

November 08, 2021

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Justin Anderson called the regular meeting of Saluda County Council to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present were: Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Vice-Chairman Justin Anderson
Councilman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh

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

Absent was: Chairman Jerry Strawbridge

B. INVOCATION

Councilman Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Anderson 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 budget work session was given to the local news media and properly posted, to include the county website.

Due to COVID-19, the following notice was placed at the beginning of the agenda:

Please note the council meetings are open to the public, but seating will be limited for social distancing in response to COVID-19. Access to the live video is available when the meeting begins by going to the County's Facebook page (Saluda County, SC Government).

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh the agenda was unanimously approved.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, the minutes for October 4, October 11, and October 14, 2021 were unanimously approved as submitted.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Daniel had no report.

Councilman Atkinson advised everyone that there would be a Veterans Day ceremony at the Saluda Theater on November 11th in honor of the people that gave us this right to hold meetings.

Vice-Chairman Anderson said all had a good time at the Richland Creek Antique Tractor Association events this past weekend and encouraged everyone to come out for next years events.

Councilman Bedenbaugh thanked law enforcement, EMS and the fire service for everything they do. He also thanked our Veterans for their service.

H. PUBLIC HEARING

Vice-Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 09-21 “AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PALMETTO GOURMET FOODS, INC., PGF REAL ESTATE 1, INC. AND PGF REAL ESTATE II, INC. (PROJECT MAPLE LEAF) TO PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAXES; AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF PGF REAL ESTATE II, INC PROJECT SITE IN A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

John Fox with Palmetto Gourmet Foods spoke on how the company has grown since they took over in July of 2019. Currently there are over 200 people employed at the facility and they have increased their production lines with an investment of approximately 11 million dollars. PGF has purchased the warehouse on Greenwood Highway and upgraded it to a food grade facility. With the product lines completed the company will produce 1,000,728 meals per day to be sold at 8,000 authorized grocery stores. He stated that they appreciate the county and town helping them increase their value to the community.

No one else spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice-Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 10-21, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 101 CIVIC STREET, SALUDA TO THE YMCA".

Jonathan Bass of the YMCA in Greenwood spoke about their future plan for the facility and grant information. He requested consideration of helping to fund the project.

No one else spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice-Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 11-21, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE NAMING OF ROADS AND THE ADDRESSING OF PROPERTIES IN SALUDA COUNTY."

No one signed up to speak and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice-Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 12-21, "AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 11-99, NAMING OF ROADS AND THE ADDRESSING OF PROPERTIES IN SALUDA COUNTY".

No one signed up to speak and the Public Hearing was closed.

I. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Daniel and seconded by Council Bedenbaugh, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given to Ordinance No. 09-21 "AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PALMETTO GOURMET FOODS, INC., PGF REAL ESTATE 1, INC. AND PGF REAL ESTATE II, INC. (PROJECT MAPLE LEAF) TO PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAXES; AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF PGF REAL ESTATE II, INC PROJECT SITE IN A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS."

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 10-21, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 101 CIVIC STREET, SALUDA TO THE YMCA".

On motion of Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 11-21, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE NAMING OF ROADS AND THE ADDRESSING OF PROPERTIES IN SALUDA COUNTY."

On motion of Councilman Daniel and seconded by Councilman Atkinson second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 12-21, "AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE

NO. 11-99, NAMING OF ROADS AND THE ADDRESSING OF PROPERTIES IN SALUDA COUNTY”.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh and seconded by Councilman Atkinson second reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 13-21, “AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A FALSE FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE FOR THE COUNTY OF SALUDA. THIS ORDINANCE IS TO ENCOURAGE BUISNESS AND HOMEOWNERS TO MAINTAIN ALARM SYSTEMS PROPERLY. Vice-Chairman Anderson asked who was to enforce the ordinance. Luke Downing advised Council on the process of enforcing the ordinance.

J. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh first reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 14-21 “AN ORDINANCE TO LEASE T-HANGARS OWNED BY SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, LOCATED AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT.”

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh first reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 15-21 “AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NUMBERS 06-14, 03-17, 15-17 AND 11-18 LEASING T-HANGERS OWNED BY SALUDA COUNTY LOCATED AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT”.

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh first reading was unanimously approved on Ordinance No. 16-21 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDMENT TO A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT (“FEE AGREEMENT”) BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT THUNDER TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE INVESTMENT PERIOD AND INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL REAL PROPERTY FOR THE PROJECT; APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL SPONSOR AFFILIATES TO THE FEE AGREEMENT; INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL PROJECT PROPERTY IN A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS OR INDUSTRIAL PARK; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Atkinson council unanimously approved “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT BY ROYA FOODS, INC. (F/K/A SUNNY Z FOODS, INC.) OF A 2013 FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ROYA FOODS, INC. AND SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PALMETTO GOURMET FOODS, INC.; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

Vice-Chairman Anderson recognized David Enzastiga, CPA of Rish & Enzastiga, to present the results of the Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2020–2021. Mr. Enzastiga explained sections of the reported audit and gave the County a favorable opinion. On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved to accept the audit as presented.

Vice-Chairman Anderson recognized Sheriff Josh Price to present his request for salary increases. The Sheriff asked Council to consider the request for Salary increases that he had presented prior in executive session during the last meeting. He discussed the positions and his need of the increase. The Sheriff requested that council vote on his request tonight.

Vice-Chairman Anderson asked that he go ahead and discuss the next item on the agenda regarding salary ranges in the Sheriff's office. Sheriff Price asked Council to clarify if they were going to make a vote on this subject tonight. Vice-Chairman asked if anyone wanted to make a motion and Councilman Atkinson stated that Council could not discuss this subject at this time. The County Attorney clarified that council needed to discuss personnel in executive session and when a decision is ready to be made then it can come forward for a vote. Vice-Chairman said that Council would take the information at this point. Councilman Atkinson made a motion that we discuss Sheriff's office personnel in executive session, it was seconded by Councilman Bedenbaugh and unanimously approved.

Vice-Chairman Anderson asked again for Sheriff Price to present his request to discuss salary ranges in the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Price wanted to make Council aware of surrounding agencies Law Enforcement salaries and that many are using COVID funds to raise pay. He doesn't expect a decision tonight but something needs to be addressed soon. Other agencies have amended their budgets to keep up with other counties throughout the state to retain employees. The sheriff's department is starting to lose employees due to other counties ability to increase salaries and he ask for consideration of improving pay to his employees.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was unanimously approved for Council to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss the purchase of property for the Library and Covid-19 Hazard pay for county employees and the added item of Sheriff's Department personnel.

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh and seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was approved to come out of executive session.

Vice-Chairman Anderson clarified the vote for the approval on the agenda. There was a motion and a second but he did not ask for a vote by all. Anderson asked for the approval and it was unanimously accepted.

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved purchase tax map properties 079-16-06-002, 003 and 004 in the amount of \$180,000 and approval for the county representative to sign all documents in relation to the purchase and closing. Funding in the amount of \$120,000 will be paid from the American Recovery Funds for green space allowance and the additional \$60,000 to be paid from the Public Building Reserve Fund.

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On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to provide Covid-19 Hazard pay to county employees who worked during the declared emergency period of March 19, 2020 to February 12, 2021 following the guidelines included in the American Rescue Plan and submitted by council staff. This will replace the Employee Vaccine Incentive Program included in the ARP Funding Project Plan approved on August 19, 2021.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to change the Administrative Assistant's position pay in the Sheriff's Office from grade 10 to grade 12 per the revision of the job description recommended by Condrey. Sheriff Price will discuss with Council Staff as to where the funding will be transferred from within his departments.

L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Bedenbaugh and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council

Justin Anderson, Vice-Chairman

December 13, 2021
Date Approved