

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023 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
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Vice-Chairman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh

Absent was: Councilman Justin Anderson

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

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 Councilman Frank the agenda was approved as written.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel the Minutes for July 10th and 26th, 2023 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore proudly announced that the County has been blessed with some really good ball teams

both baseball and softball. He gave recognition to the boys and girls teams that played in the district, state and world championship games. The county honored the 10U Girls Softball x-play World Champions by issuing a copy of the Resolution and awards to the Coaches and Team members. Chairman Moore read the Resolution recognizing the World Series Softball Championship Team. Coach Nancy Jordan thanked everyone for their support of the teams and passed out a signed photo of the World Series Team.

Councilman Daniel announced that Animal Control will start now as the Animal Shelter had their ribbon cutting ceremony earlier in the day.

Vice-Chairman Atkinson appreciated the crowd that came out in support of the World Series Team. He said the team's accomplishment reflects back on our community, schools and families and we have a lot to be proud of.

Councilman Bedenbaugh thanked the families for allowing their children to be involved in the county recreational sports and for the dedicated coaches for volunteering their time. He also commented on attending the Animal Shelter Ribbon Cutting and was hopeful it would be a good impact on the community.

H. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Chairman Moore recognized Peggy Merritt, USCOG Area Agency on Aging Director. Ms. Merritt stated that she became the Director in June and wanted to introduce herself and share some of the program information. She announced projects for rural and underserved areas which offer Air Conditioning Units, Heaters, Weather Radio's, Lawn Care, Transportation and Medical Enrollment Services.

Councilman Daniel thanked her for coming and Ms. Merritt stated that she would be staying after the meeting to speak with anyone who had questions.

I. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel first reading was approved on Ordinance No. 08-23, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALUDA COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 06-18 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY AND IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX, SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM IN SALUDA COUNTY PURSUANT TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX ACT, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE ANNOTATED SECTION 4-10-300, ET SEQ.; TO DEFINE THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES AND DESIGNATE THE PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF THE TAX MAY BE USED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM TIME FOR THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF THE TAX AND THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF NET PROCEEDS TO BE RAISED BY THE TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR A COUNTY-WIDE REFERENDUM AND TO PRESCRIBE THE CONTENTS OF THE BALLOT QUESTION IN THE REFERENDUM; TO PROVIDE CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO THE IMPOSITION OF THE TAX AND CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF THE TAX REVENUE; TO ESTABLISH THE PRIORITY IN WHICH THE NET PROCEEDS OF THE TAX ARE TO BE EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES AND PROJECTS STATED; TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE REFERENDUM BY THE SALUDA COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, TAX-EXEMPT OR TAXABLE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE AGGREGATE OF \$9,400,000; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PRESCRIBE THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND PLEDGE OF REVENUES RELATED TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING OTHERWISE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS;

PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY RELATED TO THE BONDS; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS” IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DETAILS ASTO THE SALE OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED THEREBY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO. Chairman Moore, Vice-Chairman Atkinson and Councilman Daniel voted in favor and Councilman Bedenbaugh voted against. Chairman Moore stated that this was just an amendment to the prior referendum ordinance so that we could borrow the additional funds left to collect from the next four years sales tax revenue. In the first four years we have collected \$4,917,004 to use toward the Detention Center so we will borrow the next 4 years of expected collections and those payments will be made within the next 4 years as we collect the sales tax. So, this is paid back with sales tax funds and not added property taxes. The ordinance needs three reading and a public hearing before November. It states in the Original Ordinance that we can borrow funds up until that time or we will have to wait until the end of 8 years to start building. He wanted to make it clear that there is no new referendum this Ordinance is about the prior 2018 referendum. Vice-Chairman said that he understood that this would get us started on the project to where we could receive bids and get a price locked in. The Chairman agreed and said this was the first step in going forward with the Detention Center that was voted on with the 2018 Referendum.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to purchase a dump trailer from Hills Machinery in the amount of \$13,685 to be paid from the solid waste fund. Chairman Moore recognized Jacob Schumpert to present the request for Solid Waste, Roads and Bridges and Litter Control. Jacob stated that this is what the departments need to transport illegally dumped material. The dump trailer is to be purchased through State Contract. The departments will work together to get the trash and debris cleared up at reported sites.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Atkinson seconded by Councilman Daniel, an award was made to Kenrick’s Construction to build the Coroners’ Building in the amount of \$496,379.02 and the additional operational equipment (Generator, Cooler, etc.) to be paid from Public Building Reserve. Chairman Moore, Vice-Chairman Atkinson and Councilman Daniel voted in favor and Councilman Bedenbaugh voted against. Chairman Moore recognized Heather Griffin, Purchasing Agent, to present the recommendation. Heather stated that this was the lowest bid and after speaking with the contractor about land clearing and HVAC, Kenrick’s Construction would be the recommendation. Chairman Moore said that this is to build the new Morgue and allow is to remove the old building which is in the footprint of the New Detention Center.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to replace two A/C units at the Courthouse in the amount of \$14,300 from the Public Building Repair Reserve account.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, it was unanimously approved to appoint Betty Louise Starr to the Behavioral Health Board with her term expiring August 14, 2026.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to appoint Susan Davis Nichols to the Library Board with her term expiring August 14, 2027. Chairman Moore stated that we were currently searching for a Library Director. Councilman Bedenbaugh expressed his appreciation of the prior Library Director, Heath Ward. Chairman Moore acknowledged that he did an outstanding job.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel, it was unanimously approved to appoint David Joseph Miller to the Planning Commission with his term expiring August 14, 2026.

Chairman Moore said that the Planning Commission is complete other than a representative from Ridge Spring and Ward.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On Motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel 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, Contracts and for the purpose of receiving legal advice and to return at the call of the Chair.

Chairman Moore called the council meeting back to open session and there were no actions coming out of Executive Session.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

James L. Moore, Saluda County Council
Chairman

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council
Date Approved: September 11, 2023