

MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 23, 2026
5:30 P.M.

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 23, 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.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Carson made the motion to approve the March 23, 2026 meeting agenda as presented. Councilman Westbury seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Jacob Hair commented on a recent large-scale tournament at the Recreation Complex and concerns about parking, regarding organization and control.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 9, 2026 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

Economic Development Corporation met prior to the council meeting today and approved a wastewater engineering study for the upper portion of the county, behind the rest area property.

Appearances

Steve Blake appeared to speak on Fire Department Audits and told that reports for each department are being prepared and the aspects that are highlighted in the reports. Administrator Hall told that reports will be sent to Council and that the former Sandy Run Fire Department is communicating through an attorney.

Resolutions

Resolution 3-2026 A Resolution in Honor of Master Deputy Rusty Lawson (of the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department) was presented. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Resolution 3-2026 and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously and Council members made remarks and thanked Deputy Lawson for his service to the county.

New Business

Participation in the new national opioids settlement (Six Remnant Defendants) – Administrator Hall reported that Council approval is needed in order to participate in the next part of the opioid settlement, and that the funds have benefitted in the partnership with Orangeburg and the Tri-County Health network, with no cost to the county for participation. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury to approve participation in the settlement, seconded by Councilman Carson and passed unanimously.

Administrator

No report

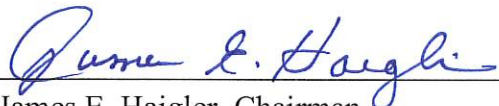
Executive Session

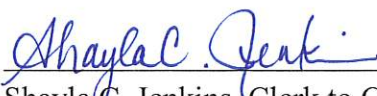
Councilman Westbury made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters (all departments) and to receive legal advice. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Motion to come out of Executive Session, bringing no matters forward, was made by Councilman Westbury, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Westbury made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Carson. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Chairman


Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council