

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 25, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 25, 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 McLauchlin
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.

Call to Order

Chairman Haigler called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Invocation was offered by Councilwoman Rebecca Bonnette.

Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Westbury made the motion to approve September 25, 2023 meeting agenda as outlined and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. The motion passed.

Public Comments

John Hane, resident of Fort Motte, offered comments regarding the solar ordinance and the omission of pollution liability coverage, telling that insurance costs would not be a great burden to solar companies.

Julie Taylor, resident of Sandy Run, spoke in opposition of the appointment of Josh Rabon to the Planning Commission, citing a conflict of interest and professional affiliations.

Wanda Puckett also spoke against the appointment, advising that Mr. Rabon would not be interested in preserving the rural quality of the county.

Public Hearings

Chairman Haigler opened a Public Hearing on **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. There were no questions or comments, and the Hearing was closed.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-17. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to pass Third Reading of Ordinance 2023-17, and was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette. After some discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 11, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Carson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

None

Appointments

Councilman Carson made a motion to appoint Josh Johnson to the Planning Commission (District 1), and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to appoint Josh Rabon to the Planning Commission (District 2), and was seconded by Councilman Carson. After discussion, the motion passed with a 3-2 vote (Carson, Westbury and Haigler in favor; Bonnette and Thornton opposed).

Appearances

Dr. Bill Molnar introduced Regina Jackson, Housing Programs Manager for the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. She reviewed the Power Point handout distributed to Council and told of the plans to meet the housing needs of the counties in the LSCOG.

Resolutions

Resolution 17-2023 ADDITION TO JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK WITH LEXINGTON COUNTY was presented. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve Resolution 17-2023, and was seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 18-2023 A RESOLUTION SETTING THE MILLAGE AND APPROVING THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX CREDIT FACTOR FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR was presented by Calhoun County CFO James Okoronkwo. Councilman Carson made a motion to approve Resolution 18-2023, and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Westbury. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 19-2023 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE PARTIAL ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF A FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND RRIFI SR LAND, LLC was presented, with explanation by Administrator McLauchlin. Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to approve

Resolution 19-2023, and was seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

Approval - Grant Award for Calhoun County Emergency Operations Center – Vice-Chairman Westbury made a motion to accept the grant award and approve the matching funds. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bonnette and passed unanimously.

Ordinances

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 **Second Reading**. Councilman Carson made a motion to pass Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-18, Vice-Chairman Westbury seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator

Administrator McLaughlin thanked everyone for efforts in the Calhoun County Sports Complex Grand Opening that was held on Friday, September 22, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session to discuss a contract matter concerning the Landfill and a contract matter related to Lake Marion Regional Water Authority. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Bonnette made a motion to come out of Executive Session, bringing no matters forward. Second was made by Vice-Chairman Westbury and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Carson made a motion to adjourn with second by Councilman Thornton. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



James E. Haigler, Chairman



Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council