

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025 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 Jack Atkinson
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh

Also present was: Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council
Sandra G. Padget, Administrator
Virginia Bozeman, County Attorney

Absent: Councilman Justin Anderson

B. INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman Atkinson 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 live video is available by going to the County's Facebook page (Saluda County, SC Government).

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Bedenbaugh stated that he was glad to see Councilman Daniel back with us. Vice-Chairman commented on the beautiful sky as he was coming into the meeting and that's how he sees Saluda.
Councilman Daniel thanked everyone for their concerns as he has been out.

Chairman Moore reminded everyone of the Fire Service Banquet after the Council Meeting. He opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chairman. Councilman Daniel made the recommendation of Councilman Bedenbaugh to serve as Vice-Chairman. Councilman Bedenbaugh nominated Vice-Chairman Atkinson to serve another year. Chairman Moore moved to closed the nominations. Chairman Moore, Vice-Chairman Atkinson and Councilman Daniel voted in favor of Councilman Bedenbaugh for Vice-Chairman. Councilman Bedenbaugh voted in favor of Vice-Chairman Atkinson. Chairman Moore congratulated Councilman Bedenbaugh as Vice-Chairman.

H. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Paul Gilbert to speak regarding the status of planning updates. Mr. Gilbert expressed his concern and wanted Council to move forward with the comprehensive plan to be prepared with a path for the next 20 years. He explained the process of what would be needed such as a land use plan, zoning ordinance, target industry study, retail leakage study and residential market reviews.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Moore opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 10-24, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THAT CERTAIN AMENDED AND RESTATED FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND CATALINA SOLAR, LLC, RELATING TO, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE EXPANSION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY COMPRISING THE PROJECT, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS".

No one signed up to speak

J. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, Third Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 10-24, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THAT CERTAIN AMENDED AND RESTATED FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND CATALINA SOLAR, LLC, RELATING TO, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE EXPANSION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY COMPRISING THE PROJECT, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS".

K. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved the Resolution Honoring the Retirement of Probate Judge, Brenda Griffith. Chairman Moore read the Resolution.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved the Resolution Honoring the Retirement of Coroner, Keith Turner. Chairman Moore read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Turner. Mr. Turner thanked council and his family for their support.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to accept the Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 2023-2024. David Enzastiga, CPA for Rish & Enzastiga Accounting Firm presented the independent audit report with an unmodified opinion and went over some key points within the audit.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to appoint, Rudolph Scott to the Tax Appeals Board with his first term expiring January 13, 2027.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to appoint, Carlton Jackson Whidby to the Planning Commission with his first term expiring January 13, 2028.

L. 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) (2) and (5) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss a potential economic development opportunity, a planning contract, pending legal matters and to return at the call of the Chair.

Chairman Moore called Council back into open session and asked if there were any motions.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, Council unanimously accepted and authorized the administrator to sign the one-year planning contract as submitted.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice Chairman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 P.M.

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council

Date Approved: February 10, 2025

James L. Moore, Saluda County Council
Chairman