

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 8, 2025
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided
Vice-Chairman Cecil Thornton
Councilman Richard Carson
Councilman Ken Westbury
Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette
Administrator Richard Hall
Clerk to Council Shayla Jenkins
Human Resources Director Brandy Roberson
Economic Development Director John McLaughlin

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

The agenda was amended to include an appearance by Judge Bloom, Chief Magistrate, for updates. Councilwoman Bonnette made the motion to approve the December 8, 2025 meeting agenda as amended. Councilman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 10, 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.

Committee Reports

None

Appointments

The following were appointed to the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center Historical Commission Board: Lynn Doster (District 1) and Lou Ann Little (At Large). The motion was made by Councilman Carson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Chris Roland was appointed to the Calhoun County Planning Commission for District 4. The motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Robin Rucker was appointed to the Calhoun County Fire Commission, to represent the Red Rock Fire Department. The motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously. On the agenda, it was listed as Red Rock Fire District and Councilman Westbury noted the needed correction to change District to Department. There was some discussion and Councilwoman Bonnette recommended looking into members of boards being required to live within the county.

Appearances

Mark Messersmith, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, appeared to give updates regarding the Cameron waterline reach. Council viewed his presentation as he gave information on the project history, timeline and plans. Mr. Messersmith also told of efforts that would be made to get the word out to citizens.

Judge Bloom appeared to give updates on the Magistrates' office, telling that the budget is stable and the three magistrates are up for reappointment, which will require a letter of support from Council. Judge Bloom also asked Council to consider a five-year plan for a new office, as the space currently used has outgrown its usefulness.

Resolutions

Resolution 12-2025 A Resolution appointing an alternate member to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors was presented. The resolution would replace John McLaughlin with the Administrator Hall. Motion to approve was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

2026 Holiday Schedule was approved. The motion was made by Councilwoman Bonnette, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

2026 Meeting Schedule was approved. The motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Procurement – Equipment (Recreation) – The request for approval is for a side by side and a top dresser to be used on all fields and housed at the golf course. Items are financed under master lease with Truist and payments are included in the budget, but requires a council action since it is tax exempt financing. Motion to authorize the purchase was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Procurement – New Emergency Operations Center – Motion to approve the amount not to exceed \$2,775,362.00, was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2025-24 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COUNTY'S FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCES TO ADOPT THE STATE MODEL FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE was presented for First Reading. Motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2025-24 was made by Councilwoman Bonnette, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator Hall announced the St. Matthews Christmas Parade on December 13th and the Hwy 6 bridge demolition.

Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session for an Economic Development matter – Project Steppenwolf. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Motion to return to open session bringing matters forward was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Action After Executive Session (Vote)

Resolutions

Resolution 13-2025 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) AND PROJECT STEPPENWOLF, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (THE “COMPANY”) WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (THE “PROJECT”) was presented. Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Bonnette, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2025-23 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX AND INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT STEPPENWOLF, WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES; PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO was presented for Second Reading. Motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-23 was made by Councilman Carson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Caron made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



James E. Haigler

James E. Haigler, Chairman



Shayla C. Jenkins

Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council