

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, June 8, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent was: Chairman Jim Moore

Also Present were: Regina Turner, Administrator
Heather Griffin, Clerk to Council
Ginny Bozeman, County Attorney

B. INVOCATION Councilman Jack Atkinson delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 video is available by going to the County's Facebook page (Saluda County, SC Government).

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Daniel but no vote was taken to approve the agenda at this time.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Atkinson the minutes were unanimously approved for May 8, 2026 and May 26th as written in the Agenda.

F. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Atkinson wished for Chairman Moore to get well. He also mentioned the upcoming election and that everyone should exercise their right to vote.

Councilman Anderson stated that King Academy Varsity Boys Baseball team won the State Championship and the Saluda Softball girls team won the State Championship. He also mentioned that several kids from Saluda County were in attendance at the Palmetto Boys State and Palmetto Girls State.

Councilman Daniel mentioned Regina Turner and the loss of her grandson. He also mentioned Chairman Moore and stated that he was also in his prayers to get well. He thanked everyone for coming out.

Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh thanked all the employees in attendance for coming to the meeting. He recognized the Superintendent of the School District and commended him for his work. He lifted up in prayer County Administrator Regina Turner and her loss. He commended Pastor Morton on his message at the funeral. He mentioned the Hollywood Ruitan Supper on Saturday June 13th from 4:00-7:00. He mentioned all the recreation league ball teams and asked everyone to come out to vote in the upcoming election. He lifted up the Chairman and wished for a speedy recovery. He stated that the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan will be held at the July 13th Council Meeting and the Third Reading for the Ordinance for the Plan will be at the August Council Meeting.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed up to comment.

H. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No 03-26 “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, 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.” No one signed up to speak.
2. Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No 4-26 “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, 2026; 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, 2026; 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, 2026; AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FISCAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT.” No one signed up to speak.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Chairman Anderson Council unanimously approved the Second Reading on Ordinance No. 05-26, "AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY AND REIMPOSE 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 REIMPOSITION 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 REIMPOSITION 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 \$18,000,000; 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."

2. On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel Council unanimously approved second reading on Ordinance No. 01-26, "AN ORDINANCE OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AMENDING AND RESTATING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO". Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh stated that the current plan includes a revision in the land use portion.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Atkinson Council unanimously approved first reading on Ordinance No. 06-26 "AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING SALUDA COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH AIKEN PILOT TRAINING." Jill Warren, Airport Manager was recognized. Mrs. Warren stated that TJ Nelson approached the Saluda County Airport to consider allowing him to run a flight school at the Airport. Mrs. Warren recognized TJ Nelson. Mr. Nelson stated that he would like to extend his flight school part 61 to Saluda County in order to pick up more students.

2. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Atkinson Council unanimously approved a 5% Grant Match for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Mark Lybrand, Fire Service Coordinator and Jill Warren, Grants Manager were recognized. Mrs. Warren stated that the grant would be to purchase a new Tanker for the Saluda Fire Dept. The tanker would cost around \$600,000 which would cost the County \$30,000 at 5%. Mr. Lybrand stated that the fleet is aging and this tanker would help maintain the fleet.
3. On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel Council unanimously approved a Heavy Equipment Lease with Caterpillar Financial on two Motor Graders to be paid from the Heavy Equipment Reserve Account. Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh stated that the lease on both motor graders is ending in January of 2027. This request is to continue the lease program with Caterpillar Financial for two more Cat motor graders which will be leased through state contract. The new payments will be \$5,544.52 and \$5,530.70 which equals \$11,075.22 per month. The equity from returning the older units will go back towards the total lease amount.
4. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Daniel Council unanimously approved the Resolution Adopting the Saluda County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Josh Morton, Emergency Management Director was recognized. Mr. Morton stated that the plan is required by FEMA. The plan must be updated and readopted every five years. The new plan has been approved by FEMA and just needs to be adopted.

At this time County Attorney Bozeman stated that it would make the vote clearer if it was stated that the “motion carries” after each vote.

5. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Daniel Council unanimously approved to allow EMS to apply for the RHTP Grant to fund personnel. Jacob Starnes, EMS Director was recognized. Mr. Starnes stated that the Rural Health Transformative Grant is available to rural Counties. This trial program will be 100% funded with no match. Once CMS collects data that shows that the program is effective, then EMS can charge the patients insurance for the services.
6. On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Daniel Council unanimously approved to appoint Gregory Sander to the Planning Commission on 7/10/26 with his term to expire on 7/10/29.
7. On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Anderson Council unanimously approved to re-appoint Miliken Matthews to serve on the GLEAMNS Board as a representative of the low-income sector. With his term to start when appointed and expire two years from that date.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976 as amended to discuss personnel matters for the 2026-2027 budget and to return at the call of the Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh called Council back into open session.

On motion of Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to come out of executive session.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Bedenbaugh, seconded by Councilman Atkinson it was unanimously approved to adopt Administrations recommended additions to the budget.

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel it was unanimously approved to Amend the Agenda to edit item E. to read approval of minutes for the May 26, 2026 meeting.

On motion of Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Daniel the Agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

On motion of Councilman Daniel, seconded by Councilman Atkinson the Minutes from the May 26, 2026 meeting were unanimously approved.

L. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Anderson, it was approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 P.M.

Heather L. Griffin

Clerk to Council

Date Approved: June 22, 2026

Carey Bedenbaugh, Vice-Chairman