

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MAY 8, 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. Padgett  
Clerk to Council, Regina H. Turner  
Attorney, Virginia Bozeman

B. INVOCATION Councilman Bedenbaugh 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 Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the Agenda was amended under item 3 of new business to strike the phrase "approval of match". On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh the agenda was approved as amended.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the Minutes for April 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Bedenbaugh mentioned the reports and minutes submitted by the Saluda Nursing Center was informative and appreciated. He also stressed the need for fire department volunteers and for residents to be aware of the traffic circle stop signs. Councilman Bedenbaugh invited everyone to come

out the annual Poultry Festival events in the Batesburg/Leesville area.

Vice-Chairman Atkinson commented on new businesses in the county and asked the community to come out in support of those.

Councilman Daniel thanked everyone for coming out.

Chairman Moore announced that our animal control officer has been hired in preparation of the opening of the Edgefield/Saluda animal shelter in July. Councilman Daniel stated that it would be a nice facility.

#### H. PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 06-23, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIMINUTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF SALUDA COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF THE SAID FINDINGS AND AUTHORIZATION; AND GENERALLY APPROVING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO" was opened and no one signed up to speak.

#### I. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 04-23, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCHOOL PURPOSES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: TO PROVIDE FOR LEVY OF TAXES AND THE TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE: TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF SAID TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING INTO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.

Chairman Moore recognized Saluda School Superintendent, Harvey Livingston, to give an explanation of the schools proposed budget. Dr. Livingston notified the county of a \$584,720 tax increase to address unfunded state mandates and state revenue cuts.

Chairman Moore verified that the school needed \$6,184,720.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes and that the total school budget would be \$25,764,253.00.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 05-23, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SALUDA COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2023; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SALUDA COUNTY FOR ALL COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2023; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX REVENUES AND OTHER COUNTY FUNDS; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER COUNTY PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2023: AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT.". Chairman Moore stated that the amount for Second Reading for the county operating budget is \$16,127,323.00. The difference in proposed expenditures and revenues is \$255,314.00. This includes an estimated 5 mill increase in the operating budget due primarily to the decrease in revenue from the farm building tax exemption and unfunded requirements to insurance and retirement cost.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh second reading was approved on Ordinance No. 06-23, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIMINUTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF SALUDA COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF THE SAID FINDINGS AND AUTHORIZATION; AND GENERALLY APPROVING OTHER MATTERS RELATING

THERE TO.” Chairman Moore and Councilmen Daniel and Bedenbaugh voted for and Vice-Chairman Atkinson voting against. Chairman Moore recognized the County Attorney Virginia Bozeman to explain the ordinance and the state law and legal process needed to change boundary lines.

#### J. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the Resolution Ordering a Referendum in Saluda County, South Carolina, to submit the question of whether the county shall issue not exceeding \$7,500,000 total principal amount general obligation bonds: providing for the form of ballots to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing for all other things necessary to submit the aforesaid question was unanimously approved. Chairman Moore read the Resolution. He also stated that this was the first step in addressing the Public Safety Departments growing needs.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to apply for the FAA Planning and Design Grant with the match of \$6,274 to be paid from Contingency. Chairman Moore called on Jill Warren, Airport Manager, to explain the grant information. She stated that this was for the planning and design of replacement of the 40-year-old lighting system which will be LED.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved for Emergency Management staff to apply for a grant to purchase a Multi-Hazard Simulation Trailer. Chairman Moore recognized Jill Warren, Asst. EMD, to describe the request. She said this would be used for training and education for fire and hazardous conditions.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to accept the new Grant Policy as presented. Jill Warren, Grant Coordinator presented the update to the policy. This will simplify the procedure for processing a need for grants.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to accept the new Pipe/Driveway Policy as presented. Chairman Moore recognized Andrew Coleman, Roads and Bridges Superintendent. Mr. Coleman stated that this would combine and update the pipe and driveway policies.

Chairman Moore stated that he failed to mention the cutting of the timber on county properties that was currently going on. He said that the timber was mature in the Commerce Park and hoped it would make it more attractive to industry. We do not have anything currently under contract.

#### K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On Motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved for Council to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (2) and (5) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss Economic Development as related to the Commerce Park and for the purpose of receiving legal advice relating to the Commerce Park and other purposes and to return at the call of the Chair.

Chairman Moore called the council meeting back to open session and there were no actions coming out of Executive Session.

L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 P.M.

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James L. Moore, Saluda County Council  
Chairman

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Regina H. Turner  
Clerk to Council

Date Approved: June 12, 2023