

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Donald E. Hancock called the regular meeting of Saluda County Council to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present were:

Chm. Donald E. Hancock  
Coun. Jones P. Butler  
Coun. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.  
Coun. D. J. Miller  
Coun. Gwendolyn C. Shealy

Also present were:

County Director, Sandra G. Padget  
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle  
County Attorney, Christian G. Spradley

B. INVOCATION

Coun. Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chm. Hancock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Shealy, the minutes for March 7, 10, and 13, 2017 were unanimously approved as submitted.

E. PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is noted by the Clerk herein that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meeting and agenda were given to the local news media and properly posted, to include the county website.

F. REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

1. Coun. Daniel thanked SCE&G, SCDOT, the County Roads and Bridges Department, the Sheriff's Department, First Responders/Fire Department, volunteer church groups, and other public volunteers who helped with the cleanup after the April 5<sup>th</sup> storm in the Ward and Ridge Spring area.
2. Coun. Butler also thanked the First Responders, EMS and Fire Departments for their assistance with the April 5<sup>th</sup> storm.
3. Coun. Miller thanked the citizens for calls expressing their concerns and support for the Brooks Roston Park.
4. Chm. Hancock publicly thanked EMS staff members, Ethan Derrick and Frank Monaco, for their quick response and professionalism during his recent transport to Self Memorial, and thanked Mr. Jacob Starnes and the EMS team for their services.

Chm. Hancock also recognized Recreation Director, Paul Ertle for a job well done at the recent Opening Day Ceremony for spring ball sports with over 400 children participating.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Chm. Hancock opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 02-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED ON THE OLD EMORY SCHOOL HOUSE."

Ms. Becky Clamp said for over 40 years the Emory Community Club had maintained and preserved the Emory School House. Ms. Clamp said recently in the process of the club trying to obtain non-profit status in order to seek grants for the preservation of the school house, their Attorney realized the club did not have official status years ago when County Council deeded the Emory School House property to the club. Ms. Clamp said the quit claim deed was part of the process to make everything legal so they could continue with the preservation of the school house.

No one else spoke and the public hearing was closed.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Shealy, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 02-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED ON THE OLD EMORY SCHOOL HOUSE."

2. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Miller, and unanimously approved, Second Reading was given on Ordinance No 03-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 06-14 TO REDUCE LEASE RATES OF T-HANGARS OWNED BY SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, LOCATED AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT." During discussion Chm. Hancock read the following T-Hangar lease rates as recommended by the Airport Commission: T-Hangars 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 lease rate would decrease from \$175.00 to \$100.00; T-Hangar 5 lease rate would decrease from \$200.00 to \$125.00; and T-Hangar 8 lease rate would decrease from \$187.00 to \$105.00 or \$110.00 with rental of storage room.

#### I. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Miller, and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No. 04-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE CORONER'S OFFICE OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO CHARGE A FEE FOR A CREMATION PERMIT." During discussion Coun. Miller said he thought the cremation fees would be good for the Coroner's office due to the extra duties placed on the Coroner for issuing a cremation permit.
2. On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No. 05-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCHOOL PURPOSES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: TO PROVIDE FOR LEVY OF TAXES AND THE TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE: TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF SAID TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING INTO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR: TO ESTABLISH A RESERVE ACCOUNT AND PROVIDE THAT ALL FUNDS IN EXCESS OF THE COUNTY APPROPRIATION WILL BE PAID INTO THE RESERVE ACCOUNT." During discussion Chm. Hancock stated Saluda County Council shall determine and establish a tax of sufficient millage to support \$6,474,980.00 minus revenues and credits reflected on the tax receipt from Fee-In-lieu, Property Tax Relief, Homestead Exemption, Tier 3 Property Tax Relief, and Motor Carrier, for a net amount of \$4,113,933.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes.

During discussion Coun. Miller asked for a comparison between Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget and Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Ms. Kathy Culclasure responded she did not have last year's figure in hand, but said there was an increase of approximately \$400,000.00, which took into account the allowable increase due to the CPI and growth in Saluda County.

3. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, First Reading was given on Ordinance No. 06-17, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SALUDA COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2017; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SALUDA COUNTY FOR ALL COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2017; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX REVENUES AND OTHER COUNTY FUNDS; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER COUNTY PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2017; AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT." During discussion Chm. Hancock stated the amount for First Reading for the county operating budget was \$12,732,189.00 and debt service on bonds was \$161,903.63 for a total amount of \$12,894,092.63. The difference in proposed expenditures and revenues was \$1,709,359.00. Piedmont Technical College was requesting \$239,233.00 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 appropriations. They are funded through millage and were not included in the above figures.
4. On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to adopt the Fair Housing Month Resolution.
5. On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was approved to adopt the revised purchasing policy for Saluda County. (In Favor: Chm. Hancock, Coun. Butler, Daniel, Shealy). (Opposed: Coun. Miller). During discussion Chm. Hancock said the main changes were increasing the amount for Request for Quotes to less than \$50,000.00 and increasing the amount for the Bid process to more than \$50,000.00. The current policy had the amount of \$20,000.00 as the price in determining the quote versus the bid process. Chm. Hancock and Finance Specialist, Regina Turner discussed less than \$50,000.00 for quotes was more streamline, cost efficient, and less time consuming.

During discussion Coun. Miller questioned: what benefit would be provided for the County for changing the amount from \$20,000.00 to \$50,000.00; how often were items purchased over \$50,000.00; and were vendors more competitive on a Request for Proposal versus a Request for Quote.

Ms. Turner responded with benefits to the County were that \$50,000.00 would be in-line with the State's amount for quotes and bids and would help with grants and PARD projects that one policy be followed for costs versus two policies. Ms. Turner said currently there were seven different bid packages out for projects over \$20,000.00, so it would help considerably since so many projects fell into the price range of \$20,000.00. Ms. Turner gave the example of the costs for the yearly budgeted EMS/Firefighter annual physicals could have been obtained by quotes from qualified companies versus a bid package since the price was under \$50,000.00. For competitiveness, Ms. Turner said she received bids from all over

the state on projects over \$50,000.00 such as construction, window and roof replacement. Ms. Turner said if a project was not in the annual budget, Council would have to approve the project, she would advertise for quotes, unless the project was over \$50,000.00, which would then require the bid process.

6. Chm. Hancock recognized Grants Coordinator, Jill Warren to present consideration of the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund grant request for EMS.

Ms. Warren presented the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund grant request from EMS for three Stair-Pro Chairs in the amount of \$10,000.00, with no matching funds required from the County. Ms. Warren said the Stair-Pro Chairs would assist EMTs with the handling of patients in stairways or in confined spaces.

Council and EMS Director Jacob Starnes discussed if the grant was awarded, these chairs would replace Stair-Pro Chairs at EMS that were 10 to 12 years old and the new chairs would be under the Stryker maintenance program.

On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to authorize the Grants Coordinator to proceed with the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund grant process for 3 Stair-Pro Chairs in the amount of \$10,000.00 for EMS, with no matching funds required by the County.

7. On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Daniel, it was unanimously approved to authorize the County Director to transfer funds from Contingency to balance accounts for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

#### J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Miller, 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 a contractual matter relating to a potential fixed base operator (FBO) candidate at the Saluda County Airport and to receive legal advice, to return at the Call of the Chair.

Council returned into open session at the Call of the Chair.

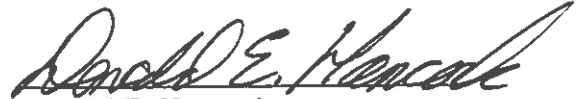
No action came out of Executive Session.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Miller, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 P.M.



Karen T. Whittle  
Clerk to Council



Donald E. Hancock  
Chairman



Date Approved