

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 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

Vice-Chairman J. Frank Daniel, Sr. called the regular meeting of Saluda County Council to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present were:

Vice-Chm. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Coun. Justin Anderson
Coun. Jones P. Butler
Coun. Wayne Grice

Also present were:

County Director, Sandra G. Padget
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle

B. INVOCATION

Vice-Chm. Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chm. Daniel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Butler, the minutes for May 6, 11, 14, and 18, 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 June 8, 2020 video.

F. REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

There were no reports of County Officials.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Vice-Chm. Daniel opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 04-20, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020, 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."

Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized Superintendent of Saluda School District One, Dr. Harvey Livingston.

Due to the effect COVID-19 had on the preparation of the school budget, Dr. Livingston explained not knowing what the school district would be facing in the fall of 2020, the school district received recommendation from the State Board of Education, along with the school board to request the same expenditures and revenues as the current 2019-2020 budget. Dr. Livingston said the school board passed third reading of the budget at their May meeting, which were the same figures for the school budget that Council gave second reading in May. Dr. Livingston said the school district received the letter from Executive Director, Frank Rainwater of the State Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs last week on the CPI and growth percentage that the school district was allowed to increase ad valorem taxes. Dr. Livingston said normally the letter was received in March or April, which allowed time for the school district to request updated figures.

Dr. Livingston read the following letter from the School District dated June 2, 2020 that was provided to Council in their agenda package: "In light of new information received from SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office this week, Saluda County School District One is considering requesting the full increase for CPI and county growth in the 2020-21 county appropriation amounts. Based on our calculation, a change of \$133,298.00 will be considered for the Ad Valorem Taxes."

Dr. Livingston said the school board may or may not decide at their June 15th board meeting to amend the school budget and depending on the action of the school board, they may be providing an updated budget for third reading.

Dr. Livingston said the general assembly was to return to session in September to review revenues.

Vice-Chm. Daniel said due to the school considering to request the CPI increase after second reading, Council would hold another public hearing on the school budget at the June 22nd meeting before third reading. Vice-Chm. Daniel also stated Council would hold a budget work session on June 15th.

No one else spoke and the public hearing was closed.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Grice, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 06-20, "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 2020-2021 TO BALANCE THE SALUDA COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021." Vice-Chm. Daniel said currently the amount was not to exceed \$225,000.00.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between the Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARFORSOC) and the County Council of Saluda County, South Carolina. During discussion Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized Sgt. Mark Davis. Sgt. Davis said the MOU was to continue using the Saluda County Airport for military aircraft to land and students to get in civilian vehicles to travel to surrounding counties to participate in training exercises.
2. On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to appoint Bill Keisling to the Saluda County Fire Board as representative for Midlands Fire department with his first term expiring June 30, 2024 and to appoint Melissa Rodgers as the alternate.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Coun. Grice, seconded by Coun. Anderson, it was unanimously approved for Council to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss personnel in the Emergency Management department to return at the Call of the Vice-Chair.

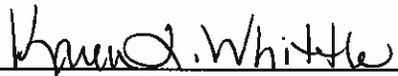
Council returned into Open Session at the Call of the Vice-Chair.

K. PUBLIC ACTION

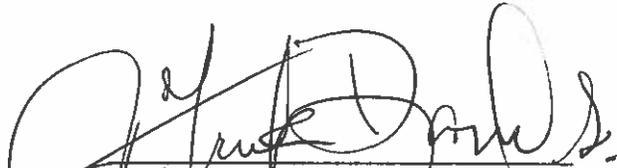
1. On motion of Coun. Grice, seconded by Coun. Butler, Council unanimously approved a four (4) step pay increase for the GIS & E911 Addressing Analyst, with the difference of the pay increase and county portion of retirement being funded with E911 surcharge funds.

L. ADJOURNMENT

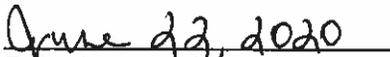
On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 P.M.



Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council



Frank Daniel, Sr.
Vice-Chairman



Date Approved