

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 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: Chm. Jerry Strawbridge
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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chm. Strawbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Coun. Grice, seconded by Coun. Daniel, the minutes for August 10, 2020 were unanimously approved as submitted.

E. 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. You may also access the live stream of the meeting by going to the county's website at www.saludacounty.sc.gov, click on the you tube box in the top right hand corner and click on the September 14, 2020 video.

F. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

There were no reports from County Council Members.

G. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

There was no report from the County Council Chairman.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to ratify the resolution for Alvin H. Berry recognizing him for his retirement with Saluda County. (A copy of the resolution is on file in the Clerk to Council's office.)
2. Chm. Strawbridge informed Council American Land Holdings, who built Palmetto Pointe Subdivision, wanted to be released from a \$3 million bond and then American Land Holdings would issue the County a line of credit letter for \$250,000.00.

Chm. Strawbridge informed Council there was a punch list for work that still needed to be performed involving drainage issues that would prevent storm water runoff and cracks in the road. Chm. Strawbridge said the road built by McClam and surfaced by Satterfield, already had small cracks, referred to as reflective cracks, in one particular location, specifically in an area where soil and concrete were mixed to stabilize the base. McClam had given American Land Holdings a one-year warranty on the road, which was finished in April. Chm. Strawbridge said at some point, the County would receive the road from American Land Holdings under a two year probationary period and if anything happened to the road, American Land Holdings would have to repair the road. Chm. Strawbridge said he needed Council's input on how to proceed with American Land Holdings on releasing them from the \$3 million bond to the \$250,000.00 line of credit letter. Chm. Strawbridge said the line of credit meant if the County had to do something, the County would get the amount from the line of credit for the County's costs.

Council discussed the following, but not limited to, the line of credit standing behind the maintenance of the work performed on the roads; the County accepting the roads under the two-year probationary period and depending on their condition after the two years whether to accept them permanently or not; the small cracks were in one particular location of the road; the concern of the condition of the roads for the next several years due to travel by construction type vehicles with the building of houses in the subdivision; and items on the punch list being completed before releasing the bond.

Chm. Strawbridge entertained for a motion to act to allow American Land Holdings to release their \$3 million bond and issue the County the \$250,000.00 line of credit if the Council deemed that was sufficient protection for the County. Chm. Strawbridge said hearing no motion, he would have a conversation with American Land Holdings and tell them that the Council had not made a decision and as soon as they did the punch list items, then Council would consider it at that particular time.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chm. Strawbridge addressed the millage for Saluda County and Saluda School District One for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Chm. Strawbridge stated the current county millage was 155.80 and would be increasing to 158.90, an increase of 3.10 mills.

Chm. Strawbridge said the current school millage was 185.80 and would be increasing to 194.30, an increase of 8.50 mills. Chm. Strawbridge said there was a bond involved, which the school had the right and authority to seek, to obtain necessary items that COVID-19 has caused the past six months in preparation of in-person teaching as well as virtual teaching in the event of another outbreak.

County Millage

On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, Council unanimously approved the millage for Saluda County: 150.50 for County Operating; 1.00 mill for Law Enforcement; 1.00 mill for Public Building Maintenance; .50 mills for Economic Development; 1.00 mill for Fire Board Service; 3.00 mills for Piedmont Tech Appropriation; and 1.90 mills for Piedmont Tech Bond which was set by the Auditor and Treasurer in accordance with state law for a total of 158.90.

School District One Millage

On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Grice, Council unanimously approved the millage for Saluda School District One: 154.90 mills for School Operating and with School bonds set by the Auditor and Treasurer in accordance with state law at 19.50 mills for General Bond #1; 6.20 mills for General Bond #3; and 13.70 mills for General Bond #6 for a total of 194.30. During discussion Council and Auditor Memmus Forrest discussed general bonds # 2 and #4 were paid off and general bond #6 was only for one year.

2. On motion of Chm. Strawbridge, seconded by Coun. Anderson, it was unanimously approved to appoint Hugh G. Coats of 104 Oakwood Drive, Saluda to the Saluda County Library Board with his first term expiring June 30, 2024.
3. On motion of Chm. Strawbridge, seconded by Coun. Anderson, it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Jill Q. Altman of 403 East Butler Avenue, Saluda to the Saluda County Library Board with her second term expiring June 30, 2024.

Chm. Strawbridge reminded Council that a list was provided in their agenda package of appointments or re-appointments to boards and commissions and encouraged them to make appointments they were responsible for.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Coun. Grice, seconded by Coun. Daniel, it was unanimously approved for Council to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) and (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to: 1) discuss the restructuring of positions and job duties in the Emergency Management Division; 2) discuss personnel in the Council Office; and 3) receive legal advice on the Solid Waste Ordinance addressed in Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances for Saluda County.


On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Daniel, it was unanimously approved for Council to come out of Executive Session.

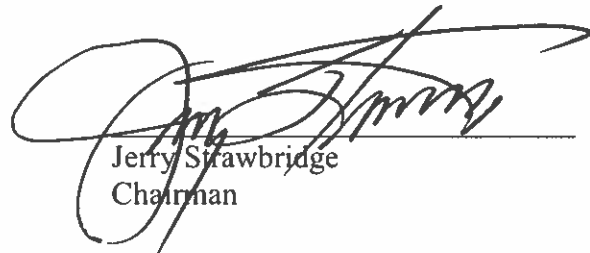
K. PUBLIC ACTION

1. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Anderson, it was unanimously approved to eliminate the Administrative Clerk position that serves in the County Council Office and the Emergency Management Division.

L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Grice, Council approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 P.M. (Voting in Favor: Chm. Strawbridge, Coun. Daniel, Grice, Butler). (Opposed: Coun. Anderson).


Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council


Jerry Strawbridge
Chairman

October 12, 2020
Date Approved