

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present were: Chairman Jerry Strawbridge
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh
Vice-Chairman Justin Anderson

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

B. INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman Anderson delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Strawbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh, the agenda was unanimously approved.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh, the minutes for March 22, March 23 and April 12, 2021 were unanimously approved as submitted.

F. PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

Due to COVID-19, the following notice was placed at the beginning of the agenda:

Please note the council meetings are open to the public, but seating will be limited for social distancing in response to COVID-19. Access to the live video is available when the meeting begins by going to the County's Facebook page (Saluda County, SC Government).

G. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Councilman Daniel stated that the peaches were getting ready and it was time for the Peach Tree 23.
2. Councilman Atkinson commented that he was impressed with the penny sales tax farmers' market project by Ridge Spring.
3. Councilman Anderson agreed with Councilman Atkinson regarding the Ridge Spring project. He also expressed sympathy to a family regarding a death.
4. Councilman Bedenbaugh noted that Ridge Spring had their 70th Anniversary. He also expressed sympathy to Chairman Strawbridge in the loss of his mother-in-law.

H. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Chairman Strawbridge recognized our new attorney Virginia Bozeman.

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

1. Chairman Strawbridge recognized Mr. Pete Hall to speak on the Second Amendment Ordinance. Discussion was made regarding a template to use in drawing up and ordinance.
2. Chairman Strawbridge recognized Ms. Ann Skinner with Upper Savannah to present the Memorandum of Understanding for the SC Works System.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 03-21 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH AIKEN COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN AIKEN COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SEC. 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH AIKEN COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

2. On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 04-21, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021, 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 Strawbridge stated that the total school budget for 21-22 at second reading is \$20,629,797.00 and Saluda County Council shall determine and establish a tax of sufficient millage to support \$7,685,763.00 minus revenues and credits reflected on the tax receipt from Fee-in-Lieu, Property Tax Relief, Homestead Exemption, Tier 3 Property Tax Relief, Merchant Inventory, Manufacturer's Depreciation and Motor Carrier, for a net amount of \$5,001,100.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes as county funding for the appropriations and levies made herein, and shall advise the Auditor who shall fix said millage as advised by the Council.

3. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 05-21, "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, 2021; 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, 2021; 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, 2021: AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT."

Chairman Strawbridge stated that the total county budget for 21-22 at second reading is \$13,886,766.00.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No. 06-21 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH AIKEN COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN SALUDA COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH AIKEN COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO."

2. On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No. 07-21 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”), A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT LIGHT AND ITS SUBSIDIARY, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES, AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE “COMPANY”), PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (THE “PROJECT”); (2) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; (3) CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.”
3. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, and unanimously approved by Council to adopt A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT LIGHT, ITS SUBSIDIARY, ACTING FOR THEMSELVES, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES, AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE “COMPANY”), PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (THE “PROJECT”); (2) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; (3) CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.
4. Chairman Strawbridge reconized Sheriff Price to present his request to have the floor covering replaced at the Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff Price expressed the need to have some of the rooms updated. On Motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved to replace the floor covering in the rooms quoted at the Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$7,166.00 plus tax to be paid from the Building Repair Reserve Account.
5. Chairman Strawbridge recognized Jill Warren, Grants Coordinator, to present a grant request for the Court System. The request included laptop computers and docking stations to be used by court employees for mobile work applications. On Motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved to apply

for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant through the SC Department of Public Safety.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Daniel 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 contracts and receive legal advice on American Land Holdings line of credit and surety bond, on industrial park developments and project "Light".

On motion of Councilman Anderson, it was unanimously approved to come out of Executive Session.

On motion by Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to accept an addendum to the engagement letter from the firm Turner, Padgett to provide that Virginia Bozeman is the primary attorney for Saluda County Council.

Chairman Strawbridge removed from the table the request from American Land Holdings to issue a surety bond to the county in lieu of the letter of credit.

Chairman Strawbridge entertained a motion to replace the Letter of Credit issued by American Land Holdings with a surety bond but no motion was made.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Council Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 P.M.

Regina H Turner
Clerk to Council

Jerry Strawbridge
Chairman

Date Approved