

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

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

Call to Order

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Invocation was offered by Councilwoman Bonnette.

Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to amend the agenda, to include a Resolution recognizing April as Fair Housing Month. Councilman Westbury seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Westbury made the motion to approve the March 24, 2025 meeting agenda as amended and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Dennis Spilde inquired about the fire ordinance on the agenda and the new fire station being built. He was encouraged to submit questions to the Administrator and Deputy Administrator so that they could be answered specifically and the questions can also be compiled into the FAQ document.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 10, 2025 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.

Resolutions

PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION FROM THE CALHOUN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THE APPROVAL OF REZONING TMS# 022-00-00-011, TMS# 022-00-00-012, TMS# 022-00-00-016, TMS# 022-00-00-017, TMS# 022-00-00-018 FROM RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD TO INDUSTRIAL. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass the Resolution from the Planning Commission and was seconded Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass the Resolution and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2025-5 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF CALHOUN COUNTY REGARDING FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION TO RECONSTITUTE THE CALHOUN COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT; ELIMINATING ALL EXISTING FIRE PROTECTION AREAS; APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO AFFECT THE REDEMPTION OF ANY OUTSTANDING BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS; REQUESTING AND ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF COUNTY FUNDED FIRE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-5, and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. Councilwoman Bonnette told that she would vote no because she needed more information, specifically how much taxes would increase. Vote was taken and First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-5 passed with a 4-1 vote (Thornton, Carson, Westbury, Haigler in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Ordinance 2025-6 AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF TMS# 022-00-00-011, TMS# 022-00-00-012, TMS# 022-00-00-016, TMS# 022-00-00-017, TMS# 022-00-00-018 FROM RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD TO INDUSTRIAL was presented for **First Reading**. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2025-6 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Procurement – Public Works equipment - FY25 Heavy Equipment Budget Item was presented for approval. The Caterpillar Compact Track Loader with Attachments (Skid Steer) will cost

\$115,477.32, and be paid for under Truist Lease, at 4.77% for 7 years with a cost of \$19,800 annually. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Administrator Contract – Administrator McLauchlin announced his retirement at the end of June 2025, and thanked Council for the last 5 years in the position. Council promoted Deputy Administrator Richard Hall to the position of Administrator, effective July 1, 2025. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously. Chairman Haigler expressed appreciation to Mr. McLauchlin and Vice-Chairman Thornton congratulated Mr. Hall.

Administrator

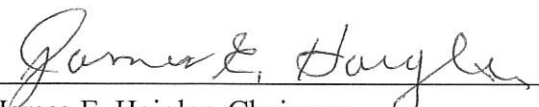
Administrator McLauchlin highlighted the following:

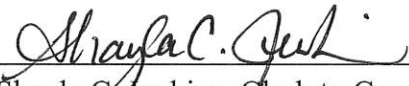
- Animal Shelter grand opening – Monday, April 21st at noon
- County-wide litter pick up day – Tuesday, April 22nd
- Purple Martin Golf Tournament – Saturday, April 5th
- Purple Martin Festival weekend – Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th

Chairman Haigler recognized Mr. Al Jenkins from Senator Tim Scott's office, and he expressed support on behalf of the Senator.

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council

