

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021 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: Chairman Jerry Strawbridge
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh

Absent was: Councilman Justin Anderson

Also present were: County Director, Sandra G. Padgett
Clerk to Council, Regina H. Turner
Attorney, James Knox

B. INVOCATION

Councilman Atkinson delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Strawbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councilman Daniel and seconded by Councilman Atkinson, the agenda was unanimously approved.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, the minutes for March 8, 2021 were unanimously approved as submitted.

F. 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. Temporarily we were unable to live stream the meeting but a recording was made for upload to the web site.

G. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Councilman Daniel expressed concern for everyone to stay safe.
2. Councilman Atkinson was hopeful for a fruitful meeting.
3. Councilman Bedenbaugh notified Council that prior Councilman Grice was now home form Self Memorial Hospital. He also wished Councilman Anderson a happy birthday. Councilman Bedenbaugh encouraged citizens to attend their local crime watch meeting.

H. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Chairman Strawbridge read a Proclamation from the Governor honoring Telecommunications week.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Strawbridge opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 02-21 “AN ORDINANCE TO LEASE THE QUONSET HUT OWNED BY SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, LOCATED AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT”. No one spoke on this ordinance.

Chairman Strawbridge opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 03-21 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH AIKEN COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN AIKEN COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SEC. 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH AIKEN COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.” No one spoke on this ordinance and the Public Hearing was closed.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was unanimously approved for Third Reading on Ordinance No. 02-21 “AN ORDINANCE

TO LEASE THE QUONSET HUT OWNED BY SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, LOCATED AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT”.

2. On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 03-21 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH AIKEN COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN AIKEN COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SEC. 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH AIKEN COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No. 04-21, “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021, FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCHOOL PURPOSES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: TO PROVIDE FOR LEVY OF TAXES AND THE TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE: TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF SAID TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING INTO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.

Chairman Strawbridge stated that the total school budget for 21-22 at first reading is \$20,688,655.00 and Saluda County Council shall determine and establish a tax of sufficient millage to support \$7,613,718.00 minus revenues and credits reflected on the tax receipt from Fee-in-Lieu, Property Tax Relief, Homestead Exemption, Tier 3 Property Tax Relief, Merchant Inventory, Manufacturer’s Depreciation and Motor Carrier, for a net amount of \$5,001,100.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes as county funding for the appropriations and levies made herein, and shall advise the Auditor who shall fix said millage as advised by the Council.

2. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No. 05-21, “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SALUDA COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SALUDA COUNTY FOR ALL COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX REVENUES AND OTHER COUNTY FUNDS; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER COUNTY PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021: AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT.”

Chairman Strawbridge stated that the total county budget for 21-22 at first reading is \$13,717,245.00.

3. Chairman Strawbridge entertained a motion to approved funds requested by the Town of Saluda for the reimbursement of legal fees incurred during their Special Election but no motion was made.
4. On Motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to adopt the Fair Housing Month Resolution as read by Chairman Strawbridge. (The resolution is on file in the Clerk to Council’s office.)
5. On Motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to adopt the Election Integrity Resolution as read by Chairman Strawbridge. (The resolution is on file in the Clerk to Council’s office.)
6. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to authorize the County Director to transfer funds as needed from Contingency to Balance Accounts for fiscal year ending 20-21.
7. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to designate the use of county property at 1708 Greenwood Highway to the Fire Service for the future expansion of a service facility and not be put up for sale. Councilman Daniel ask that the Chief of Mayson Fire Department, Randell Maffett be recognized to speak on the future plans of what the property would be used for.
8. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to authorize the County Attorney, James Knox, to take preliminary steps necessary for the potential conveyance of the Old Town Fire Department to the County.
9. On Motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved for funds for the Replacement of an HVAC Unit in the amount of \$9,150 to be paid from the Building Repair Reserve account.
10. Chairman Strawbridge recognized Heath Ward, Librarian to present his request to hire a Summer Intern at the Library. Mr. Ward stated that the intern will be helping with the summer program for children 0-12 and will be reimbursed by Saluda County First Steps and the agreement could be for up to 5 years.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved for the Library to hire a Summer Intern with all payroll expenses to be reimbursed by Saluda County First Steps.

11. On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to appoint Jennifer O. Barton of 203 Mt. Hebron Road, Leesville to the Saluda Nursing Center Board with her first term expiring 4-12-24.
12. On Motion of Chairman Strawbridge, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Jacob Schumpert, Solid Waste Coordinator, to the Tree Rivers Solid Waste Technology Committee.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh 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 contracts and receive legal advice on American Land Holdings line of credit and surety bond, a property dispute, and on industrial park developments and project "Light".

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to come out of Executive Session.

A motion by Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh was made to allow American Land Holdings to issue a surety bond to the county for maintenance on the property at Palmetto Pointe in lieu of the letter of credit.

During discussion Councilman Atkinson expressed concern regarding the bond company and its rating.

Councilman Atkinson asked to amend the motion to research the bond company and its bond rating and it was unanimously approved.

The County Attorney, James Knox, recommended to the Chairman to table the amended motion.

Chairman Strawbridge accepted the motion from Councilman Atkinson to table the motion and it was seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh and unanimously approved.

Councilman Bedenbaugh recused himself from the meeting.

Council approved to allow Will Williams of Economic Development Partnership to proceed with Project Light.

Councilman Bedenbaugh returned to the meeting room.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Council Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 P.M.

Regina H Turner
Clerk to Council

Jerry Strawbridge
Chairman

May 10, 2021
Date Approved