

MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 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

The Called Meeting of Saluda County Council was called to order by Vice-Chair Gwendolyn C. Shealy at 6:00 P.M.

Present were: Chm. Donald E. Hancock
Vice-Chair Gwendolyn C. Shealy
Coun. Jones P. Butler
Coun. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Coun. D. J. Miller

Also present were: County Director, Sandra G. Padgett
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle

B. INVOCATION

Coun. Daniel delivered the invocation.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Chm. Hancock, seconded by Coun. Butler, the minutes for June 12, 14, and 20, 2017 were unanimously approved as submitted.

D. 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.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Vice-Chair Shealy opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 09-17, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE TO THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALUDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 TO BALANCE THE SALUDA COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017." Vice-Chair Shealy stated the amount to be transferred was not to exceed \$350,000.00.

No one spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

2. Vice-Chair Shealy opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 10-17, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE TO THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALUDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 TO BALANCE THE SALUDA COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018." Vice-Chair Shealy stated the amount to be transferred was \$560,151.00.

No one spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

3. Vice-Chair Shealy opened the Public Hearing 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." Vice-Chair Shealy stated the amount for Third Reading for the county operating budget was \$12,347,107.00 and debt service on the bond was \$161,903.63 for a total amount of \$12,509,010.63. Piedmont Technical College FY2017-2018 appropriation would be revenue collected from three mills and was not included in the above figures.

Mr. Jack Atkinson spoke during the public hearing and recommended Council consider telling department heads how much money the county had for their budgets and not department heads telling Council how much they wanted. Mr. Atkinson expressed concern of the fund balance eventually being depleted if Council continued balancing budgets with fund balance. Mr. Atkinson also expressed thoughts on the state not funding mandated services required of counties. Mr. Atkinson commended Council for their work.

No one else spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Daniel, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 09-17, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE TO THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALUDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 TO BALANCE THE SALUDA COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017." During discussion Vice-Chair Shealy stated the amount was not to exceed \$350,000.00.

2. On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, Third Reading was given on Ordinance No. 10-17, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY RESERVED FUND BALANCE TO THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALUDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 TO BALANCE THE SALUDA COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018." During discussion Vice-Chair Shealy stated the amount was \$560,151.00. During discussion Coun. Miller addressed that Council needed to start July 1st working on next year's budget by watching where money was being spent in an effort to not having to balance the budget from fund balance.

4. On motion of Chm. Hancock, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, Third 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." Vice-Chair Shealy stated the amount for Third Reading for the county operating budget was \$12,347,107.00 and debt service on the bond was \$161,903.63 for a total amount of \$12,509,010.63. Piedmont Technical College FY2017-2018 appropriation would be revenue collected from three mills and was not included in the above figures.

During discussion Council addressed some of the factors that contributed to the increase of the budget and the amount needed to balance the budget from fund balance, such as the pension increase for the employer, employer portion of health insurance, workers compensation insurance premium due to Saluda County's claims, and additional employees due to demand for more services. Council addressed the reduction of the Local Government Fund from the state the last several years and unfunded state mandates had also contributed to the amount that had to be transferred from fund balance in order to balance the budget and prior year budgets.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion of Chm. Hancock, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved to adopt A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING A PROJECT TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE, SO AS TO ALLOW INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT BEULAH, ITS AFFILIATES AND RELATED ENTITIES, TO QUALIFY AS EXPENDITURES ELIGIBLE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAXES ARRANGEMENT WITH SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR OTHER RELATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES, INCLUDING SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AND OTHER MATTERS

RELATED THERETO. During discussion Vice-Chair Shealy recognized Mr. Mark Simmons with Parker Poe to address Project Beulah.

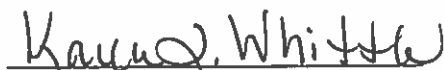
Mr. Simmons informed Council Project Beulah was a solar company that had done business in Saluda County and the project would generate 75 megawatts ac representing an investment of \$115 million. Mr. Simmons said the company was requesting the County provide a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement with a set payment for the next 40 years of \$150,000.00 per year. Mr. Simmons said plans were to begin construction in 2018, employing approximately 1,300 construction workers and to be operational in 2019.

Mr. Will Williams, President and CEO of the Aiken Edgefield Saluda Economic Development Partnership was also in attendance. Mr. Williams, Mr. Simmons and Council discussed the fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement and it being comparable to other FILOT agreements for solar farms throughout the state.

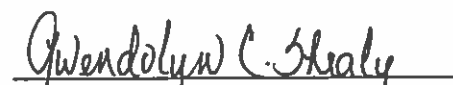
2. On motion of Chm. Hancock, seconded by Coun. Butler, and unanimously approved, First Reading was given by title only on Ordinance No. 11-17, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT, BY AND BETWEEN SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT BEULAH, AS SPONSOR, AND ONE OR MORE SPONSOR AFFILIATES TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; TO PROVIDE FOR ONE OR MORE SPONSOR AFFILIATES; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS."

H. ADJOURNMENT

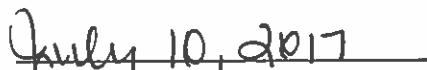
On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Miller, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M.



Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council



Gwendolyn C. Shealy
Vice-Chair



Date Approved