

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 10, 2025  
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 10, 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 March 10, 2025 meeting agenda as presented and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

None

**Public Hearings**

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **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.

Richard Watkins made comments regarding the wording of the title "to allow" and asked in reference to section 14.6, which owner is responsible. Deputy Administrator Hall responded and told

that the title did not change the ordinance and that the regulations of the cemetery go forth in perpetuity. With there being no other comments, the Hearing was closed. **Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-4.** Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-4, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2025-1** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANIMAL CONTROL CODE.

Cindy Sarratt commented that she was disappointed that the ordinance did not address tethering and requested that time limits for tethering be established. With no other comments, the Hearing was closed. **Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-1.** Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-1, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the February 24, 2025 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Appointments**

Shawn Briggman was appointed to the Calhoun County Library Board of Trustees. The motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

### **Appearances**

Dee Robinson of the Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCCADA) appeared with Brandy Smoak and Jared Starr to update council on the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (SCORF) grant project. They spoke regarding projects being done with the recovery funds, services offered and the community paramedic program. Council thanked the group for their service to citizens.

Pierce L. Wehman, First Circuit Public Defender, gave updates regarding the backlog of court cases and the progress made so far. There has been an increase in the number of cases and the objective is to now get the docket to a sustainable number.

Bob Brockington, Clerk of Court, spoke about court challenges and applauded his staff. He told that not having a Common Pleas Clerk is an issue, and highlighted the new debit card system for jurors and the plans for a kiosk in the courtroom to pay fines, child support, etc.

### **New Business**

**Tennis/Pickleball Court Resurfacing at Heyward Community Park – Park and Recreation Development (PARD) Funds** – The quote is from Smoke Builders, LLC in the amount of \$45,043 to resurface the existing tennis court and have it marked for one tennis court and two pickleball courts. Councilman Westbury made a motion to approve and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton.

Councilwoman Bonnette made comments regarding citizens not feeling safe at the park, public funds being used for private property and that the funds could be used elsewhere, so she would vote no. After discussion, vote was taken. The project was awarded by 4 -1 vote with a show of hands (Haigler, Thornton, Carson and Westbury – in favor; Bonnette – opposed).

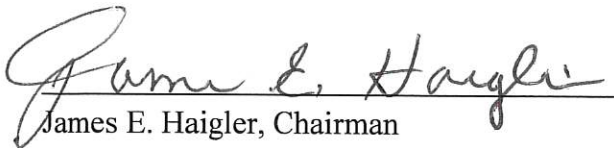
#### **Administrator**

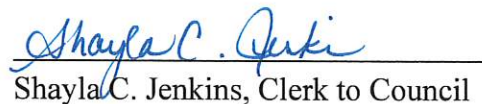
Administrator McLauchlin highlighted the following:

- Animal Shelter grand opening – Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm
- County-wide litter pick up day – Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Purple Martin Festival weekend – Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

#### **Adjournment**

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

  
James E. Haigler, Chairman

  
Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

