



Colleton County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: March 2, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified, and notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Call to Order: Chairman Biering called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Chairman Scott Biering, Council Vice-Chairman Bubba Trippe, Councilman Steve Murdaugh, Councilman Johnny Frank, and Councilman Phillip Taylor were present. Chairman Biering declared a quorum was present.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: Vice-Chairman Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Chairman Biering requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Biering requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2026. Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions:

- a. **Proclamation Honoring Chief Johnnie N. Creel and Mrs. Rosalee Creel and Celebrating a 60+ Year Marriage Legacy:** Chairman Biering read into the record the Proclamation honoring Chief and Mrs. Creel. The Creels were not in attendance. Councilman Taylor made a motion approving the Proclamation, seconded by Vice-Chairman Tripp. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: (3 minutes per person/max time 20 minutes)

Felicia Johnson: Felicia Johnson expressed concern with a dangerous ditch near her house and the need for more streetlights on her street.

Mayor Crawford Moore: Mayor Moore provided Council with Town of Edisto Beach Annual Report. Mayor Moore also updated Council on the new EOC and Town Hall, which is a Capital Project Sales Tax project.

Cathy Sturgis: Ms. Sturgis expressed concerns regarding a member of County Council serving on the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board of Directors, stating that she believed the position to be a paid position. She also shared concerns regarding the proposed data center and the proposed General Obligation Bond Ordinance.

Following her remarks, Councilman Murdaugh clarified that service on the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board of Directors is not a paid position.

Administrator's Briefing: Administrator Higgs updated Council on the Comprehensive Plan process and provided tentative dates for upcoming public input hearings and meetings. He also stated that at the next Council meeting he will bring forward recommendations for professional services to assist with reviewing land use and zoning language to ensure it is modernized as part of the Comprehensive Plan process, as well as professional services related to the consideration of impact fees. Administrator Higgs also provided a brief overview of impact fees.

Old Business

- a. **Second Reading of an Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) Aggregate Principle Amount of General Obligation Bonds of Colleton County, South Carolina in One or More Series, to Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds Shall be Expended, to Provide for the Payment Thereof, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto:** Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Taylor. Councilman Taylor noted a scrivener's error in the ordinance title as listed on the agenda, indicating the word "for" was misspelled. The ordinance itself contained the correct spelling. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Second Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Dissolution of Colleton County's Interest in a Portion of Real Property Identified as TMS #132-00-00-028:** Councilman Murdaugh made a motion the approve the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- a. **First Reading by Title Only Budget Ordinance to Raise Revenue and Adopt a Budget for Operations and Debt Service for the County of Colleton, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; Authorizing Certain**

Carryover Funding from the Prior Budget; and Other Matters Related Thereto: Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. A Resolution to Approve Amendment of the Agreement for the Establishment of a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park for Properties Located in a Redevelopment Project Area, By and Between Charleston County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park, So as to Include Additional Property in Charleston County as Part of the Multi-County Industrial/Business Park:** Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. A Resolution of Colleton County Council Awarding a Contract for the Town of Smoaks – Johnsville/Smoaks Community Center Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) Project and Authorizing the County Administrator to Execute All Necessary Documents Related Thereto:** Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board of Directors Appointment:** Councilman Frank made a motion to reappoint Chairman Biering to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board of Directors, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Time: Councilman Taylor provided an update on road and bridge work being conducted throughout the county by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). He also informed the public how to report road concerns through the SCDOT website.

Vice-Chairman Trippe thanked the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and Recreation Director for their work in getting playground equipment installed at Womble Park.

Councilman Murdaugh thanked the Emergency Management and Fire-Rescue departments for keeping the public and Council informed during the recent weather incidents.

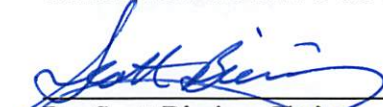
Councilman Frank thanked Administrator Higgs and Deputy Administrator Wright for keeping Council informed about issues in the County and for their hard work.

Chairman Biering thanked Administration for all of their hard work.

Adjournment: Councilman Frank made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL


By: Scott Biering, Chairman

ATTEST:


Martha B. Thompson, Clerk to Council

Approved: 4/6/26



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