

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chm. J. Frank Daniel, Sr. called the regular meeting of Saluda County Council to order at 6:03 P.M.

Present were:

Vice-Chm. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Coun. Justin Anderson
Coun. Jones P. Butler
Coun. Wayne Grice

Also present were:

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

Absent was:

Chm. Derrick W. Jones

B. INVOCATION

Vice-Chm. Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chm. Daniel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Anderson, the minutes for August 12, 13, 19, 20, and 26, 2019 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. Vice-Chm. Daniel and Coun. Butler reported Chm. Jones was not present due to his wife having surgery and asked for everyone to remember her in their prayers.

2. Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized former Council Member D.J. Miller for his years of dedicated service to the citizens of Saluda County and Saluda County Council and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

Vice-Chm. Daniel made the following statement: "The public hearings are not a question and answer session; it is for the public to express their opinion for or against the ordinance and for Council to receive the information to take into consideration for our final decision or to make changes to the ordinance."

1. Vice-Chm. Daniel opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 06-19, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SERVICE CHARGE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA."

The following expressed their views on Ordinance No. 06-19: J.W. Atkinson, David Shealy, David Clary, Wallace Rodgers, and Milliken Matthews.

No one else spoke and the public hearing was closed.

2. Vice-Chm. Daniel opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 07-19, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SERVICE CHARGE FOR MOTORIZED VEHICLE USERS OF THE COUNTY ROADS OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA."

The following expressed their views on Ordinance No. 07-19: John W. Cockrell, Josie Bartley, Ross Starnes, J. W. Atkinson, Mary Jerry, Quest Hallman, James M. Holloway, and Wallace Rodgers.

No one else spoke and the public hearing was closed.

3. Vice-Chm. Daniel announced the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 08-19, "PROVIDING FOR AN INSTALLMENT PLAN OF FINANCE FOR CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING, IN THE AGGREGATE, THE COUNTY'S CONSTITUTIONAL BONDED DEBT LIMIT IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, TAX-EXEMPT OR TAXABLE, TO ACQUIRE UNDIVIDED INTERESTS IN SUCH CAPITAL PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS."

Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized Attorney Ray Jones to give a brief overview of the ordinance.

Atty. Jones with Parker Poe recognized his colleague Emily Luther, and Brent Robertson with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc., the placement agent on financing for the County. Atty. Jones said they were hired by the County to put together options for the new detention center and had presented the installment purchase plan of finance, which was used by other

counties and municipalities and was used by a non-profit corporation formed by the County. Atty. Jones explained if the County issued debt on its own, there were two critical occurrences that would happen; immediately millage had to be put on the tax bill to pay for the debt and second, the County would use their 8% debt capacity. Atty. Jones said by utilizing the non-profit corporation, the County would be able to moderate the millage impact and manage and preserve its own 8% debt limit in the event there were other needs throughout the county.

Atty. Jones said as discussed with the County Attorney, County Council Chairman, and the County Director, the ordinance put in motion the approval and enabled the County to move forward with this type of financing. Atty. Jones said the County had been working with an architectural firm and hoped to begin construction early next year and they had set up a financing time line accordingly to enable the County to have the funds needed by the end of the year.

Vice-Chm. Daniel opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 08-19.

Mr. J. W. Atkinson expressed his views on Ordinance No. 08-19.

No one else spoke and the public hearing was closed.

H. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

1. Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized Mr. Theo Lane, Government & Community Relations Manager with Duke Energy of South Carolina for the Duke Energy grant award for OnPoint EMS Network 501 (c)(3) and Saluda County EMS.

Mr. Lane began his presentation by stating he owned a home in Saluda County, had always kept a relationship with Saluda County, and the motivation of the donation on behalf of Duke Energy began with conversations with former Chairman Don Hancock. Mr. Lane said Ms. Gwen Shealy had informed him of a need for a medical gurney for the EMS John Deere gator recently donated by the Charlie Foundation. Mr. Lane said in a rural county such as Saluda, accidents happened where ambulances were not able to reach, therefore a significant need for UTV's and equipment. Mr. Lane said the Duke Energy Foundation invested in communities in their service areas, but also invested in communities within South Carolina where there were few customers in their service area. Mr. Lane said as the Government and Community Relations Manager for Saluda County, he had approximately eight Duke customers. Mr. Lane presented the grant request for the medical gurney to the Duke Energy Foundation and they recognized the need that would serve everyone in Saluda County.

Mr. Lane presented the check to EMS Director, Jacob Starnes and OnPoint EMS Network Chairman, Daniel Patterson.

Council thanked Mr. Lane for the donation and for his service to Saluda County.

2. Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized U.S. Census Bureau, S.C. Partnership Specialist, Mac McNeil for a presentation on the 2020 Census and Forming a Complete Count Committee.

Mr. McNeil informed everyone the census was to count for every person living in America and to only count them once in the correct location. Mr. McNeil said the official date for the 2020 census was April 1, 2020 and the process for completing a 2020 census survey would be available online. Mr. McNeil said if the survey was not completed online, they would first send reminder notices and then if not completed, they would send out people to gather the information. Mr. McNeil stressed the information was confidential and was used for statistical data. Mr. McNeil said there was a toll free number that had 12 different languages available for those needing assistance.

Mr. McNeil said Saluda County participated in the 2010 census with a complete count committee, which was a committee that informed others throughout the county about the census and completing a survey. Mr. McNeil asked Council to consider appointing a complete count committee for the 2020 census in an effort to obtain a goal of 80% or better completion rate.

Mr. McNeil offered the following statistics from the 2010 census: 1) Saluda County had a great completion rate of 73%, which contributed to the high response rate for the state; and 2) based on the census counts, the federal government gives out \$675 billion each year to states, counties, and municipalities.

Vice-Chm. Daniel thanked Mr. McNeil for sharing the information.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Anderson, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 05-19, "AN ORDINANCE TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR A FIXED BASE OPERATOR, SALUDA SKY AVIATION, LLC AT THE SALUDA COUNTY AIRPORT."
2. Coun. Butler made the motion for Second Reading on Ordinance No. 06-19, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SERVICE CHARGE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA." The motion died for lack of a second.
3. Coun. Butler made the motion for Second Reading on Ordinance No. 07-19, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SERVICE CHARGE FOR MOTORIZED VEHICLE USERS OF THE COUNTY ROADS OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA." The motion died for lack of a second.
4. On motion of Coun. Grice, seconded by Coun. Butler, and approved Second Reading was given on Ordinance No. 08-19, "PROVIDING FOR AN INSTALLMENT PLAN OF FINANCE FOR CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING, IN THE AGGREGATE,

THE COUNTY'S CONSTITUTIONAL BONDED DEBT LIMIT IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, TAX-EXEMPT OR TAXABLE, TO ACQUIRE UNDIVIDED INTERESTS IN SUCH CAPITAL PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS."(Voting in Favor: Vice-Chm. Daniel, Butler, Grice). (Opposed: Coun. Anderson).

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Saluda County and Saluda School District One Millage for FY 2019-2020

County Millage

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Grice, Council unanimously approved the millage for Saluda County: 147.30 for County Operating: 1.00 mill for Law Enforcement; .50 mill for Public Building Maintenance; 3.00 mills for Piedmont Tech Appropriation; 1.00 mill for Economic Development; 1.00 mill for Fire Board Service and 2.00 mills for Piedmont Tech Bond which was set by the Auditor and Treasurer in accordance with state law for a total of 155.80.

School District One Millage

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Grice, Council unanimously approved the millage for Saluda School District One: 151.10 mills for School Operating and with School bonds to be set by the Auditor and Treasurer in accordance with state law at 17.30 mills for General Bond #1; 4.40 mills for General Bond #2; 6.80 mills for General Bond #3; and 6.20 mills for General Bond #4 for a total of 185.80.

2. Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized Emergency Management Director, Josh Morton to present the adoption of the new Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Morton informed Council he had worked with the S. C. Emergency Management Division and FEMA to develop the new emergency operations plan (35 pages), which was simpler and easier to follow than the previous plan consisting of approximately 500 pages. Mr. Morton stated he was also in the process of developing specific guides for incidents to be included with the plan. Mr. Morton said typically a new plan did not have to be readopted by Council as the EMD Director and County Director had the authority in the plan to make necessary changes, but due to the drastic changes he wanted to present the new plan to Council for adoption.

On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to adopt the new Emergency Operations Plan as presented.

3. Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized Emergency Management Director, Josh Morton for consideration to decommission the Tornado Siren System and to contract with OnSolve to provide Mass Notification Services.

- a. Mr. Morton stated the tornado sirens were installed approximately 13 years ago and the past several years they had been costly to maintain, with two years ago the repairs costing approximately \$50,000.00. Mr. Morton said the sirens needed to be repaired again and to be good stewards of taxpayers' money, he could not recommend continuing to spend money repairing the sirens. Mr. Morton said the annual maintenance on the sirens was approximately \$10,000.00, which did not include batteries, chargers, or any other parts needed; it was for someone to check on them once a year. Mr. Morton said there were nine outdoor tornado sirens, they were not designed to notify anyone inside of a building and their range was only one-half to one mile.

Mr. Morton requested Council to consider reallocating the \$9,500.00 for the maintenance contract on the tornado sirens in the EMD budget and to enter into an agreement with OnSolve for the use of the Code Red Mass Notification System in the amount of \$7,500.00 per year. Mr. Morton said the mass notification system would allow mass notifications to be sent to all Saluda County citizens through various sources such as cell phones, land line phones, email, and text messages versus the tornado sirens that only provide one hazard notification to a small percentage of county citizens.

Vice-Chm. Daniel questioned would the notification be sent to land line phones if someone did not have a cell phone. Mr. Morton said it would be received by land line phones and there would be a registration for the system, but citizens could contact his office in order to register. Mr. Morton said he would be working with the news media as well as other platforms to notify citizens of the service and registration process, but even if someone did not register, Code Red had phone number data bases that could be loaded into the system.

Coun. Grice questioned would the system be tested. Mr. Morton said the system would be tested regularly, probably on a quarterly basis.

Coun. Anderson questioned what were the current repairs needed to the sirens and how often were they tested. Mr. Morton said currently two sirens were not working. Mr. Morton said he had not contacted American Signal to come perform diagnostics on the sirens at this time, due to the representative coming from Minnesota and it costs approximately \$2,000.00 for the trip. Mr. Morton said he could not recommend repairing the sirens due to the reliability issue that had always been with the sirens due to the radio coverage issues and them being tested and activated through the same radio communications system as the fire service. Mr. Morton said the communications test was every morning and the sirens were tested with a low volume growl the first Thursday of every month.

Coun. Anderson questioned what was included in the \$7,500.00 OnSolve contract. Mr. Morton said the contract included unlimited minutes on emergency use and 20,000 general minutes for testing or other needs.

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to

enter into an agreement with OnSolve for the use of the CodeRed Mass Notification System and to reallocate \$7,500.00 in the EMD budget for this service.

- b. Council deferred the decommissioning of the tornado siren system until a later date.
4. Vice-Chm. Daniel recognized Fire Service Coordinator, Josh Morton for the ISO Rating presentation.

Mr. Morton said the fire service came before Council last fall and asked Council to request the County's next ISO rating be a countywide hauled water rating and the survey was performed in March of 2019. Mr. Morton said results were received last week and Saluda County received a property protection classification of Class 5, which meant every property within five road miles of a fire station would qualify for a Class 5. Mr. Morton said ISO property protection classifications ranged from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best and 10 essentially no fire service.

Mr. Morton explained Saluda County previously had a hydrative rating where you had to be located within five road miles of a fire station and 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. Mr. Morton said there were approximately 30% of properties in Saluda County that had a Class 4 classification due to being within five road miles of a fire station and 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. Mr. Morton said the Class 5 rating would not benefit everyone in the county, but the vast majority, especially those with a Class 9 rating. The new class rating would go into effect on December 1, 2019.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Coun. Grice, seconded by Coun. Anderson, it was unanimously approved for Council 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 a personnel matter and to receive legal advice on designated Infection Control Officers for Saluda County, and to return at the Call of the Vice-Chair.

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

L. PUBLIC ACTION

1. On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to appoint T. Hardee Home as the Chief Designated Infection Control Officer.
2. On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to appoint Jacob Starnes and Wayne Zeigler as the Medical Designated Infection Control Officers.
3. On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to adopt the Saluda County Designated Infection Control Office Exposure Control Plan.

September 9, 2019

M. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

Karen T. Whittle

Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council

J. Frank Daniel, Sr.

J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Vice-Chairman

October 14, 2019

Date Approved