

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2025
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025.

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.

The following were sworn in and took the Oath of Office, administered by Judge Jeffrey Bloom:

Richard Carson – District 1 (reelected in November 5, 2024 General Election)

Ken Westbury – District 5 (reelected in November 5, 2024 General Election)

Donnie Porth – Coroner (reelected in November 5, 2024 General Election)

Call to Order

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Invocation was offered by Councilwoman Bonnette.

Election of Officers

Councilman Thornton made a motion to reelect James Haigler as Chairman, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. There were no other nominations and Vice-Chairman Westbury called for a vote. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Carson, and James Haigler was unanimously elected as Chair.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to elect Councilman Thornton as Vice-Chairman, and Councilman Carson seconded. Cecil Thornton was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair.

Councilman Westbury made a motion to reelect Rebecca Bonnette as Chaplain. Councilman Carson seconded. There were no other nominations and Rebecca Bonnette was unanimously reelected as Chaplain.

Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Bonnette made the motion to approve the January 13, 2025 meeting agenda as presented and was seconded by Councilman Carson. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 9, 2024 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Councilman Westbury to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports None. Chairman Haigler will make appointments to Council Standing Committees at the next meeting.

Appearances

Casey Hallman requested a variance for a building permit and presented information to Council. The original building permit was taken out, but not all of the project happened and she asked for the permit fee to be applied to the next phase of work.

Janet Steele and staff from Clemson Extension appeared and briefed council on duties and services they offer. She and Zach Dantzler have filled the position held by Charles Davis, as he has retired.

Walter Bennett, CEO of MUSC Health of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties, gave updates regarding the hospital, approaching the 2 year anniversary of MUSC coming in. He highlighted the strategic plan to include expanding cancer studies, reshaping the workforce, financial goals and partnering with the community.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2024-13 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ALLOCATION OF REVENUES GENERATED FROM ONE OR MORE MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARKS WITHIN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO was presented for Second Reading. Motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-13 was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Administrator No comments.

Chairman Haigler thanked citizens for their involvement.


Executive Session

Councilman Westbury made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously. Chairman Haigler told that there would be no action taken coming out of executive session.

Motion to come out of Executive Session, bringing no matters forward, was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

