

MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Called Meeting of Saluda County Council was called to order by Chairman Moore at 6:00 P.M.

Present were:	Chairman Jim Moore Councilman Frank Daniel Vice-Chairman Jack Atkinson Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh Councilman Justin Anderson
Also present were:	Clerk to Council, Regina Turner County Administrator, Sandra G. Padget

B. INVOCATION Chairman Moore delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Chairman Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Moore welcomed everyone and thanked all of the Firefighters in attendance for the job that they perform for the county as a volunteer and their sense of service.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

E. PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is noted by the Clerk herein that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the called meeting and agenda were 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 the council 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)**

F. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to purchase a Quint Ladder Truck in the amount of \$105,000 plus taxes and delivery charges to be paid from the Fire Board Millage Account. Chairman Moore recognized Mark Lybrand, Fire Coordinator and Josh Morton our Emergency Management Director to present the details of the truck. Mr. Lybrand said that it was a 2000 truck and listed most of its features, mileage and hours. He also stated that it will arrive already tested and certified and lettered to our specifications. He said it would be ready to be put into service once it arrives and is equipped. Chairman Moore asked how this would help our ISO rating. Mr. Lybrand said that there were several areas where we came up short last time but this would give us the full credit of 4 points on ladder service where we are currently rated a 1.4. Training and a few other

areas we are working on would help our rating also. Chairman Moore told everyone that the ISO rating is what will help the property owners insurance premiums.

Mr. Lybrand stressed that we do have some room for improvement on our ISO and that the departments are working on that and have a good path forward. Chairman Moore asked how often would this truck be called out. Mr. Lybrand said a ladder truck would be call out to every structure fire and that the Ridge Spring truck will cover the south end and this truck will cover the north end of the county. He stated that it would also be a benefit to have for the school and commercial structures.

Councilman Bedenbaugh asked about the cost to equip the truck. Mr. Lybrand replied that we already have a good bit of the equipment on hand. He also stated that it would be housed at Old Town Fire Department due to space and size of bay needed. Chairman Moore ask what a new truck would cost compared to this one and Mr. Lybrand said a new truck would be close to \$2,000,000. Councilman Bedenbaugh asked Josh if he had looked around at other trucks for a better deal. Josh replied that Mark was the expert and found this one. Josh happened to be within driving distance and detoured to the facility to look, drive and operated it and felt that it was a good solid working truck.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Atkinson, council approved to fund the road in the Commerce Park from the Economic Development Millage Account with Chairman Moore, Vice-Chairman Atkinson, Councilman Daniel and Councilman Anderson voting for and Councilman Bedenbaugh voting against. Chairman Moore stated that back in November the County was approved for a Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant in the amount of \$325,000 and Dominion Energy also pledged \$75,000 toward the road project and that he had spoken numerous times on getting the Guard and CTC to help. Those avenues did not work out and the county will have to fund the project. First the county cannot accept the road into our system without changing our own ordinance nor can CTC use funds to build a road. He said that this makes us similar to a developer as to putting in the road, water and sewer to make the property viable and that C-Funds are best suited to help repair the citizens' roads.

Councilman Anderson expressed his difficulty understanding the CTC policy and our ordinance for our own road and why we needed to accept it as a road and not just a driveway. He said he did not recommend us violating our own ordinance.

Councilman Bedenbaugh made a motion to postpone this item until we receive legal advice on it. No second was made and the motion failed.

The Chairman explained further, that if we do this now and have Thomas and Hutton get the bids out and under construction maybe we can sell some of the property. Councilman Anderson said he did not want to postpone and this was one of those necessary evils where it needs to be done or the land is undevelopable and the longer we wait the more it is going to cost.

Councilman Bedenbaugh said that we had already waited a long time and wanted to ask some more questions that needs answers.

Chairman Moore replied that he hoped to have the Guard help build the road but that would be waste resources due to some of the construction having to be redone.

G. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 PM.

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council

James L. Moore, Chairman

Date Approved: September 9, 2024