

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025 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 Carey Bedenbaugh
Councilman J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Councilman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Justin Anderson

Also Present were:

Sandra G. Padget, Administrator
Regina H. Turner, Clerk to Council
Ginny Bozeman, County Attorney

B. INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman 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 Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel the agenda was unanimously approved.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Daniel the minutes were unanimously approved for November 10th and 18th, 2025.

G. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Atkinson commented that he enjoyed the Christmas parade.

Councilman Anderson recognized the King Academy football team for winning the State Championship and said that they went undefeated the entire season. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Bedenbaugh wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said he enjoyed the Christmas parade following behind Representative Forrest who distributed all the candy.

Councilman Daniel wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Jay Dunbar wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said he enjoyed the participation of local agencies and businesses in the Christmas parade. He said he was hopeful of growth and involvement in next year's parade and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Moore opened the public hearing on Ordinance 17-25, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDED AND RESTATED SOLID WASTE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE THREE RIVERS SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY ("AUTHORITY") TO EXTEND THE TERM THEREOF THROUGH 2050, UPDATE TONNAGE COMMITMENTS AND INCREASE ANNUAL TIPPING FEES; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY THE AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30 MILLION TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PHASE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO." No one signed up to speak.

J. OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, Council unanimously approved third reading on Ordinance No. 16-25, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLES I AND II, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. Under discussion Chairman Moore said as stated before this adds the Public Comment Section to the regular council meetings and also addresses the prior change of form of government in our Code of Ordinances. He also said that no public hearing was needed on this ordinance per section 2-58.1 of the Code of Ordinances not requiring it.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously approved second reading on Ordinance No. 17-25, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDED AND RESTATED SOLID WASTE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE THREE RIVERS SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY ("AUTHORITY") TO EXTEND THE TERM THEREOF THROUGH 2050, UPDATE TONNAGE COMMITMENTS AND INCREASE ANNUAL TIPPING FEES; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY THE AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30 MILLION TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PHASE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO." Chairman Moore recognized Clay Killian to explain the ordinance and agreement. Mr. Killian said that this agreement has not been updated since its start approximately 30 years ago and the Authority is in need of expanding and building a new cell with an estimated cost of \$22 to \$23 Million. The Authority is in hopes that they can get the debt reserve requirement removed so that they do not have to borrow the whole \$30 Million. They are looking to start a \$2.30 rate increase in June and \$2 every June for four years. Right now its \$37.70 and this will bring it to \$48 which is still below the state average by \$6. They hope to be in design by spring and two years for construction and the cell will have approximately 13 years of life.

Chairman Moore was concerned with the guaranteed tonnage listed which is much more than we currently use and did not think we would be reaching this amount and that our member contribution would be based

on the higher amount. Mr. Killian said that Tri-County was the member and not the individual county and he would see about clearing the language up before final reading.

K. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Daniel, Council unanimously approved a “RESOLUTION TO CREATE A COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX ACT, SECTION 4-10-300, ET SEQ. OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED; DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.” Chairman Moore stated that Saluda County Council intends to adopt and enact this Resolution, which establishes a commission subject to the provisions of Section 4-10-320 of the Capital Project Sales Tax Act. This is the first step in this process.

The commission created by this Resolution must consider proposals for funding capital projects within Saluda County and formulate the referendum question(s) that is (are) to appear on a ballot pursuant to Section 4-10-330(D) of the Capital Project Sales Tax Act.

Pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, the Saluda County Council is required to appoint three (3) members to the commission and, therefore, hereby appoints Ricky Bailey, Tom Dorn, and Kathy Rushton to serve as members of the Commission.

Chairman Moore recognized Kayra Rice of the Center of Heirs Property. Ms. Rice, the community engagement specialist, explained heirs property and the issues of what not having a will can cause. She explained how they can help with land and forestry planning, transferring or dividing property to heirs and will preparation at no cost to elderly or low-income residents. She explained that a representative would come out to the resident’s home to help.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously approved to appoint Caleb Polatty to the Upper Savannah Workforce Board with his term to expire on June 30, 2028.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, Council unanimously approved to appoint Cliff Rollins to the Westview Behavioral Health Board with his term to expire on December 8, 2028.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, Council unanimously approved to appoint Jessica Duzan, Library Director to the Saluda County First Steps Board.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Anderson, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1) and (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976 as amended to discuss personnel in the Administrative and Auditors Office, a potential governmental building contract and to receive legal advice regarding ultra-processed food litigation and Three Rivers Solid Waste and to return at the call of the Chair.

Chairman Moore called Council back into open session. He said he understood there had been some problems with the audio visual and he apologized for that. Chairman Moore asked if there were any motions to be made from executive session.

Councilman Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Daniel and was unanimously approved

to accept updates recommended to the Administrative Office staff job descriptions.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved to appoint Assistant Auditor, Alena Dorsey as Auditor effective January 1, 2026, to fill the unexpired term of Auditor, Memmus Forrest.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh it was unanimously approved for administration to sign a Representation Agreement by and between Saluda County and UPF Litigators, LLC and Pope, Flynn LLC.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, it was approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council
Date Approved: January 12, 2026

James L. Moore, Chairman