

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 28, 2025
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 28, 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 28, 2025 meeting agenda as presented and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

The following citizens spoke regarding the proposed fire ordinance: Mike Wieber, Benji Brickle, Ida Culler and Don Rickenbaker.

Public Hearings

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **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. Amy Hill commented regarding council responsibility and potential civil court if a home were to burn. With there being no other comments, the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-5. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-5, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. Councilwoman Bonnette made comments regarding lack of fire service input, unknown costs, tax increase and timeline of the ordinance going in to effect. Vote was taken and the third reading passed with a 4-1 vote (Haigler, Thornton, Carson and Westbury in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **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. With no questions or comments, the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-6. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-6, and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 14, 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.

Minutes of the April 16, 2025 budget work session were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments

Council reappointed the following to the Calhoun County Zoning Appeals Board with staggered term expiration dates:

David Stack (District 4) – March 2028

Steve Turkvan (District 2) – December 2027

Robert Jeffcoat (District 3) – October 2028

Herbert Edmond (District 2) – November 2026

Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette, and passed unanimously. An appointment will need to be made from District 1.

Proclamations

Administrator McLauchlin read the proclamation Recognizing May as Ruritan Awareness Month, and Council approved unanimously. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton and seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. Jill Crim, member, spoke regarding the organization.

Resolutions

Resolution 6-2025 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK OF LEXINGTON AND CALHOUN COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK (Located in Lexington County) was presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Councilman Westbury. Resolution 6-2025 passed unanimously.

Ordinances

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

Ordinance 2025-8

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 FOR THE OPERATION, DEBT SERVICE, BUILDING FUND AND FOOD SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, THE ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AND THE CALHOUN COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD (INCLUDING THE L. MARION GRESSETTE CENTER); TO PROVIDE FOR DEPOSIT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALHOUN COUNTY was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-8 and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2025-9 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE FOR CALHOUN COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND FOR THE EXPENDITURE THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass **First Reading by Title Only** of Ordinance 2025-9 and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2025-10 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FEES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN WATER AND WASTEWATER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-10 and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2025-11 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FEES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN CALHOUN HILLS GOLF COMPLEX FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF CALHOUN HILLS GOLF COMPLEX was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-11 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed with 4-1 vote (Carson, Westbury, Thornton and Haigler in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Ordinance 2025-12 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE FUNDS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE CALHOUN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-12 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

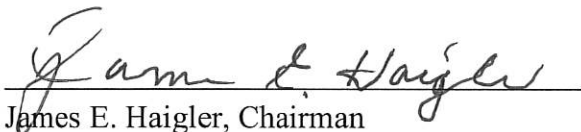
Ordinance 2025-13 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND OTHER FUNDS, AND TO PROVIDE OTHERWISE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY was presented for **First Reading by Title Only**. Vice-Chairman Thornton made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-13 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.


Administrator

Administrator McLauchlin thanked all involved in recent county events: Animal Shelter reopening, Litter Pick-Up and Purple Martin Festival. He also highlighted the upcoming Ag & Art Tour

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council