

MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018 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 Called Meeting of Saluda County Council was called to order by Chairman Derrick W. Jones at 6:00 P.M.

Present were:

Chm. Derrick W. Jones
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

B. INVOCATION

Coun. Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chm. Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Chm. Jones recognized Jason Price, Chairman of the Saluda Conservation District to present consideration of funding for Soil and Water Conservation.

Before Mr. Price's presentation, Coun. Butler recused himself and left the Council Chambers during this item of business on the agenda. Coun. Butler had provided the following statement to the Clerk to Council: "As a farmer, I have received financial aid as well as advice from the Soil Conservation Agency. For this reason I must recuse myself from any discussion and voting on matters regarding this agency."

Mr. Price addressed a letter from the S.C. Department of Natural Resources of the state budget legislation, Part 1B Proviso 47.3 mandate that in order for the \$15,000.00 state appropriations to be issued to the conservation district, "the county shall have appropriated no less than \$300.00 to the district from county funds."

Mr. Price requested Council to reconsider the Soil and Water Conservation District's county funding for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 in order for the district to receive the \$15,000.00 state appropriations. Mr. Price reviewed with Council the cost sharing programs, contracts, and funding provided to the farmers of Saluda County through the Soil Conservation District and the economic impact they have on Saluda County. Mr. Price informed Council due to the increase of programs and contracts, the district needed to make a part-time position into a full-time position at the district office. Mr. Price also informed Council due to a decrease in federal funding, the position of a retiring employee would not be replaced.

During the FY2018-2019 budget process, Mr. Price had requested \$30,000.00 for the Soil and Water Conservation District, but due to budget cuts, Council cut the district's budget to \$0.00. In Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Council funded the district \$14,700.00.

Mr. Price and Council discussed the programs, contracts and the financial assistance to the farmers of Saluda County and the impact the lack of funding to the district would have on the farmers and Saluda County.

Chm. Jones asked for recommendations from Council for an amount of funding. Coun. Shealy recommended \$15,000.00 and Coun. Miller recommended \$30,000.00. Chm. Jones took a consensus, with all three Council members and the Chairman agreeing on \$30,000.00.

On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Daniel, it was approved to fund the Soil and Water Conservation District \$30,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to be funded from Contingency. Coun. Miller thanked Mr. Price for coming back to Council to request funding and informed Mr. Price the Soil and Water Conservation District was not singled out, that Council cut the budget across the board.

Coun. Butler returned to the Council Chambers.

2. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Shealy, it was approved to remove the hiring freeze on non-emergent positions. (In Favor: Coun. Daniel, Shealy, Butler, Chm. Jones). (Opposed: Coun. Miller). During discussion Coun. Miller said reasons still existed and he did not think the freeze needed to be removed.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chm. Jones recognized Roads and Bridges Superintendent, Billie Corley to present consideration to lease two tractors with mowers for the Roads and Bridges Department or repair mower equipment.

Mr. Corley stated during the FY2018-2019 budget process, he was asked to seek lease information on two tractors with mowers. Mr. Corley obtained lease information from Blanchard Machinery off of the state contract. Mr. Corley presented the lease information, prices, and payments as provided by Blanchard on two (2) New Holland tractors, one with a shoulder mower and one with an A-boom mower. Mr. Corley also addressed purchasing the power train plus extended warranty on the tractors and a two year extended warranty on the mowers, due to issues with the department's current tractors and mowers.

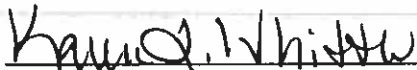
Mr. Corley also informed Council that a pinion broke on one of the current Challenger tractors last week and the estimate to repair or replace the part was over \$8,000.00. Mr. Corley addressed the options of repairing the tractor and its effect on the trade-in value of the tractor and lease.

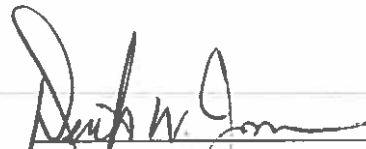
Council and Mr. Corley discussed but not limited to, the brands of tractors, the lease prices, warranties, payments, entering the lease in FY2018-2019 or waiting to lease in FY2019-2020, current tractors/mowers and their past cost of repairs, and their trade-in values.

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Shealy, it was unanimously approved to enter into the lease with Blanchard for two (2) 2018 New Holland Tractors; one with a shoulder mower and one with an A-boom mower with a two year extended warranty on the mowers and the power train plus extended warranty on the tractors as recommended by the Roads and Bridges Superintendent, with payments to be made from the Heavy Equipment reserve account.

G. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Daniel, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 P.M.


Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council


Derrick W. Jones
Chairman

September 10, 2018
Date Approved