

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 8, 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, Arrived 6:01
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Justin Anderson

Also present were: County Administrator, Sandra G. Padget
Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council

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 Councilman Anderson seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh the agenda was unanimously approved.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice Chairman Atkinson the minutes for June 10th and 20th, 2024 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore notified every one that the county has been experiencing issues with the phone system and it is beyond its service ability. The County will be changing over to an internet-based service verses and in-house system. It has the potential to be a cost savings over our current system. He announced that our 8U and 12U Softball teams are undefeated in the state tournaments and the 10U girls have lost 1

game and all three are playing this afternoon. Chairman Moore also congratulated Councilman Daniel for being elected as Vice-Chairman of the Upper Savannah Council of Governments Board. Councilman Daniel thanked his family members who were in the audience to support him. He expressed sympathy to the families of Warren Butler and Rodney Minick who recently passed away. Vice-Chairman Atkinson made everyone aware of the arrangements for Mr. Minick. Councilman Anderson stated that it was a heavy loss for the community with two long time business owners passing away. Councilman Bedenbaugh also expressed his sympathy. He stated that he was thankful for the recent rain, his fellow council members and all of the winners in the recent election.

H. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Moore recognized Gail Meyer to speak about concerns and expenses. Ms. Meyer expressed concern about additional funding for the Sheriff's Department. She also questioned the purchase and invoices for Ambulances and the sale of older ones. Ms. Meyer questioned the purchasing of a Sheriff vehicle listed on the agenda and why the County already has it. Ms. Meyer was also concerned about contacts for Council Members and replies for previous questions.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Moore opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 07-24, "AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR A FIXED BASE OPERATOR, TYLER FLOM DBA/LEADING EDGE AVIATION AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT." No one signed up to speak.

J. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Third Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 07-24, "AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR A FIXED BASE OPERATOR, TYLER FLOM AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT."

K. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Moore recognized Mark Lybrand, Fire Service Coordinator who publicly presented a State issued Award to Tanner Quattlebaum and Josh Mills for honorable service at a fire located at the Circle in the past year. Council expressed their gratitude for their volunteer service.

On motion of Councilman Daniel seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh, Council unanimously approved to award the Courthouse and American Legion Building Repair request for proposal to JD Gaskins Construction, Inc in the amount of \$136,912 to be paid from the Building Repair Reserve Account. Chairman Moore recognized Heather Griffin, Purchasing Coordinator to explain the recommendation. Heather stated that upon council's request she issued a request for proposal for researching and repairing damage caused by water in the Courthouse and American Legion Building. A committee reviewed those and made the recommendation to award. There was some discussion on the age of the building.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved to purchase the 2017 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor and have it upfitted from the Vehicle Reserve Account not to exceed \$23,000. Chairman Moore recognized Hardee Horne, Fleet Manager who recommended the purchase. He requested funds from the Vehicle Reserve Fund to cover the cost of the used vehicle and to have it upfitted. He said that it would replace a 2009 Crown Vic that has more

mechanical issues that it is worth to repair. Mr. Horne said that he had made arrangements to have it here and get an estimate to have it upfitted. Chairman Moore asked if the Sheriff was in favor of the purchase and Mr. Horne said that he was and listed the problems that the Crown Vic was having. Chairman Moore asked if the Sheriff saw this as a good expenditure of the tax payer's money. Mr. Horne said absolutely. Councilman Anderson ask how much he thought we would get for the Crown Vic and Mr. Horne replied that it would be about \$1,000. Councilman Daniel said that he circulated a picture of the interior and exterior and said it looked to be in great shape.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to purchase a new Ambulance under the current Fraizer Contract in the amount of \$281,018.75 to be paid from Ambulance Reserve. Chairman Moore recognized Jacob Starnes, EMS Director to discuss the purchase request. Mr. Starnes said that he is requesting to go ahead and get this ambulance on order because of the long lead time on receiving one. He said it takes 12 to 16 months to receive the chassis and then have the box upfitted. Chairman Moore stated that we already have one on order and we made a down payment on it. Mr. Starnes said that the \$75,000 was for the chassis and then it goes into order manufacturing. Delivery of the first one should be December 2024 through February 2025 so this one would not be ready until 2026. Chairman Moore said the older one will be sold when the new ones arrive. He also said he heard that we had called another county due to all of our ambulances being in use today. Mr. Starnes said that we had to contact Edgefield. Councilman Daniel said that our service runs a good service and we put a lot of miles on a vehicle. Councilman Bedenbaugh said he was thankful that our surrounding counties come to our aid when needed and that we need to work together and help one another. He asked how the service was doing on personnel and Jacob responded that we were currently short one employee. Chairman Moore asked if the current response times were still around 8 minutes and Jacob agreed. Councilman Bedenbaugh thanked Mr. Starnes for running calls himself.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to appoint Michael Anthony Mancari to the Tax Appeals Board with his term expiring July 9, 2026.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice- Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to resend the appointment of Josh Mills to the Fire Board with Jay Crouch being the alternate representing the Hollywood Fire Department with their terms expiring June 30, 2028. Chairman Moore state that the names got reversed and this was to clear it up.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to appoint Jay Crouch to the Fire Board with Josh Mills being the alternate representing the Hollywood Fire Department with their terms expiring June 30, 2028. Councilman Bedenbaugh said he was thankful for all the volunteers.

L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council

Date Approved: August 12, 2024

James L. Moore, Saluda County Council
Chairman