

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2026
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 12, 2026.

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

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.

Election of Officers

Chairman – Councilman Westbury made a motion for Chairman Haigler to remain chair, and was seconded by Councilman Carson. Vice-Chairman Thornton called for vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman – Councilwoman Bonnette nominated Vice-Chairman Thornton to remain and was seconded by Councilman Carson. Councilman Westbury made a motion to close nominations and was seconded by Councilman Carson. Both motions passed unanimously.

Chaplain – Councilman Westbury nominated Councilwoman Bonnette to remain and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton. Councilman Carson made a motion to close nominations and was seconded by Councilman Westbury. Both motions passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Thornton made the motion to approve the January 12, 2026 meeting agenda as presented. Councilman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Yoland Johnson was listed under appearances, but decided, in the interest of time, to speak during public comments. Mrs. Johnson spoke regarding her properties on Ridgelake Circle and Highway 176 and replacing mobile homes on the parcels. She was advised that the department and administration would be in touch and to contact Chairman Haigler if further assistance is needed.

Dennis Spilde appeared to question operations of the new fire station in Sandy Run regarding water connection and personnel being there. Chairman Haigler told that he could get answers to his questions from the Administrator and explained procedure with Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 8, 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.

Appointments

The following were appointed and reappointed to the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center Historical Commission Board:

- Jacob Hair (At Large) was appointed. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.
- Jennie Redmond (District 4) was reappointed. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.
- Nancy Harrison (District 2) was reappointed. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

James Brown of the Belleville Fire Department was appointed to the Calhoun County Fire Commission to replace the seat held by Ross Binsley. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Council approved the Magistrates' reappointment letters that will go to the Delegation for Judge Bloom, Judge Teague and Judge Keller. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

John McLaughlin was appointed to the Regional Medical Center Executive Board. The motion was made by Vice-Chairman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Westbury and passed unanimously.

Appearances

Yoland Johnson made the appearance during public comments.

Old Business

Sign ordinance review – Councilman Westbury recommended that everyone review the sign ordinance, as the election season approaches and for signage regulated by the ordinance.

New Business

Boyd Bruce, Library Director, came before Council to request approval for the purchase of a Book Vending Machine to reach citizens in remote areas. Library Board Chair, Kay James, appeared as well, expressing support of the vending machine placement in Sandy Run. The motion to approve the purchase was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Council approved the Medical Control Service Agreement for EMS with Dr. Stone. The motion was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Pineland Trail paving was approved from the recommendation of the Calhoun Transportation Committee, with the cost of \$505,150.64. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton 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 Second Reading. Motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-24 was made by Councilwoman Bonnette, seconded by Councilman Westbury and passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator Hall updated Council on the former Library sale, that there is now a contract on the building and when sold, the money goes to the library building fund.

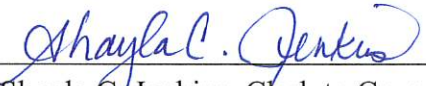
Also, Administrator Hall highlighted years of service of county employees as well as employee accomplishments.

Lastly, comments from Mr. Spilde regarding the fire station were addressed.

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Vice-Chairman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council