

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2024
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

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

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 Bonnette.

Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to approve the October 15, 2024 meeting agenda and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 23, 2024 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Vice-Chairman Westbury reported that the Public Service and County Planning Committee, comprised of he and Councilman Carson, met to discuss the increasing requests for acceptance of private roads into the county road system. The group is looking to develop a policy regarding this.

Appearances

Merle Johnson, Executive Director of the Orangeburg County Development Commission, appeared to thank Council for their partnership, and announced the Birla Carbon project in the industrial park. The \$1 billion dollar investment will lead to approximately 124 new jobs in the region.

Old Business None

New Business

Audit presentation – Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs and Advisors – Brian Nicholson appeared and reviewed the reports given to Council. The county received a clean opinion for the FY 23 audit, and the deficiencies were briefly discussed. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to accept the audit as submitted, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Cybersecurity Technology Upgrades – Deputy Administrator Hall briefed Council on the partnership with Verinext and the analysis conducted. The State has funds available for cybersecurity grants, and the opportunity to receive is favorable. The total monthly cost without the grant is \$34,764 and \$15,000 with the grant. After some discussion, Council approved the change to Verinext with funding coming from the next fiscal year. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously.

RFP Waterline Extension along US 601 – Administrator McLaughlin reported that for the extension in Fort Motte, along Highway 601, there will be 9 homes picked up on the waterline. From the Request for Proposals, 4 bids were submitted, ranging from \$67,000 to \$101,000. After discussion, Council approved the low bid of \$67,820, submitted by G. H. Smith Construction. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Administrator

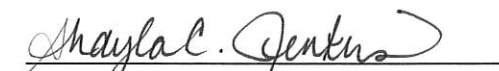
Administrator McLaughlin made comments on the following:

- Early Voting is being held October 21 – November 2 and now includes 3 locations (Sandy Run, St. Matthews and Cameron)
- County Trunk or Treat will be held October 29th in the Annex parking lot from 5:00pm – 8:00pm.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council