

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

A. CALL TO ORDER

The work session was called to order by Chm. Derrick W. Jones at 6:00 P.M.

Present were: Chm. Derrick W. Jones
Coun. Justin Anderson
Coun. Jones P. Butler
Coun. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Coun. Wayne Grice

Also present were: County Director, Sandra G. Padget
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle
County Attorney, Christian G. Spradley

B. INVOCATION

Coun. Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

D. WORK SESSION

1. Council discussed the following options for balancing the county operating budget:
 - a. County business licenses – A guesstimate of revenue from Saluda County business license fees if implemented, would be \$97,850.00 to \$100,000.00.
 - b. Road Maintenance Fee on Vehicles – Revisit the implementation of a \$25.00 road maintenance fee on approximately 20,000 vehicles registered in Saluda County. This would be for all wheeled, licensed, and registered vehicles in Saluda County. The fee would not be placed on vehicles that had exempt status. Revenue would be approximately \$500,000.00.

Council discussed they needed to communicate with the public about the fees if they decided to proceed with road maintenance fees. Three readings and a public hearing would be required prior to the January 2020 vehicles tax notices being generated.

- c. Public Safety Fee – Revisit the public safety fee on approximately 9,800 structures in Saluda County. The fee would be on one taxable structure per parcel/lot of land. A \$50.00 fee would be on each mobile home because they are taxed individually. (Examples: 1) one house with two other taxable structures would only be one fee; 2) six chicken houses on one parcel of land would only be one fee).
- d. Furlough County Employees – Of the 175 county employees, only 45 could be furloughed.
- e. Department budget cuts – Discussed department budget cuts and address cuts during the FY2020-2021 budget process.
- f. Adding millage for prior year deficit – State law allowed for millage to be added for prior year deficit. Millage would be placed on all tax bills and the taxpayer would be paying taxes based on the value of their property, vehicles, etc.

At the conclusion of the work session, consensus of Council was to: 1) begin readings to implement the county business license fees; 2) begin readings to implement a \$25.00 road maintenance fee; 3) consideration of placing eight (8) mills for prior year deficit on tax bills (could not be implemented till fall of 2020); and department cuts during the FY2020-2021 budget process.

E. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Grice, the work session was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Karen T. Whittle
Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council

Resigned prior to approval of minutes
Derrick W. Jones
Chairman

November 11, 2019
Date Approved

J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Vice-Chair

Justin Anderson
Justin Anderson
Council Member

Jones P. Butler
Jones P. Butler
Council Member

Wayne E. Grice
Wayne Grice
Council Member