

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**September 11, 2023**  
**5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023.

The following were present:

Chairman James E. Haigler, who presided  
Vice-Chairman Ken Westbury  
Councilman Richard Carson  
Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette  
Councilman Cecil Thornton  
Administrator John McLaughlin  
Deputy 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](http://calhouncounty.sc.gov).

**Call to Order**

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

**Invocation**

Invocation was offered by Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette.

**Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to add an appearance; however, the motion did not carry. Vice-Chairman Westbury made the motion to approve September 11, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion passed.

**Public Comments**

Nina Mack, a resident of Fort Motte, spoke on and outlined the proposed solar ordinance amendments she had distributed to Council previously. Comments were in regards to property lines, setbacks and buffers.

Janet Echols covered the remainder of the proposed solar ordinance amendments regarding pollution coverage and regulations enforcement.

Helen Harvey Lafitte encouraged Council to pass a more stringent ordinance now, as to not regret these decisions in the future.

Luther Wannamaker voiced support of the previous speakers.

Rhett Taber asked Council to consider extending the moratorium a while longer to ensure thoroughness.

Dennis Spilde of Sandy Run spoke regarding the Sandy Run Walking Track, loose dogs with children playing at the playground there, and advised Council of the liability of not having fencing in place. He also posed a question regarding the cost of the ladder truck, asking for the initial and current cost, including justification of those numbers.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the August 28, 2023 regular meeting 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.

### **Committee Reports**

Vice-Chairman Westbury reported that he and Chairman Haigler met with RMC trustees Cynthia Keller and Steve Tyson, thanking them for their service on the now dissolved board. He provided clarification that the partnership between the county and the hospital does not dissolve and that the lease still has to be maintained, also referencing the Citizen Advisory Board.

### **Appearances**

Marc Briggman gave updates on the Penny Sales Tax Projects (report attached), also thanking both towns and county staff for their work in making the projects successful thus far.

### **Resolutions**

Resolution 15-2023, honoring Debbie Roland in her retirement was presented. Council gave remarks of appreciation to Mrs. Roland for 44 years of employment with Calhoun County and her accomplishments.

### **Old Business**

The county vehicle policy was presented, and a motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carson, and passed with 4-1 vote (Haigler, Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

### **New Business**

Grant Award - Purchase of Property for Economic Development – Council approved the \$300,000 grant from the Department of Commerce for the purchase, clear, grade and grub of 7 acres located at 358 Sonntag Drive. Motion to accept was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Carson and carried with 4-1 vote (Haigler, Westbury, Carson and Thornton in favor; Bonnette opposed).

Approval – Sandy Run Fire Department Ladder Truck (CPST) – Council approved the purchase of a 2010 Pierce Midmount ladder truck for \$535,000, with delivery in mid to late 2024. After discussion, the motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury to approve the purchase, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval – Sandy Run Fire Departments Rescue Truck – Council approved the purchase of a service truck for \$25,000 with funds set to come from the Sandy Run Fire Department fund balance. Motion was made by Councilman Carson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury and passed unanimously.

### Ordinances

**Ordinance 2023-17** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CALHOUN COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE BY REMOVING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INSTALLATIONS FROM ARTICLE VII, REPLACING SECTION 7:13 WITH UPDATED REQUIREMENTS, AND UPDATING RELATED TABLES FOR CONDITIONAL USES AND SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS was presented for **Second Reading**. Deputy Administrator Richard Hall addressed the amendments presented by Nina Mack and Janet Echols. After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-17, and Councilman Thornton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 2023-18** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CALHOUN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2 - ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE IV. - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, DIVISION 6. - ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN REGIONAL HOSPITAL was presented for **First Reading**. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass First Reading of Ordinance 2023-17, Councilwoman Bonnette seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Administrator

Administrator McLauchlin thanked everyone for efforts in preparation for Hurricane Idalia.

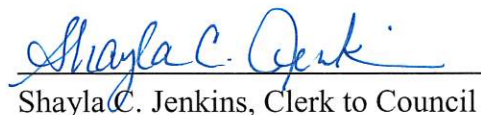
The Calhoun County Sports Complex Grand Opening will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Vice-Chairman Westbury told that as work begins on the zoning ordinance, he encourages those interested to become involved in the process.

### Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

  
James E. Haigler, Chairman

  
Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council