

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017 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 Donald E. Hancock called the regular meeting of Saluda County Council to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present were: Chm. Donald E. Hancock
Vice-Chair Gwendolyn C. Shealy (left E.S. @7:00)
Coun. Jones P. Butler
Coun. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Coun. D. J. Miller

Also present were: County Director, Sandra G. Padget
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle
County Attorney, Christian G. Spradley (left E.S. @6:47)

B. INVOCATION

Coun. Butler delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chm. Hancock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Shealy, the minutes for May 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 23, 24, June 1 and 6, 2017 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.

F. REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

1. Coun. Shealy reported she would be attending Palmetto Girls State later in the evening, June 12th for local government night.

2. Coun. Miller as Chairman of the Quality of Life Committee of County Council and District Two representative where Brooks Roston Park is located, read questions presented to Council in the May 8, 2017 Council meeting by Rev. Annette Mathis and read the answers from County Council. Following are the questions and answers as were read:
 1. Did the county council consult with the community, concerning the Brooks and Roston Park?
 - The county, on numerous occasions, has met with members of the Saluda Recreation District, as well as other community leaders, to assess the needs and concerns of the community. It is the input of the community, along with consideration for all tax payers that will ultimately help determine a plan for the park. County council appreciates all of the input, received from the community.
 2. Who does the county council believe owns the Brooks and Roston Park?
 - Legally, Saluda County owns Brooks and Roston Park. Saluda County believes that the Saluda Recreation District is the rightful owner, ethically, and would like to see a deed from Saluda County to the Saluda Recreation District executed, so that the land is actually owned by the intended owners.
 3. Instead of a Lease Agreement, why did the county council insist on a Quit Claim Deed, to give the Brooks and Roston Property to the county?
 - Because of our insurance requirements, Saluda County cannot insure a piece of property not owned by the county. When Saluda County legally obtained ownership of the property, many loose paper trails were found. While these loose paper trails were not legally substantial, the county sought to clean them up for future generations, so that the confusion that we are currently going through can be avoided.
 4. Is the county council responsible for cutting the timber of the Brooks and Roston Park property?
 - When it came to the attention of Saluda County that Mrs. Hook and Mrs. Satterwhite, and/or their estate, still owned the property, Mrs. Hook and Satterwhite, and/or estate, were informed of this. The timber was cut, at the instruction of Mrs. Hook and Satterwhite, and/or estate, and all proceeds from the timber cut went to them or their estate. It is after this cutting that Saluda County took legal ownership of the Brooks Roston Park. Saluda County did not order the cutting of the timber or receive any funds from that cutting.
 5. What future plans does the county council have for the Brooks and Roston Park?
 - The Saluda Recreation District was created by the state legislature, for the purpose of improving Saluda County's recreational opportunities. The Brooks and Roston Park was deeded to the Saluda Recreation District, however the deed failed. These were unfortunate circumstances, and Saluda County fully intends to turn over ownership to the Saluda Recreation District, for the district to develop as they see fit.

6. Why did the county close the Brooks and Roston Park, tear down the concession stand and restrooms, remove some of the playground equipment, shut off the water and electricity, and reopen it to the public.
 - The concession stand, restrooms, and playground equipment were condemned or deemed unsafe, by our insurance agency. To ensure public safety, these buildings and equipment were removed. During the removal process, the electricity was disconnected. The town of Saluda disconnected the water service. Saluda County reopened the park, so that the community could utilize the facilities that are still there and in working order. We realize that this is not ideal for a park, but we wanted some of the opportunities to be available to the community, while working with the community on the future of the park.
 7. When will the new concession stand, restroom, water and electric be back up and running for the community.
 - We hope to have a resolution to these concerns soon. A definite timeline cannot be stated at this point, because there are still many unknowns, but council intends to work with the community to resolve the issue as soon as possible.
 8. The Concerned Citizens developed the Brooks and Roston Park, and some things are sentimental and need to stay. The community has no desire to move the adult softball field, and that is the reason it was developed to play softball.
 - Saluda County intends to put ownership back in the hands of the Saluda Recreation District. The Saluda Recreation District will then have full control over the development of the park.
 9. Is the county funding the Ward Park, and do they own that park.
 - Ward Park is maintained by Saluda County, through an auto renewing lease agreement. Saluda County does not own the Ward Park.
3. Chm. Hancock commended the American Legion for the ceremony held on Memorial Day remembering military service members in the community.

Due to continued recuperation from hospitalization the week prior to June 12th, Chm. Hancock turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Gwendolyn C. Shealy.

G. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Vice-Chair Shealy recognized Mr. Kevin R. McLaughlin, SCDOT District 2 Engineering Administrator to discuss the Spann Road Bridge.

Mr. McLaughlin informed Council the earth approach on one side of the Spann Road Bridge, but not the bridge, located between Highways 378 and 391 was affected by the historic flood in October 2015. Mr. McLaughlin said FEMA funds had been received for repairs and SCDOT would be considering the following options: 1) to repair the damage area or 2) send out a mailer or have a public hearing for citizens in the community to express their thoughts on the possibility of closing the bridge. Mr. McLaughlin said SCDOT had not heard from citizens during the bridge closure, so they would like to receive input from the citizens whether to

repair the damaged area or close the bridge since access to major highways were in close proximity from either side of the bridge. Mr. McLaughlin thanked Council for allowing him to speak and said he wanted to inform County Council that he would be corresponding with their constituents in the community.

H. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Vice-Chair Shealy opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 05-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, 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: TO ESTABLISH A RESERVE ACCOUNT AND PROVIDE THAT ALL FUNDS IN EXCESS OF THE COUNTY APPROPRIATION WILL BE PAID INTO THE RESERVE ACCOUNT." Vice-Chair Shealy stated Saluda County Council shall determine and establish a tax of sufficient millage to support \$6,645,557.00 minus revenues and credits reflected on the tax receipt from Fee-In-Lieu, Property Tax Relief, Homestead Exemption, Tier 3 Property Tax Relief, and Motor Carrier, for a net amount of \$4,312,446.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes.

No one spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

2. Vice-Chair Shealy opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 08-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVE FUND BALANCE FOR AUDITOR AND TREASURER SETTLEMENT."

No one spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Miller, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 04-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE CORONER'S OFFICE OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO CHARGE A FEE FOR A CREMATION PERMIT." During discussion Vice-Chair Shealy stated a fee set in the annual county operating budget shall be paid to the Coroner for the issuance of a permit for cremation, such fee to be paid by the person requesting the permit. Funds received from this permit shall be returned to the general fund.
2. On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Daniel, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 05-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, 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: TO ESTABLISH A RESERVE ACCOUNT AND PROVIDE THAT ALL FUNDS IN EXCESS OF THE COUNTY APPROPRIATION WILL BE PAID INTO THE RESERVE ACCOUNT.” During discussion Vice-Chair Shealy stated Saluda County Council shall determine and establish a tax of sufficient millage to support \$6,645,557.00 minus revenues and credits reflected on the tax receipt from Fee-In-Lieu, Property Tax Relief, Homestead Exemption, Tier 3 Property Tax Relief, and Motor Carrier, for a net amount of \$4,312,446.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes.

During discussion Ms. Kathy Culclasure informed Council the increase between the FY2016-2017 and FY2017-2018 budgets was approximately \$1.2 million. Ms. Culclasure said the increase was for approximately \$480,000.00 in mandated teacher raises and three new teachers for classes due to increased enrollment; approximately \$705,000.00 in mandated retirement and health insurance increases; and \$10,000.00 in contract fees, property insurance, etc. Ms. Culclasure said approximately \$460,000.00 would come from local revenue and \$740,000.00 would come from state funding. Ms. Culclasure said figures were changed from second to third reading due to an adjustment in Fee-In-Lieu-of-Taxes being added to Ad Valorem taxes, but the adjustment would not require additional millage on current property over the allowed increase for CPI and growth.

3. On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 07-17, “AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 11-95, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MINIMUM BASE SALARIES OF CERTAIN ELECTED/APPOINTED SALUDA COUNTY OFFICIALS, AS CODIFIED IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES SALUDA COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, SECTION 2-92 MINIMUM BASE SALARIES.”
4. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Butler, and approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 08-17, “AN ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVE FUND BALANCE FOR AUDITOR AND TREASURER SETTLEMENT.” (Voting in Favor: Chm. Hancock, Vice-Chair Shealy, Coun. Butler, Daniel). (Opposed: Coun. Miller).
5. On motion of Chm. Hancock, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 09-17, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE TO THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALUDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 TO BALANCE THE SALUDA COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.” During discussion Vice-Chair Shealy stated currently the amount was not to exceed \$250,000.00.
6. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Chm. Hancock, and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 10-17, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE

TO THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALUDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 TO BALANCE THE SALUDA COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018.” During discussion Vice-Chair Shealy stated currently the amount was \$1,073,125.00.

7. Vice-Chair Shealy announced consideration to award the Request for Proposal for a new payroll system for Saluda County was being deferred until a later date.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Chm. Hancock, it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Rev. Faris Abney to represent the Public Sector on the GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission.
2. On motion of Chm. Hancock, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Ms. Betty Kenner to represent the Private Sector on the GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission.
3. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to re-appoint Ms. Jacqueline Rhinehart to represent the Low-Income Sector on the GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved for Council to go into Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to receive legal advice, to return at the Call of the Vice-Chair.

County Attorney Christian G. Spradley left executive session at 6:47 p.m. and Vice-Chair Gwendolyn C. Shealy left executive session at 7:00 p.m.


Council returned into open session at the Call of the Chair.

No action came out of Executive Session.

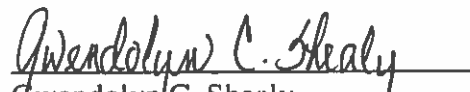
L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 P.M.


Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council


Date Approved


Donald E. Hancock
Chairman


Gwendolyn C. Shealy
Vice-Chair