

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 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 approved as presented.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the Minutes for May 8th and 15th 2023 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Bedenbaugh mentioned the reports and minutes submitted by Westview Behavioral Health and appreciated their service to the community. He also stressed the need for fire department volunteers and to contact Luke Downing our Fire Coordinator.

Vice-Chairman Atkinson announced the birth of his great, great grandson.

Councilman Daniel thanked the Saluda Fire Department in their response to an accident. Chairman Moore also announced an arrival of a grandson that was currently on the way. He also stated that the county now has a Public Information Officer that will be working to get information out to the residents through media sources and public events. The Chairman made notice of a called meeting scheduled for June 19, 2023 for Public Hearings for County and School Budgets. He acknowledged the crowd and thanked them for coming and being involved.

H. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Chairman Moore recognized Dennis Lambries, the county's representative on the Piedmont Technical College Area Commission to speak. Mr. Lambries introduced himself as Saluda's Representative to make sure our areas interest and needs are covered. He passed along a comment from Dr. Rivers thanking Councils support. He asked that council members ask questions and use him as a resource as needed.

Chairman Moore recognized Sheriff Josh Price for law enforcement issues. Sheriff Price expressed how law enforcement has been affected by current social issues. He thanked council for the raise in starting pay for deputies and corporals but stated that that was not enough to compete with surrounding counties. Sheriff Price recommended not doing some projects that have been started but postponing them and focusing on pay increases.

Chairman Moore recognized Brandy Cromley of the Jaycees to speak. Ms. Cromley presented a deed for 12 acres of property to Saluda County to be used for recreation purposes that will expand opportunities to Saluda County citizens. William Widemen, Recreation Director and Vice-Chairman Atkinson accepted the deed on the counties behalf and Vice-Chairman Atkinson stated that the children are the future of this county.

I. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel third reading was unanimously 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 THERETO."

J. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the first reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 07-23 "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS FOR SALUDA COUNTY COMMERCE PARK, SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA."

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the Resolution Setting Juror Pay at \$15 per day was unanimously approved. Chairman Moore read the Resolution.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel the Resolution Clarifying the Catalina Solar Commencement Date was unanimously approved. Chairman Moore read the Resolution.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel the Resolution Approving the Amendment to the Aiken-Saluda Industrial Park was unanimously approved. Chairman Moore read the

Resolution.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to Award the bid for Constructing a Short-Term Animal Shelter to Sommers Construction Co. in the amount of \$71,995.00 to be paid from the Capital Project Sales Tax Fund. Councilman Moore recognized Heather Griffin, Purchasing Agent to make the recommendation. She stated that she had been in contact with the contractor and verified the scope of work. She let council know of the circumstances that the facility would be used as the official Animal Shelter is located in Edgefield. This would be a short-term holding area before transport to Edgefield or owner pickup. Chairman Moore reminded everyone that this is the only thing these funds can be used for as it was voted on by the tax payers.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to appoint Donald Kneece to the Behavioral Health Board with his term expiring June 12, 2026.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Austin Rodgers to the Fire Board representing Ridge Spring with Russell Derrick as the alternate with their terms expiring June 30, 2027.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Tim Taylor to the Fire Board representing Saluda with Randall Porter as the alternate with their terms expiring June 30, 2027.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On Motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by 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 Economic Development as related to the Commerce Park, Planning and for the purpose of receiving legal advice. Action may come out of Executive Session regarding Planning and to return at the call of the chair.

Chairman Moore called the council meeting back to open session. Out of Executive Session on motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to appoint Bill Spearman as Planning Advisor effective immediately.

L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 P.M.

James L. Moore, Saluda County Council
Chairman

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council

Date Approved: July 10, 2023