

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024 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 Carey Bedenbaugh
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Justin Anderson

Also present were:

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

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 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 Anderson the minutes for April 8th, 15th and 29th, 2024 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore recognized the upcoming Clerk to Council Day and thanked the Clerk for the job she does.

Councilman Daniel thanked the Clerk and notified every one of the Peachtree 23 being held on June 1st. Vice-Chairman Atkinson and Councilman Anderson wished all mothers a belated Happy Mother's Day. Councilman Bedenbaugh informed everyone that he toured the recently constructed Morgue and everything looks nice. He also attended the girls' softball game in Blacksburg and commented on how well they have played this year, the good coaches and also the baseball team. Councilman Bedenbaugh also let everyone know that they can sign up to speak in advance if they have any concerns and can also call their councilmember to discuss any issue.

H. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Moore recognized Gail Meyer to speak offering observations and suggestions in Leadership and Community Engagement. Ms. Meyer expressed concern about Law Enforcement pay verses Roads and Bridges improvements, the inability to reach members of council through email and meeting attendance. She stated that she would like to see a system implemented to welcome new residents and a think tank established to foster new and innovative ideas for county development and government. She also requested voters to contact their council members and ask them to vote no on the upcoming Road Fee.

Chairman Moore recognized Matt Pierce who spoke about taxes and the impact on tax payers. He recited statistics from the Census Bureau that showed the county's lower population and average pay and that it was hard to live off of wages of \$51,000 per year. Mr. Pierce stated that the county needs to find a better way to generate income or spend less.

Chairman Moore recognized Sheriff Josh Price who spoke in response to the last Council meetings presentation regarding comments made by a presenter which were not true. Sheriff Price expressed his opposition to comments made about local law enforcement officers, performance of duties and interaction with other agencies.

I. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Moore asked if there was a motion to be made to approve Second Reading on Ordinance No. 03-24, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SERVICE CHARGE FOR MOTORIZED VEHICLE USERS OF THE COUNTY ROADS OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.". No one made any motion.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh, Second Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 04-24, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, 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. "

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, Second Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 05-24, 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, 2024; 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, 2024; 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, 2024; AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT.” Chairman Moore stated that the difference in proposed revenues and expenditures is \$97,339.00.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Anderson the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Addendum to the Employer Resolution for Participation in the State Insurance Benefits Program Regarding County Councilmember Coverage was unanimously approved. Chairman Moore read the Resolution. Vice-Chairman Atkinson asked for clarification that this was just for Council members or other elected officials. Chairman Moore stated that it was just for Council to have that option for insurance.

J. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 P.M.

James L. Moore, Saluda County Council
Chairman

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council
Date Approved: June 10, 2024