

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 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  
Coun. Jones P. Butler  
Coun. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.  
Coun. D. J. Miller  
Coun. Gwendolyn C. Shealy

Also present were:

County Director, Sandra G. Padgett  
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle  
Attorney, Ralph Nichols Riley, Jr.

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. Miller, the minutes for February 13, 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 announced on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Saluda County EMS was awarded the 2016 Emergency Medical Services System of the Year – Large for South Carolina at the 2017 S.C. Emergency Care Symposium. Coun. Shealy stated the large system category included counties such as Charleston, Greenville, Lexington, Richland, and Spartanburg. Coun. Shealy said the EMS staff was recognized the morning of March 13<sup>th</sup> for their team effort in receiving and achieving this award in slightly over a year operating as a county entity.

Coun. Shealy reported that on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, Saluda County’s ambulance was awarded “Best in Show” at the Symposium, which was not awarded only for looks, but for best of interior arrangement so that equipment and medications were easily accessible in times of emergency.

2. Coun. Miller congratulated EMS on the above mentioned awards.
3. Chm. Hancock offered congratulations to Saluda County EMS staff and noted with the nearest hospital emergency room being located approximately 45 minutes from Saluda, having a strong, responsive EMS organization was clearly a vital resource for Saluda County.

G. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

1. Chm. Hancock recognized Mr. Jerome Davis for litter problems on Highway 23, Ridge Spring, South Carolina.

Mr. Davis addressed the problem of chicken feathers littering his property for the past 10 to 12 years coming from trucks hauling chickens on Highway 23 and to Valley Protein. Mr. Davis provided Council with pictures of feathers on his property that have reached a level he’s unable to pick up. Mr. Davis requested assistance in litter laws being enforced or for some type of intervention. Mr. Davis said the litter was also a problem for the appearance of Saluda County.

Chm. Hancock said the County could check into the problem and research if chicken feathers fell under litter laws.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Miller, and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 02-17, “AN ORDINANCE TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED ON THE OLD EMORY SCHOOL HOUSE.” During discussion Chm. Hancock explained the quit claim deed was Saluda County Council deeding to Emory School Inc. the property known as the former Old Emory School House and lot, as described more fully in the description of the deed, for \$5.00 and correction of deed.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Shealy, and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No 03-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 06-14 TO REDUCE LEASE RATES OF T-HANGARS OWNED BY SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, LOCATED AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT." During discussion Chm. Hancock read the following T-Hangar lease rates as recommended by the Airport Commission: T-Hangars 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 lease rate would decrease from \$175.00 to \$100.00; T-Hangar 5 lease rate would decrease from \$200.00 to \$125.00; and T-Hangar 8 lease rate would decrease from \$187.00 to \$105.00 or \$110.00 with rental of storage room.

Also during discussion Coun. Daniel said he hoped the rate reductions would improve business at the airport and Coun. Miller added Saluda County would be eligible for more grant funding from the FAA if all of the T-Hangars were leased, which would save money for the citizens of Saluda County.

2. Chm. Hancock recognized Risk Manager, Mike Berry to present for consideration the County Buildings Health and Safety Inspections Policy for Saluda County.

Mr. Berry informed Council the new policy would allow for regular health and safety inspections in all Saluda County buildings and would ensure health and safety standards were under control. Mr. Berry said identifying existing and potential hazards and taking corrective actions before accidents occurred, would make county facilities safer for employees and citizens. Mr. Berry stated the policy had been reviewed by the S.C. Association of Counties Director of Risk Management Services and he recommended the County move forward with adopting the policy.

Coun. Miller and Mr. Berry discussed the following: how often buildings would be inspected, with some buildings needing more frequent inspections than others; the goal of inspecting 2 buildings per month dependent upon time to inspect more than 2; the Courthouse being the first building inspected due to the number of employees and citizens using the Courthouse; and after the implementation of inspecting all buildings, a schedule being maintained for inspections.

On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Shealy, it was unanimously approved to adopt the County Buildings Health and Safety Inspections Policy for Saluda County.

3. Chm. Hancock recognized Fire Board Chairman, Chuck Adams to present consideration to issue a Request for Proposal for annual physicals for County Firefighters and EMS Employees.

Mr. Adams informed Council the contract for the annual physicals for County volunteer firefighters had expired and the Fire Board was seeking permission for a Request for Proposal be issued for physicals for the firefighters and EMS employees to be in accordance with NFPA standards.

Coun. Miller questioned the difference in the Request for Proposal for annual physicals for the firefighters and EMS employees and the Request for Proposal approved to be sought in the February meeting for pre-employment health screening of EMS employees and firefighters.

Mr. James Cole, the Training and Infectious Control Officer with EMS was present and informed Council that EMS would be seeking the Request for Proposal for the pre-employment health screenings according to NFPA 1582 standards. Mr. Cole said the annual physicals were similar and also in accordance to NFPA 1582 standards. Mr. Cole said the Labor Attorney was reviewing and would specify the wording for the pre-employment health screenings and the annual physicals and once approved, the Request for Proposal would be issued. Mr. Cole said the pre-employment and annual physicals would be separate sections, but would be in the same Request for Proposal and the same company would provide physicals for the Fire Service and EMS.

Coun. Butler explained annual physicals had been provided for firemen, but not pre-employment physicals for new firemen and that EMS had not had annual physicals in the past. Coun. Butler said this would provide a system where EMS and new firemen would have pre-employment physicals and EMS and the Fire Service would be provided annual physicals.

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Miller, it was unanimously approved for staff to issue a Request for Proposal for annual physicals for County Firefighters and EMS Employees.

4. Chm. Hancock addressed the replacement of carpet and tile in various rooms at the Saluda County Health Department due to the age and condition of the carpet and tile. Chm. Hancock said a quote had been obtained from Bonitz Flooring Group, a vendor off of the state contract, for floor replacement in the amount of \$17,370.29.

On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved for Bonitz Flooring Group, Inc. to replace the floor covering in various rooms at the Saluda County Health Department as quoted, in the amount of \$17,370.29 to be paid from the Public Buildings Repair millage account.

5. Chm. Hancock recognized Coun. Miller for consideration to obtain quotes for the demolition of the Old Roads and Bridges Building for the purpose of expanding the County Recreation Complex.

On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Shealy, it was unanimously approved to authorize staff to obtain quotes for the demolition of the Old Roads and Bridges Building for the purpose of expanding the County Recreation Complex. During discussion Coun. Miller said the Quality of Life Committee of Council (Coun. Miller and Coun. Shealy) met and due to the condition of the building that was no longer being used and the hazard it posed to the area, the committee decided for quotes to be obtained for the demolition of the building. Coun. Miller said this was obtaining quotes only, not implementing the demolition.

6. Chm. Hancock recognized Coun. Miller for consideration to authorize the Recreation Director to research the feasibility to move the adult softball field from Brooks Royston Park to the County Recreation Complex for the purpose of creating a unified County Recreation Complex, and to obtain quotes to construct the adult softball field.

Coun. Miller stated the following was coming out of the Quality of Life Committee of Council meeting (Coun. Miller and Coun. Shealy).

On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Shealy, it was unanimously approved to authorize the Recreation Director to research the feasibility to move the adult softball field from Brooks Royston Park to the County Recreation Complex for the purpose of creating a unified County Recreation Complex, and for the Recreation Director along with Council staff, obtain quotes to construct the adult softball field at the County Recreation Complex.

During discussion Coun. Daniel requested for Recreation Director, Paul Ergle to inform Council of plans for Brooks Royston and the County Recreation Complex. Mr. Ergle said plans for Brooks Royston Park were to work on playground equipment, renovate the basketball court, add a new restroom building, and once the softball field was moved, future plans were for a walking track. Mr. Ergle said in an effort to move Saluda County forward and to expand the County Recreation Complex as one County Park, plans were to move the adult softball field and other recreation facilities, such as the tennis courts, to the Recreation Complex off of the Batesburg Highway, instead of fields/facilities being placed throughout the County.

Also during discussion Coun. Miller said the committee considered the financial standpoint of additional expenses to the county citizens of operating and maintaining two separate county recreation facilities and concessions. Coun. Miller said this was not just about an adult softball field, it was about a huge unified recreation complex and hopefully it would help economic development and attract people to move to Saluda County knowing the County had a huge unified complex.

7. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Shealy, it was unanimously approved to adopt the Part-Time Process Server job description and the updated Full-Time Process Server job description. During discussion Chm. Hancock said at a called meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, Council approved the reorganization plan of some positions at the Sheriff's Office. A part-time Process Server position was created, therefore requiring a job description. In the process of creating the part-time process server job description, Chief Deputy Cockrell realized the full-time process server job description needed updating as well.
8. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Miller, it was unanimously approved for staff to issue a Request for Proposal for a Wage and Salary Study on County Employees.
9. On motion of Chm. Hancock, seconded by Coun. Shealy, it was unanimously approved to appoint Alfred E. (Trey) Fingerlin of 1179 Batesburg Hwy, Saluda, to the Saluda County Tax Appeals Board with his first term expiring March 14, 2019.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved for Council to go into Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1)(2) and (5) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss personnel, contractual, and economic development matters and to receive legal advice, to return at the Call of the Chair.

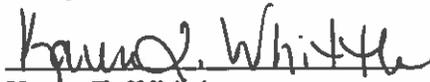
Council returned into open session at the Call of the Chair.

K. PUBLIC ACTION

1. On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to create a part-time Risk Management Assistant position to assist the Risk Manager/Solid Waste Coordinator 24 hours per week, at Pay Grade 14 hourly rate, to adopt the job description, to advertise according to County policy, and to fund from Contingency for the remainder of FY16-17.

L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 P.M.

  
Karen T. Whittle  
Clerk to Council

  
Donald E. Hancock  
Chairman

April 10, 2017  
Date Approved