

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 25, 2025
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, August 25, 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 Richard Hall
Clerk to Council Shayla Jenkins

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 Westbury made the motion to amend the August 25, 2025 meeting agenda to include First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-19. Vice-Chairman Thornton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Councilman Westbury made the motion to approve the August 25, 2025 meeting agenda as amended. Councilwoman Bonnette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Travis Ward of SC Electric Cooperatives spoke regarding the forthcoming training facility and thanked the Sandy Run community and those involved in the project. He highlighted the impacts for all of South Carolina's co-ops.

Chad Lowder of Tri-County Electrical Cooperative made comments regarding the importance of the facility in providing state of the art training for lineman.

Public Hearings

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2025-15** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A TAX ANTICIPATION BORROWING OF CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500,000, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH BORROWING AND THE FORM OF NOTE TO BE EXECUTED EVIDENCING THE SAME; TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. With there being no public comments, the Hearing

was closed. **Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-15.** Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-15 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. Administrator Hall provided explanation of the ordinance, that the funds are only used if needed, and introduced Mike Gallagher, financial advisor, in the event there were additional questions from Council. Councilwoman Bonnette expressed that borrowing a large amount of money is not necessary, but it is imperative to operate within the budget. There was additional discussion. The motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-15 passed by 4-1 vote (Carson, Haigler, Thornton and Westbury in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **Ordinance 2025-16** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCES AND TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH ENFORCEMENT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. With there being no comments, the Hearing was closed. **Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-16.** Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2025-16, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July 28, 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.

Proclamations

A Proclamation Recognizing August as Emergency Management Awareness Month was presented and approved. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Appearances

Dave Chojnacki, Emergency Management Agency Director, recognized volunteers Lee Ott, Richard Kline and Phil Shreves for their work with the department.

Reta Westbury, Treasurer of Calhoun County Cares, reported to Council the contributions made to benefit Calhoun County residents, totaling \$77,051.20. She expressed thanks to the community and all involved in the endeavors.

New Business

Recognition of Institute of Government graduates and South Carolina Association of Counties accomplishments – Calhoun County had four graduating Institute of Government participants during the 2025 South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) Annual Conference as follows: Marc Briggman (Level II), Shayla Jenkins, Brandy Roberson and Richard Carson (Level I). Vice-Chairman Thornton is now the 2nd Vice-President for the SCAC and Chairman Haigler serves on the SCAC Revenue Committee.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2025-17 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE POSTPONEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED PROPERTY VALUES RESULTING FROM THE EQUALIZATION AND REASSESSMENT OF ALL PROPERTIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF CALHOUN COUNTY FOR ONE PROPERTY TAX YEAR; TO PROVIDE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO was presented for Second Reading. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-17 and was seconded by Vice Chairman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2025-18 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RECOVERY OF COSTS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND FIRE PROTECTION, THE ADOPTION OF FEES AND CHARGES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO was presented for First Reading. Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2025-18 and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2025-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN AS PROJECT KELLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO was presented for First Reading by Title Only. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass First Reading by Title Only of Ordinance 2025-19 and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator Hall introduced David Holcomb, the Fire Services Director, and announced the following: upcoming railroad closures in Cameron, Veteran's Clinic and the Sandy Run Fall Festival.

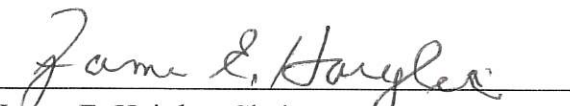
Executive Session

Councilman Westbury made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Contract matter/Personnel matter in Economic Development. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette 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 Councilwoman Bonnette, seconded by Councilman Westbury and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Thornton made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council