

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MAY12, 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 Carey Bedenbaugh  
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.  
Councilman Jack Atkinson  
Councilman Justin Anderson

Also present was:

Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council  
Sandra G. Padget, Administrator

B. INVOCATION

Councilman Daniel 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 Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh seconded by Councilman Atkinson the agenda was unanimously approved.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh seconded by Councilman Daniel the minutes were unanimously approved for April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Daniel announced the upcoming Peachtree 23 and urged citizens to join in the 44 miles of fun. He also recognized the Mayor of Ridge Spring, Qwendolyn Etheridge in attendance.

Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh stated that he attended the Mother's Day luncheon at the Nursing Center.

He said that there was a good crowd attending the Poultry Festival even though there was rain. He thanked the local poultry industry in the county for all they provide. Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh stated that Saluda County had the Teacher of the Year in 1967 and now his son, Cory Bedenbaugh received this award in 2025 at the Governor's Mansion. He also stated that he enjoyed seeing positive news instead of negativity in the media.

Councilman Atkinson appreciated the nurses in attendance and was looking forward to seeing their presentation.

Councilman Anderson congratulated his daughter and her softball team for their efforts and announced that the King Academy Knights would be playing in the State Championship games.

Chairman Moore stated that he was proud of Cory Bedenbaugh's accomplishment. He also noted the passing of Sheriff Price's mother. Chairman Moore announced a workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> about the budget and meeting with the Election Commission. He stated that he was proud of working with the men on Council he knew that there have been some negative comments and maybe some people just didn't understand all of what is done. He asked that anyone with concerns or questions to please call and make an appointment and he will sit down and discuss any issue.

#### H. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Chairman Moore recognized Fire Service Coordinator, Mark Lybrand who presented three Fire Fighters with the Distinguished Service Pin as a token of the County's appreciation for their dedicated service. Firefighters Ethan Derrick and Cory Harmon were pinned for their volunteer service in the Table Rock and Pinnacle Ridge area fires. Michael Gray was recognized but unable to attend the council meeting.

Chairman Moore recognized the Volunteer SC Nurse Honor Guard who replicated their end of life presentation honoring nurses service to the community. Chairman Moore presented the group with a Resolution unanimously approved by a motion from Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh and seconded by Councilman Anderson.

#### I. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Moore opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 03-25, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE TO THE BUILDING RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BUILDING." No one signed up to speak.

Chairman Moore opened the Public Hearing on the Saluda County Hazard Mitigation Plan. No one signed up to speak.

#### J. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved third reading on Ordinance No. 01-25, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON HWY 178 SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA TO INDUSTRIAL MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC.". Chairman Moore reminded everyone that the price and exact acreage can be announced after the agreement is final.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, Council unanimously approved third reading on Ordinance No. 03-25, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE TO THE BUILDING RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BUILDING.” Chairman Moore stated that the EMS Building was being funded from approved ARPA funds and the balance would come from the county’s fund balance account.

K. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, Council unanimously approved second reading on Ordinance No. 04-25, “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, 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. Chairman Moore stated that Saluda County Council shall determine and establish a tax of sufficient millage to support \$6,390,689.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes as county funding for the appropriations and levies made herein, and shall advise the Auditor who shall fix said millage as advised by the Council. The total budget for second reading for the school is \$28,997,065.00 which is the same as first reading.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously approved second reading on Ordinance No. 05-25, “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SALUDA COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SALUDA COUNTY FOR ALL COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX REVENUES AND OTHER COUNTY FUNDS; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER COUNTY PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025: AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT.” Chairman Moore noted that the amount for Second Reading on the county operating budget is \$17,863,170.00. The difference in proposed expenditures and revenues is \$226,129.00.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Council Daniel, Council unanimously approved first reading on Ordinance No. 07-25, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 44 OF TITLE 12, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND FAIRVIEW SOLAR, LLC, THE EXPANSION AND INCLUSION OF THE PROPERTY IN A MULTICOUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK, THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”. Under discussion, Chairman Moore said that if this project is built they will pay approximately \$292,000 per year on a previously taxed \$1,000 property. He explained that a multicounty industrial park is not really a park it is just a park on paper.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, Council unanimously approved first reading on Ordinance No. 08-25, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND AIKEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”. Chairman Moore stated that the Company’s investment is being made in Aiken County and Saluda is the partner county.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved a Resolution for Juror Pay. Chairman Moore read the resolution and noted that this increases Juror pay from \$15 to \$20 per day effective July 1, 2025.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously approved the request and payment for the change order on the Access Road Extension with funds being appropriated from the Economic Development Millage account. Chairman Moore explained that this pays for boring under the drive for Tractor Supply per DOT requirements.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, Council unanimously approved the request to transfer the Library Aid, state funded position, from part time to full time. Chairman Moore recognized Jessica Duzan, Library Director, to explain her request. Ms. Duzan explained that due to change in hours and service she was requesting the full-time hours to go into effect on May 17th. She also explained that this would be at no extra cost to the county and that this is strictly a state funded position.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, Council unanimously approved the request to issue a Bid for a 3,000-gallon Fire Tanker/Pumper. Chairman Moore recognized Mark Lybrand, Fire Coordinator, who explained the need due to water leaking and it can no longer be repaired and the other truck holds water but does not pump. The Fire Service has tried to apply for grants but has not been unsuccessful. Mr. Lybrand said that due to the economy the cost has been fluctuating.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to appoint John R. Rita as the alternate on the Airport Commission.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (2) and (3) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss Security and to receive legal advice on road closure request and to return at the call of the Chair.

Chairman Moore called Council back into open session.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh it was approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

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Regina H. Turner  
Clerk to Council  
Date Approved: June 9, 2025

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James L. Moore, Saluda County Council  
Chairman