

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**November 12, 2024**  
**5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 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 McLauchlin  
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 Bonnette.

**Approval of Agenda**

Councilman Carson made a motion to approve the November 12, 2024 meeting agenda and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

Jeff Price spoke regarding the agenda item, Public Safety Communications, telling that he agreed with consolidating radio efforts, but is asking that all the groups come together to offer input before a decision is made.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the October 28, 2024 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilwoman Bonnette and seconded by Councilman Carson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Appearances**

First Circuit Public Defender, Pierce Wehman, spoke regarding judicial matters. He has been in the position since March 2024 and outlined plans to move cases quickly and decrease docket size by January.

Judge Jeff Bloom appeared to call for funding for public defender and solicitor, and urged Council to look into budgeting for a solicitor locally, in order to eliminate delays and implications of delays on court cases.

Christopher Green, Regional Director of the 1890 Program at SC State University presented to Council an overview of the endeavors of the program such as summer camps and business development education. Dr. Thomas Nyatta appeared also to discuss the forestry portion of the program and the upcoming tree planting project, in which Calhoun County is a pilot county.

### **New Business**

Public Safety Communications – Matt Trentham of the Sheriff’s Office spoke regarding consolidating radio efforts and consistency in operations. There was discussion regarding savings and services received. All the groups involved will come together to assess needs and move forward as determined.

### **Ordinances**

Ordinance 2024-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE UNLAWFULNESS OF EXCESSIVE NOISE AND NUISANCES was presented for Second Reading. Motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-12 was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

### **Administrator**

Administrator McLaughlin made comments thanking following:

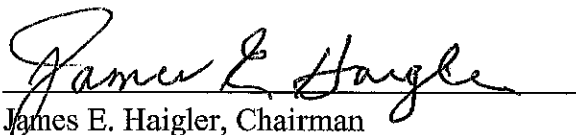
- Elections staff and workers for their efforts during the 2024 election cycle
- Organizers and participants of the Veterans’ Day activities
- Delinquent tax office and staff for efforts during the tax sale

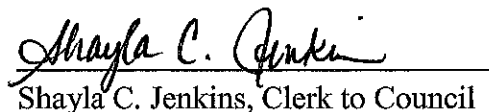
Dr. Molnar, Executive Director of LSCOG, made announcements of events and meetings of the region.

Vice-Chairman Westbury gave thanks on behalf of Veterans, and asked about gathering financial information for the Veterans’ Day activities.

### **Adjournment**

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

  
James E. Haigler, Chairman

  
Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council