

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Moore called the regular meeting of Saluda County Council to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present were: Chairman Jim Moore
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Vice-Chairman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh

Absent was: Councilman Justin Anderson

Also present were: County Administrator, Sandra G. Padget
Clerk to Council, Regina H. Turner
Attorney, Virginia Bozeman

B. INVOCATION Councilman Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Chairman Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is noted by the Clerk herein, that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the regular meeting was given to the local news media and properly posted, to include the county website.

The following notice was placed at the beginning of the agenda:

Please note the council meetings are open to the public. Access to the live video is available when the meeting begins by going to the County's Facebook page (Saluda County, SC Government).

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Vice Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel the Agenda was approved as presented.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel the Minutes for January 9th and 26th, 2023 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore spoke regarding his attendance at the SCAC Insurance Trust Conference where Saluda County was recognized. Chairman Moore asked Mr. Robert Benefield, Director of SC Insurance Services to present the county with information which lead to this accomplishment. Mr. Benfield reported that the county was second in responsiveness for claims reporting and the third lowest

experience modifier in SC. This allows a reduction in premiums of \$90,000.00 and Hardee Horne, was issued an award on behalf of SCAC to Saluda County.

Chairman Moore also reported on a meeting with all area Mayors and how best to serve all citizens of the county together. The Public Safety committee also met with Moseley Architects for plans for the new Detention Center and EMS/Fire Service headquarters and the next meeting is scheduled for the 15th to go over the updated plans. He also mentioned the call with staff and the Financial Advisor to discuss Capital Projects funding and planned a Workshop on March 8th at 10:00 so all of council can hear about what is available.

Chairman Moore also scheduled a work session on February 28th with the Quality of Life and Economic Development Committees to discuss the possibility of a grant to improve recreation facilities.

Councilman Danial, Bedenbaugh and Vice-Chairman Atkinson thanked Hardee Horne for the work put in for the good insurance rating.

Councilman Bedenbaugh thanked the Nursing Center for their efforts in working to keep the spread Covid to a minimum. He also reported that he attended a wonderful Economic Development workshop in Columbia. Council Bedenbaugh gave an update on the new development taking place past the Circle. He wished everyone a Happy Valentines.

H. PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 01-23, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING SALE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 117 & 119 NORTH MAIN STREET IN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO "C. F. TATHAM, JR. was opened and no one signed up to speak.

I. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 01-23, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING SALE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 117 & 119 NORTH MAIN STREET IN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO "C. F. TATHAM, JR. "

J. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson first reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 02-23, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX PROCEEDS TOTALING \$125,000 TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY AND SALUDA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER, TO BE LOCATED IN EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 06-18 TO CLARIFY THE LOCATION OF THIS CAPITAL PROJECT."

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel first reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 03-23, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE POLICIES FOR THE ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM FOR SALUDA COUNTY, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO."

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to adopt the mission statement read by Chairman Moore for Saluda County. Chairman Moore stated that he thought it would be a good idea to have a focus on where we are going as a County Government.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the updated Memorandum of Understanding was approved to be signed with Edgefield County for Animal Control.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to sign an agreement with the Town of Saluda regarding an YMCA employee for Saluda County. It was clarified that the person would be employed by the YMCA and would have an office within the County Administrative Building. Councilman Atkinson stated that he did not agree that the YMCA would bring in enough value to the County for what they would be receiving.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to allow staff to issue a bid to repair the roof on the Courthouse. Councilman Daniel stated that from what he could see from the pictures he thought the work needed to be done. Vice-Chairman Atkinson thought it was a good price for what needed to be done.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to allow staff to issue a bid for the relocation of the Coroner's holding facility. Chairman Moore stated that this was the first step in building the Detention Center that was voted on by the County. This would have to be relocated before work could proceed.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved for the Grants Coordinator to apply for a JAG grant in the amount of \$65,000 for the purchase of tasers for the Sheriff's Office with the 10% match being funded from Contingency. Chairman Moore recognized Jill Warren to present the grant details to council. The current tasers can't be upgraded so new ones are being requested.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to accept the Job description for an Animal/Litter Control Officer to be funded in the Public Safety account. Chairman Moore stated that this position would become available depending on the project completion of the Animal Shelter and it was expected to be in June. Sheriff Josh Price clarified that the officer will be a deputy with daytime hours and will be subject to be on call.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to appoint Mayor Qwendolyn Etheredge to serve on the Upper Savannah Work Force Board.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved to appoint Austin Rodgers to fill the unexpired term of Brian Derrick with his term ending on June 30, 2023 and the alternate being Russell Derrick.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 P.M.

James L. Moore, Saluda County Council
Chairman

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council

Date Approved: March 13, 2023