

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 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 J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Justin Anderson
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh

Also present were:

County Administrator, Sandra G. Padgett
Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council

B. INVOCATION

Councilman Bedenbaugh 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 Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice Chairman Atkinson the minutes for July 8th, 2024 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore offered his condolences to Councilman Bedenbaugh on the loss of his mother. He also mentioned the increase in FOIA requests and the need for the public to be informed on topics but asked for patience getting those requests fulfilled.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, Council unanimously

approved a Resolution Honoring the World Series Softball Championship Team. Chairman Moore read the resolution and presented the individual players with their copy and award. Chairman Moore also notified the public that we would be implementing a new phone system within the next two weeks. Chairman Moore explained what a Public Hearing was versus a Public Presentation. He also reported on an inspiring speech by former Governor David Beasley in the recently attended SCAC Conference. Councilman Daniel said that he was proud of the positive things he had witnessed in the meeting. Vice-Chairman Atkinson stated the meaning of democracy and asked everyone to be informed on the difference of democracy and a democratic republic. Councilman Anderson recognized the work ethic of our Girls Softball teams and Coaches. Councilman Bedenbaugh congratulated the girls' continued excellence, the parents' dedication and our recreation department's efforts. He stated that he was thankful for all county employees and our public safety departments reaction to recent occurrences. He thanked everyone for the outpouring of support for his family in the past week. Councilman Bedenbaugh also asked that everyone get out and vote in the upcoming election.

H. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Moore recognized Skeets Cooper, District 3 Commissioner of the SC Aeronautics Commission, who spoke on the impacts that small airports have to a community. He stated some of the aeronautical benefits that help expand our business and recreational exposure to those coming into the state. He also commended Saluda County in its support of its young people and the influence it would have on them and the Counties' future.

Chairman Moore recognized James Gowan of the Faith Home who spoke about their addiction recovery program. He requested to partner with Saluda County in receiving Opioid funds to help support their effort in expanding their capacity to accept more participants.

Chairman Moore recognized Rick Green of Upper Savannah Council of Governments who spoke on upcoming road improvement programs through SCDOT. He emphasized the roadway departure plan that helps to reduce fatalities by widening the stripe on the road edge and rumble strips.

I. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, First Reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 08-24, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK AGREEMENT BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY AND AIKEN COUNTY ATTACHED AS SCHEDULE I OF ORDINANCE NO. 13-13; TO ADD OTHER PROPERTIES REQUESTED TO BE PLACED IN THE MULTI-COUNTY PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO." Chairman Moore stated that this Industrial Park was not located in Saluda County but that it was adjacent and we receive funds for this partnership.

On motion of Councilman Daniel seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, Council unanimously approved to reassign the location of the Fire Training Center to Map number 100-00-00-38. Chairman Moore recognized Mark Lybrand, Fire Service Coordinator, and Austin Rogers who explained the move back to this previous location will move them forward to implement the future plan of the facility to help train our volunteer firefighters. Austin Rogers said that the plan was to build a six to seven container Conex facility that would be NFPA approved.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved to accept the Job Description for a Part-Time Planner.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Anderson Council unanimously approved the Professional Services Agreement with SafeBuilt. Vice-Chairman Atkinson expressed his concern about NGO's and Codes vs. Laws. Chairman Moore stated that SafeBuilt used the South Carolina building codes regulations. Councilman Bedenbaugh requested the Chairman set up a work session with Safebuilt to go over some of the regulations and concerns of the citizens.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to allow Council Staff to issue an RFP for a New Roof System or Proposed Solution for the Health Service Building. Chairman Moore recognized Heather Griffin, Purchasing Coordinator. Ms. Griffin explained that the roof was 35 years old and stated some of the issues that have been corrected and some of the ongoing problems the building has been having. Vice-Chairman asked if it was the original roof and Ms. Griffin stated that it was.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to appoint Frank Gibson Bethea to the Library Board with his term expiring August 13, 2028.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved for Council 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 economic development and for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding county roads and to return at the call of the Chair.

The Chairman called Council back into open session.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 P.M.

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council
Date Approved: September 9, 2024

James L. Moore, Saluda County Council
Chairman