

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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  
Vice-Chairman Jack Atkinson  
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh  
Councilman Justin Anderson

Absent: Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.

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

B. INVOCATION Councilman Anderson 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 meetings are open to the public. Access to the live video is available 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 to approve the agenda it was unanimously approved as amended by a motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh to add first reading of Ordinance 10-23 approving the sale of real property located at the Southeast intersection of Highway 378 and North Bouknight Ferry Road in Saluda County South Carolina to project commerce.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the Minutes for August 14, 2023 were unanimously approved as submitted.

## G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore asked everyone to remember Councilman Daniel as he was not in attendance due to the death of his sister. He also asked for prayers for the family of Deputy Blackmon in the loss of his wife.

Vice-Chairman Atkinson mentioned the death of a friend, Ms. Dot Metts. He also reported on a committee meeting recommendation to offer for sale the corner lot and house at Highland and Banks street to be put back to residential use. The county staff will work on setting the new property lines and advertise the sale and be on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Councilman Anderson had nothing to report.

Councilman Bedenbaugh also recognized Ms. Dot Metts attendance at meetings, community involvement and her US Postal service. He also announced the Lions Club Annual Golf Tournament at Persimmon Hill on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Bedenbaugh recognized the county employees for the jobs they do.

## H. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Lofton Johnson, Jr. to speak on temporary camper setups. Mr. Johnson stated his need for a temporary camper to be used while preparing a property for a home. He stated that he was not allowed temporary power to be installed and have a camper hook up due to the county's ordinance. Mr. Johnson requested a waiver for this allowance.

## I. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Anderson, second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 08-23, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALUDA COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 06-18 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY AND IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX, SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM IN SALUDA COUNTY PURSUANT TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX ACT, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE ANNOTATED SECTION 4-10-300, ET SEQ.; TO DEFINE THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES AND DESIGNATE THE PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF THE TAX MAY BE USED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM TIME FOR THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF THE TAX AND THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF NET PROCEEDS TO BE RAISED BY THE TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR A COUNTY-WIDE REFERENDUM AND TO PRESCRIBE THE CONTENTS OF THE BALLOT QUESTION IN THE REFERENDUM; TO PROVIDE CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO THE IMPOSITION OF THE TAX AND CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF THE TAX REVENUE; TO ESTABLISH THE PRIORITY IN WHICH THE NET PROCEEDS OF THE TAX ARE TO BE EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES AND PROJECTS STATED; TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE REFERENDUM BY THE SALUDA COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, TAX-EXEMPT OR TAXABLE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE AGGREGATE OF \$9,400,000; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PRESCRIBE THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND PLEDGE OF REVENUES RELATED TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING OTHERWISE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY RELATED TO THE BONDS; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS" IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DETAILS ASTO THE SALE OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED THEREBY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED

THERETO. Chairman Moore stated that this was just an amendment to the prior referendum ordinance so that we could borrow the additional funds left to collect from the next four years sales tax revenue. We will borrow \$5,500,000 of the next 4 years of expected collections and those payments will be made within the next 4 years as we collect the sales tax. So, this is paid back with sales tax funds and not added property taxes. It states in the Original Ordinance that we can borrow funds up until that time or we will have to wait until the end of 8 years to start building. This is for the Detention Center. Councilman Bedenbaugh stated that he knew this was voted on in 2018 and the cost of things are going up and it's only going to cost more if we wait. In the past I have always voted no on this but since the voters have already approved it and the majority of council is in favor I will vote for it this time as well.

## J. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, First Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 09-23, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING FIVE MILLION SIX HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,660,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO." Chairman Moore stated that ordinance 09-23 allows the county to borrow up to 8% of the assessed value of all taxable property in the county. Currently we do not owe any bonds and we can borrow up to \$5,660,000 and pay that back over the next 15 years and payment being around 5.9 mills assuming a 4.5% interest rate starting with the 2024-2025 tax year.

Councilman Bedenbaugh stated again that he hated to see the county borrow this kind of money but he would go along with the majority. Chairman Moore stated that everyone hated to borrow the money but if we did not do it now, it would cost us a lot more later.

Item 2 on the agenda "Consideration of County and Saluda School District One Millage for FY 2022-2023" was posted and the correct year should have been printed as 2023-2024. Council was not able to vote on this item. The county attorney recommended for council to call a special meeting to set the millage.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Anderson, it was unanimously approved to replace a A/C unit at the Courthouse in the amount of \$7,850 to be paid from the Public Building Repair Reserve account.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to appoint Casey Stoudemayer, Library Manager to the First Steps Board to represent Saluda County.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson, it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Andrew Wayne Shaw to the Building and Mobile Homes Appeal Board with his term expiring October 13, 2025.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, First Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 10-23, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING SALE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 378 AND NORTH BOUKNIGHT FERRY ROAD IN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO PROJECT COMMERCE.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On Motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson 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, Contracts pursuant to the Commerce Park and for the purpose of receiving legal advice 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 7:01 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: October 9, 2023