

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Moore called the regular meeting of Saluda County Council to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present were: Chairman Jim Moore
Vice-Chairman Carey Bedenbaugh
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Justin Anderson

Also Present were: Sandra G. Padget, Administrator
Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council
Ginny Bozeman, County Attorney

B. INVOCATION

Chairman Moore delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Moore 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 regular meeting was given to the local news media and properly posted, to include the county website.

The following notice was placed at the beginning of the agenda:

Please note meetings are open to the public. Access to the video is available by going to the County's Facebook page (Saluda County, SC Government).

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel the agenda was unanimously approved.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson the minutes were unanimously approved for December 8th, 2025.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council members Atkinson, Anderson, Bedenbaugh and Chairman Moore welcomed everyone attending the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year. Councilman Bedenbaugh expressed his thankfulness for the employees of the county.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen David Clary stated that the county needed to start its new year with change. He expressed concern over department budgets.

Citizen Katie Hall spoke about citizen issues regarding addressing, public safety responses, firefighters purchasing their own radios and new services originating from EMD office. She also stated that these new systems should not be implemented until purchases are at 98% operating. Ms. Hall stated that due to address changes mortgage companies have called in loans, not recognizing court orders and divorce decrees and citizens have experienced loss of insurance coverage. She stated the letter from the county carries no authority. She asks that when emergency funding is requested council needs to show accountability as to immediate threat to life and all other funding be processed through regular budget processes.

I. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedenbaugh Council unanimously approved to ratify a Resolution Honoring the Retirement of Auditor, Memmus Forrest. Chairman Moore stated that this resolution was previously presented to Mr. Forrest during his retirement drop-in on December 16th. Chairman Moore read the Resolution and presented Mr. Forrest a copy and Council Members congratulated Mr. Forrest for his service.

On motion of Vice Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel Council unanimously approved a Resolution in Memory of Rex Kenneth Abney. Chairman Moore read the Resolution and presented it to Mr. Abney's family. Council members expressed their sympathy to the family.

On motion of Vice Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved to accept the 2024-2025 Audit as presented by the CPA firm, Rish and Enzastiga. David Enzastiga summarized the audit and presented an unmodified opinion with no findings.

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved the update to the Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority Agreement. Chairman Moore recognized the County Attorney who explained the minor updates which included stating that the county would not place impacts over their utility right of way.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously approved to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with GoodWill Industries. Chairman Moore said this allows GoodWill to provide their drop off boxes at three of our Convenience Center locations. (Traffic Circle, Batesburg (Highway 178), and Bethany-Denny Highway)

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved administrative staff to issue a Request for Quote for Actuary Services. In discussion Chairman Moore stated under GASB75 standards the County is required to have a third-party evaluation of retiree insurance to project future liabilities of the cost and funding and to make sure the County is assuming the correct responsibility.

On motion of Vice Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously appointed Dale Whittle to serve on the Capital Project Sales Tax Committee to replace Member Tom Dorn due to a conflict of service and update the CPST Resolution approved in the December 8th meeting.

Chairman Moore stated that when the Detention Center is completed in the next few months it will be the end of every project from the previous CPST that was voted on in 2018. He explained that this is not an additional tax. The tax will just pick up and continue through another round of projects.

On motion of Vice Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously appointed Brandy Cromley as an Alternate Member to the Capital Project Sales Tax Committee and to add this update to the CPST Resolution approved in the December 8th meeting. In discussion Chairman Moore stated this will allow us to have a backup to fill in when a member is not present or if a member has to recuse themselves from a discussion. He explained that the panel will decide which project will be funded.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1) and (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976 as amended to discuss personnel in the Administrative Office and to receive legal advice regarding Three Rivers Solid Waste Agreement and we will return at the call of the Chair. Chairman Moore explained that council can only discuss items listed to discuss in executive session.

Chairman Moore called Council back into open session.

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to promote Regina Turner to County Administrator as of April 1, 2026. Under discussion Chairman Moore said that Council has reluctantly accepted the retirement notice of current County Administrator, Sandra Padget as of March 31, 2026. Under state law 4-9-620 it allows council to hire someone with the administrative ability and to promote from within.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson it was unanimously approved to appoint Heather Griffin as Clerk to Council / Assistant Administrator as of April 1, 2026.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to allow administrative staff to advertise the position of Financial & Purchasing Coordinator with any additional funding to be paid for out of Contingency. In discussion Chairman Moore stated due to the need in filling this position before it becomes vacant and training time additional funds may be needed due to the overlap of position changes.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, it was approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 P.M.

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council
Date Approved: February 9, 2026

James L. Moore, Chairman