff for their work on the event.

Vice-Chairman Westbury asked for clarification regarding the closing of Hemlock Rd railroad crossing.

Chairman Haigler commented that he and Community Development Director, Marc Briggman will be attending an event at the Samaritan House, and the goal is to address homelessness.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made mention of the upcoming Council Tour. Administrator McLaughlin explained that the tour would be observing sites around the county and that the agenda for the day will be posted as the normal meeting agendas, as the public is able to attend.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

  
James E. Haigler, Chairman

  
Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

Amended on March 11, 2024

Change: Appointments – changed MUSC Executive Committee to RMC Executive Committee