

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 24, 2025  
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided  
Vice-Chairman Cecil Thornton  
Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette  
Councilman Richard Carson  
Councilman Ken Westbury  
Administrator John McLauchlin  
Deputy Administrator Richard Hall  
Clerk to Council Shayla Jenkins  
Human Resource Director Brandy Roberson

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 the motion to approve the February 24, 2025 meeting agenda as presented and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

Cindy Sarratt spoke regarding the Ordinance 2025-1 to amend the animal control code, and asked that Council consider wording to make tethering unlawful.

Boyd Blanchard spoke to express thanks to Council and staff for their support in the expansion of Blanchard Machinery into the county.

**Public Hearings**

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on Ordinances 2025-1, 2025-2 and 2025-3. Chairman Haigler acknowledged the comments by Mrs. Sarratt on Ordinance 2025-1, and there were no other questions or comments. The Hearings were closed.

**Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-1.** Councilman Westbury made a motion to discuss Ordinance 2025-1, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The group voiced concerns and Councilwoman Bonnette suggested additions and revisiting the ordinance once the desired changes have been looked into. Councilman Carson made a motion to table the Third reading until the next meeting and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. Chairman Haigler told that this would be reviewed by the subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-2** AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF TMS# 022-00-00-039 FROM RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND INDUSTRIAL TO INDUSTRIAL ONLY. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-2 and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

**Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-3** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO FEE-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY"); HIGH ROAD REAL ESTATE, LLC; AND BLANCHARD MACHINERY COMPANY, PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS PROJECT CHATEAU, ACTING FOR THEMSELVES, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE "COMPANY"), PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (THE "PROJECT"); (2) THE APPROVAL OF INCREASING CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; (3) THE APPROVAL OF AN INVESTMENT PERIOD EXTENSION; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. Administrator McLaughlin highlighted the \$19 million increase in investment and 15% SSRC credit for the first five years, thanking Blanchard for their investment in Calhoun County. Council also expressed thanks for the investments. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-3 and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the February 10, 2025 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

Procurement - EMS Stretcher replacement lease (approval required) – Council approved the 6-year lease plan in the amount of \$581,591.93. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

**Ordinances**

**Ordinance 2025-4** AN ORDINANCE TO AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO ALLOW FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS FOR CEMETERIES AND BURIALS was presented for Second Reading. There was discussion and Deputy Administrator Hall answered questions. Motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-4 was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Westbury and passed unanimously.


**Administrator**

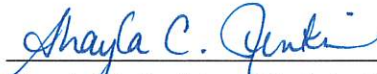
Administrator McLauchlin spoke on the upcoming Ag & Art tour to be held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. There are five farms throughout the county on the tour and 200-300 people are expected to attend.

Chairman Haigler read Mrs. Marilyn Amaker's resignation letter for the Library Board.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

  
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James E. Haigler, Chairman

  
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Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council