

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

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 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.

Call to Order

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Invocation was offered by Councilwoman Bonnette.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Carson made the motion to approve the February 12, 2024 meeting agenda as amended and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 22, 2024 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

None

Appearances

Cody Hair, Public Works Director – Public Works updates - Cody Hair appeared and gave updates on the departments under Public Works as well as the Calhoun Transportation Committee. He included information regarding current projects and endeavors of Roads Department, Building and Grounds, Utilities, Collection Sites and Janitorial.

Bull Family Property – Consideration of Appeal - The Bull Family was unable to attend. Calhoun County Tax Assessor, Steve Hamilton, briefed Council on the matter in which the family missed the deadline to apply for Agricultural Use on their property, and the resulting increased tax bill. The family had requested that Council grant an appeal for the taxes. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to deny the appeal, and was seconded by Councilman Thornton, who stated there was a similar case previously denied. Councilman Carson commented in the differences of the costs, and Chairman Haigler pointed out the precedence for other taxpayers in the future. The vote was taken and the denial passed with 4-1 vote (Haigler, Westbury, Bonnette and Thornton in favor; Carson opposed).

Old Business

None

New Business

Palmetto Pride Grant Award - \$10,000 - Administrator McLauchlin told that the grant affords a part-time employee for Litter Control and requires monthly reporting.

Approval – Edisto Engineers and Surveyors, Engineering and Preparation for Grant Application for Industrial Development - Administrator McLauchlin requested approval in the amount of \$25,000 for due diligence on 20 acres donated by Red Rock. The work is required before applying for the grant. Funds would be coming from the Economic Development account. Vice-Chairman made a motion to approve, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haigler recognized Dr. Molnar of LSCOG, who spoke regarding the upcoming Needs Assessment to be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2024-1 TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEEK HOLDINGS, LLC AND CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO was presented for First Reading by Title Only. Councilman Carson recused himself from the matter, due to being a solar farm land owner. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion

to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2024-1. Councilman Thornton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator McLauchlin announced the Purple Martin Festival will be held Friday, April 19th and Saturday, April 20th, 2024. Vendor registrations are happening now.

Chairman Haigler recognized Harvey Elwood of New Perspectives Media, who is present and videoing the meeting. This is now an additional way for citizens to view council meetings.

Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter of Lake Marion Regional Water Authority. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously.

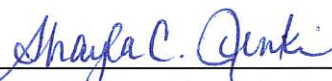
Councilman Carson made a motion to return to Regular Session with no matters forward. Second was made by Councilman Thornton and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Thornton made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



James E. Haigler, Chairman



Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council