

**MINUTES OF CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY
December 14, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THIS COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY

Calhoun County Council held its regular meeting, virtually, on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Present were: Chairman David K. Summers, Jr., who presided
Vice-Chairman James E. Haigler
Councilman Cecil Thornton
Councilman John Nelson
Councilman Ken Westbury
Administrator John McLaughlin
Deputy Administrator/CFO Denise Christmas
Deputy Administrator Lenessa Hawkins
Clerk to Council Vickie Stoudemire

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 www.calhouncounty.sc.gov.

Call to Order

Chairman Summers called the meeting to order. A verbal roll call was called and all Councilmen affirmed that they were in attendance.

Invocation

Invocation was offered by Councilman John Nelson.

Emergency Ordinance 2020-17 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR ELECTRONIC MEETINGS was presented for passage. Councilman Thornton made a motion to pass Emergency Ordinance 2020-17. Councilman Haigler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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Public Hearing:

Ordinance 2020-15 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2018-22 TO ADD ZONING COMPLIANCE PERMIT FEES

Chairman Summers called the Public Hearing to order and asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments and the hearing was closed.

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes of the November 9, 2020 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Councilman Westbury and seconded by Councilman Haigler to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

None

Appointments

None

Proclamations

None

Appearances

1. Fire Chief Jeff Price spoke to Council about a contract with Motorola for 800 MHz radios for EMS and Fire. He has had conversations with Anthony Taylor of Motorola, which is offering a special zero percent interest contract for two (2) years for the purchase of 800 MHz radios. Chief Price noted that these radios are very much needed and that he feels this is a good way to get them. He added that the County can purchase 90 hand-held radios for Fire, 29 radios for EMS, 3 radios for Animal Control, and necessary equipment for Dispatch for \$505,562.07. He reminded Council that \$500,000 for this purpose is a part of the 1% penny sales tax referendum which was passed in 2018, but which is held up pending a ruling from the State Supreme Court. Administrator McLaughlin added that if the Court rules in the County's favor the money designated for the radios will be used to pay off the Contract. If the ruling goes against the County, the County will have 2 budget years to pay off the Contract.

Councilman Nelson added that these new radios are very necessary and he has been advocating for them for quite some time. Councilman Westbury made a motion that we contract

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with Motorola for the radios as stated in the Contract. Councilman Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Sarah Hardin, Vice-president of Government Affairs for Windstream spoke next. She gave an update of Windstream's presence in the County. She also spoke about what Windstream is doing to have a redundant line available by the end of January, 2021. She said that the frequent outages of service are mostly due to outside contractors cutting cables, and that the redundancy line should eliminate much of the outages.

3. Kirk Wilson, Interim CEO of the Regional Medical Center introduced himself to Council and gave a brief update on how things are going at the hospital since he came on board.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 6-2020 Authorizing the Extension of the Investment Period Under the 2016 Fee Agreement Between Calhoun County, South Carolina and Hickory Springs Bottling, Inc.; and Matters Relating Thereto was presented for passage. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass RESOLUTION 6-2020 as presented. Councilman Haigler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Administrator McLauchlin asked for approval to bid the new signage at the Calhoun I-26 Industrial Park. Councilman Nelson made a motion to approve bidding on the new signage. Councilman Westbury seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Approval for the Motorola Contract was listed on the agenda under New Business; however, the motion was made and approved earlier in the meeting.

Carolyn Thompson who resides on Herlong Avenue in St. Matthews spoke up about her neighbor, whom she referred to as a hoarder, having dangerous conditions on his property. She asked that something be done about it. She was advised that this is a matter for the Town of St. Matthews; however, she said she has been to the Town officials, and they have not been able to help her. She was advised that this matter would be looked into, under the County's Nuisance Ordinance.

Ordinances

1. **Ordinance 2020-15 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2018-22 TO ADD ZONING COMPLIANCE PERMIT FEES** was presented for Third Reading. Councilman

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Haigler made a motion to pass Third Reading on Ordinance 2020-15. Councilman Westbury seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Ordinance 2020-16 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE II OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY (ANIMAL CONTROL)** was Presented for Second Reading. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass second Reading on Ordinance 2020-16. Councilman Haigler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Ordinance 2020-19 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 6 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CALHOUN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA** was presented for First Reading. Councilman Thornton made a motion to table this issue until further discussion can be had. Councilman Westbury seconded the motion to table and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Ordinance 2020-18 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE WEARING OF FACE MASKS TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19** was presented for passage. Councilman Westbury made a motion to pass Emergency Ordinance 2020-18 as presented. Councilman Haigler seconded. The vote was split 4-1 with Chairman Summers, Councilmen Haigler, Thornton, and Westbury voting yes, and Councilman Nelson voting no. This Emergency Ordinance required a 2/3rd majority for passage, and the motion passed.

Administrator

1. Administrator McLaughlin advised Council that due to an increase in COVID-19 cases in the County, and its effect on County employees, in an effort to limit the number of people in County buildings, some departments of the County have been shut down to the public, except by appointment. The Treasurer, Delinquent Tax, Auditor, and Building and Planning offices are still open.

Executive Session

Councilman Westbury made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Contract Matter for recreation and an Economic Development matter (Project Almeta) Councilman Haigler seconded and Council entered into Executive Session.

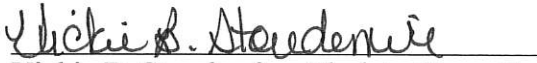
Council returned to open session to take a vote on the Contract Matter for recreation. Councilman Westbury made a motion that the County enter into a Contract of Sale and proceed with the purchase of 58 acres, more or less, located at the corner of Chestnut Street and Saints Avenue at a price of \$6,000 per acre. Councilman Haigler seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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Adjournment

Councilman Thornton made a motion to adjourn with Councilman Westbury seconding. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.


James E. Haigler, Vice-Chairman


Vickie B. Stoudemire, Clerk to Council

