

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024 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 J. Frank Daniel, Sr.  
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh  
Councilman Justin Anderson

Also present were: County Administrator, Sandra G. Padgett  
Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council

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 the agenda was unanimously approved.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice Chairman Atkinson the minutes for September 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY UPDATE

Chairman Moore recognized the Emergency Management Director, Josh Morton, to give a recovery update from the storm. Josh stated that hurricane Helene significantly impacted our county with rain totals between 7 and over 14 inches reported. Sustained winds were up to 50 MPH and wind gust of more than 90 MPH. Most roadways were impassable, building damaged and power was out throughout

the county between two days and two weeks. The county had three lives lost due to the storm including two of our volunteer fire fighters, Chief Chad Satcher and firefighter Landon Kale Bodie both from the Circle Fire Department. The Emergency Operations Center was open for 14 days staffed with county and state officials. The county distributed water, meals, tarps and emergency oxygen supplies to residents in need.

Josh commended the governmental agencies, counties, towns, organizations and volunteers that provided supplies and support during the weather event. For the first time, Saluda County received a disaster declaration for individual assistance through FEMA. Josh stated as of the prior day 2,672 residents of Saluda had registered for assistance and FEMA had already approved 1,220 of those applications amounting to 1.4 million dollars of assistance to individuals. FEMA teams are scheduled to be in various areas throughout the county to help individuals register for assistance. Josh read out the website, phone numbers and locations where residents can get assistance and resources.

#### H. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore reported that the last two weeks have been a difficult time for our county and that we mourn the loss of two of our firefighters, Chief Satcher and firefighter Bodie from the Circle Fire Department and a resident of Ridge Spring. He thanked residents for stepping up to help each other. Chairman Moore recognized our first responders and the work they have been doing and said that our Governor has recognized our Emergency Management as being weeks ahead of other counties in preparedness and response time. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the county employees for their work and announced that our new PIO was Rachel Porter.

Councilman Daniel thank all of the local organizations for their response in helping people in need and all of the first responders for their efforts. He stated that the storm touched all areas of the county including individuals and businesses.

Vice-Chairman Atkinson advised residents to slow down and be careful due to the right-of-ways not being clear even though the road is. He stated that the State had contractors going around to dispose of debris but this will take time.

Councilman Anderson stated that it has been challenging but the future is still bright. He announced the nuptials of Alex Berry and also Cole Gunter that had taken place during this time and the need to look forward.

Councilman Bedenbaugh expressed his gratitude for everything that has been said and thanked Josh Morton for keeping everyone updated during the past two weeks. He also said that Mr. Satcher and Bodie will be missed and the county is thankful for all of its volunteers and employees.

#### I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Moore recognized Miriam Atria with Capital City / Lake Murray Country Tourism who presented a tourism update for our area and made a request for funds from Accommodations Tax. Ms. Atria said that their group was charged with promoting tourism within our area of Richland, Lexington, Newberry and Saluda. Their largest focus is Lake Murry which is one of the largest assets in our area for recreation, living and tourism. She spoke on tracking short term rentals and restaurant sales to see what events bring the most tourism dollars to our area. She stated that in the past year over \$2 million dollars came into Saluda County through short term rentals during fishing tournaments and other events. She requested that we recommend a representative with a lot of energy and creativity to be on the 100<sup>th</sup> Dam Committee.

#### J. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Third Reading was

unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 08-24, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK AGREEMENT BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY AND AIKEN COUNTY ATTACHED AS SCHEDULE I OF ORDINANCE NO. 13-13; TO ADD OTHER PROPERTIES REQUESTED TO BE PLACED IN THE MULTI-COUNTY PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

K. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniels, a Public Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 09-24, “AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, DUE TO HURRICANE HELENE.”. Chairman Moore said during discussion that this emergency ordinance was adopted on September 27, 2024 declaring a state of emergency for the county to provide public assistance due to the negative impact of the hurricane. Per state statute 4-9-130 the normal reading requirements regarding ordinances found in statute 4-9-120 do not apply to emergency ordinances because of urgency and sometimes limited communication.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved to award the request for proposal for roof replacement at the Health Service Building to Mid-State Roofing in the amount of \$109,593 to be paid from the Building Repair Reserve Account. Chairman Moore recognized Heather Griffin, Purchasing Coordinator. Ms. Griffin recommended the lowest of 11 proposals received. She stated that we had worked with them in the past with good results.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved a temporary Public Assistance Contract with Cohn Reznick, LLP to be funded from the Public Safety Emergency Preparedness Account. Chairman Moore recognized Josh Morton, Emergency Management Director to explain the contract specifications. He said this would be a public assistant advisory service to help us through the FEMA submissions process to get the best reimbursement possible. He said this agreement would be for six months for the county claims.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously approved to issue an RFP For a Public Assistant Contract. Chairman Moore recognized Josh Morton again to explain the difference in the prior motion. Josh stated that this would come into effect after the temporary term and be a long-standing contract for future events.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to purchase tasers with first year’s maintenance plan and licenses for the Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$62,861.83 to be paid for out of the Contingency fund. Chairman Moore recognized Sheriff Josh Price to present the state contract quote. Sheriff Price expressed the need to have the tasers updated due to being unable to get replacement parts and said tasers are required under the use of force policy.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Anderson, council unanimously approved the quote from Bonitz to replace the water damaged flooring in the Administration Building in the amount of \$18,300 to be paid from the Building Repair Reserve Account.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to appoint current alternate, Stephanie Bonner to the Airport Commission with her term expiring October 15, 2029 with Phillip Jeffery Hodgens being appointed as the alternate.

L. Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson council went into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss a personnel issue in the Election and Registration Office and to return at the call of the Chair.

No action came out of Executive Session

M. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 P.M.

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Regina H. Turner  
Clerk to Council  
Date Approved: December 9, 2024

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James L. Moore, Saluda County Council  
Chairman