

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 14, 2025
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 14, 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

Councilman Carson made the motion to approve the April 14, 2025 meeting agenda as presented and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

The following citizens spoke in opposition of the proposed fire ordinance: Jodi Howard, Karen Basso, Beth Johnson, Ken Willis, Amy Hill, John Nelson, Ida Culler.

Randy Coleman gave history of the fire services and his time expired.

Dennis Spilde recommended having a period of time to talk with and have meetings in the communities.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 24, 2025 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments

Council reappointed the following to the Library Board of Trustees with staggered term expiration dates:

Betty James (District 2) – January 2029

Ann Thornton (At Large) – April 2028

Mary Jo Spiers (District 1) – April 2028

Kay James (District 3) – January 2028

Karen Montgomery (District 4) – March 2026

Helen Lindsay (District 5) – April 2028

Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette, and passed unanimously.

Council approved the appointment of Wyatt Pound from Jumper Station Fire Department to the Calhoun County Fire Commission. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Westbury, and passed unanimously.

Appearances

Mary Dixon with the Soil and Water Conservation District office, gave updates on the Ag & Art Tour, to be held on Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. This is Calhoun County's first time participating in this free tour with 5 tour sites, and she emphasized the educational impacts as well as spreading the word about the event.

New Business

Fort Motte Fire Truck (approval required) – Administrator McLauchlin gave details of the purchase. The balance of \$393,199.00 was to be paid with a FEMA grant applied for and received by Chief Coleman. Currently the grant is in hold for review and release is unsure. The backup to the grant is proposed to be a 7-year lease financed by Truist Bank. The lease would be 7 years at 4.66%. Annual payments would be around \$68,000.00. If the grant does come through, the lease would be paid off. Council approved with a motion from Councilman Carson, second by Vice-Chairman Thornton and unanimous vote.

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 **Second Reading**. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-5, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. Councilwoman Bonnette motioned to table and gave reasons for not supporting the ordinance, naming raise in taxes, trusting of volunteers and representing her constituents. Chairman

called for vote. Councilman Westbury questioned the second motion and after brief exchange, it was told that it was discussion and that they were voting on the motion with a second on the table. Second Reading 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 **Second Reading**. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-6 and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2025-7 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6:11 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY SIGN ORDINANCE was presented for **First Reading**. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2025-7 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator McLauchlin highlighted Purple Martin Festival weekend – Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th.

Chairman Haigler recognized Dr. Molnar from LSCOG, and he informed everyone about the Long Range Transportation Plan meeting to be held in Sandy Run on May 6th.

Councilwoman Bonnette publicly thanked Locklier for the \$2,000 Animal Shelter Donation.

Executive Session

Councilman Westbury made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the following:

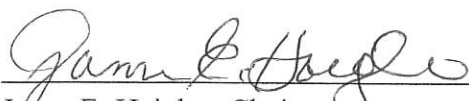
1. Personnel Matter
2. Contract Matter – Fire
3. Economic Development Matter – Project Holy Grail II
4. Contract Matter – Economic Development Corporation

Motion was seconded by Councilman Carson 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 Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Westbury made a motion to adjourn with second by Vice-Chairman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council