

MINUTES  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2025  
REGULAR MEETING  
6:00 P.M.

Colleton County Council  
Council Chambers, Old Jail Building  
109 Benson Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Chairman Scott Biering called the meeting to order with Council Members Steve Murdaugh, Phillip Taylor, Bubba Trippe, and Johnny Frank in attendance.

Others Included: Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Dr. David Greene, Laura Clark, Sue Keith, Jessica Williams, Edward Willims, Raymond Allen, Cindy Allen, Clarence Wiggins, Dolphus Pinckney, David Arthur, Myrna Arthur, Lynn Stroble, Melodie Ellis, Scott Karal, Janet Smith, Kimberly Varn, Michael Lies, Beate Lies, Bill Proctor, Helen Bowers, Mark Pickney, Jeff Jones, Audrey Henderson,

Councilman Phillip Taylor gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

a) Regular Meeting January 7, 2025

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 7, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh and the motion carried unanimously.

**Awards and Recognitions**

Councilman Biering recognized Helen Bowers with Road and Bridges, Chief Barry McRoy with Colleton County Fire Rescue, Blaine Harrison with Colleton County Fire Rescue and Melodie Ellis with Colleton County Fire Rescue for their 30 years of service with Colleton County. Standing ovation was given. Councilman Biering and Councilman Murdaugh thanked everyone for their contribution to the County. Councilman Murdaugh advised that it takes true dedicated to stay somewhere for 30 years.

**Appearances & Public Presentations**

Councilman Biering advised there were no appearance and public presentation on the agenda.

**Administrator's Briefing**

County Administrator Meagan Utsey advised that Resolutions B., C. and D. on the agenda under New Business are for the CTC. The county acts as a pass through for those funds and County Council approving those Resolutions certifies that the County has completed

procurement and budgeting properly and the state disperses it to the County for a local committee. County Administrator also advised Resolution A. under New Business is for Council to amend Title 2, to place public comments at the beginning of the agenda. Councilman Taylor made note of all the Veterans in the room tonight and wanted to ask about an update on the Veterans Park. County Administrator advised she signed a contract this week for an Engineer under the County's IDC to start the design of the Veterans Park. Councilman Taylor also informed the County Administrator of a Community Meeting at the Colleton County Library. Councilman Murdaugh expressed his concern for making sure that the County Architects are coordinating with the Veterans to avoid duplication that the Veterans have already designed. County Administrator advised that a kickoff meeting with the Veterans should be scheduled soon, but she would follow up and make sure it happens. Councilman Trippe thanked the Veterans for all their service.

### **Public Hearing**

Councilman Taylor made a motion to open Public Hearing. Councilman Trippe second the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council welcomed Mrs. Kimberly Varn from Lowcountry Council of Government

Kimberly Varn from Lowcountry Council of Government presented to Council on the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Some key points that Mrs. Varn spoke about were as follows:

- i. The SC CDBG program is designed to provide assistance to units of local government in improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs, particularly for persons of low and moderate income (LMI).
- ii. The CDBG program has been funded through the State since 1982 by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under Title I of the Housing Community Development Act of 1974 as amended (Title I).
- iii. The annual allocation from HUD from the program is administered by the SC Department of Commerce-Division of Grant Administration.
- iv. South Carolina had been allotted approximately \$19,809,810 in CDBG fund for 2025.
- v. There are three broad grant program categories: Community Development, Business Development and Regional Planning.
  - a. Community Development is made up of several subcategories to address infrastructure, community facilities, and neighborhood priorities. This could include community infrastructure, local priorities and community enrichment.
  - b. Business Development Program provides financial resources for local governments to pursue opportunities that create new jobs, retain existing employment, stimulate private investment, and revitalize or facilitate the competitiveness of the local economy.
  - c. Regional Program is designed to provide CDBG funds to Councils of Governments to assist local governments in developing plans and building local community development capacity.

- vi. Performance Threshold: A unit of local government can apply for an additional community development grant if it has no more than two open CDBG grants—open grants must not exceed a 30-month grant period.
- vii. The Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium (LRHC) is comprised of the following counties: Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper and 21 municipalities in the region.
  - a. Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton and Jasper Counties have areas that are in need of affordable housing, rehabilitation of substandard housing, and demolition of vacant/dilapidated homes.

### **Old Business**

Councilman Biering advised there was no Old Business on the agenda.

### **New Business**

**A. 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-01, By Title Only, To Amend Title 2 - Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.30 - County Council, Section 2.30.060 - Committees, Paragraph F of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances.**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-01, By Title Only, To Amend Title 2 - Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.30 - County Council, Section 2.30.060 - Committees, Paragraph F of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion was carried unanimously.

**B. Resolution 25-R-09, To Award the Contract for the Rocking of County Dirt Roads**

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 25-R-09, To Award the Contract for the Rocking of County Dirt Roads. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion was carried unanimously.

**C. Resolution 25-R-10, To Award the Contract for the Resurfacing of South Carolina Department of Transportation Roadways and Colleton County Roadways**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 25-R-10, To Award the Contract for the Resurfacing of South Carolina Department of Transportation Roadways and Colleton County Roadways. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion was carried unanimously.

**D. Resolution 25-R-11, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for SC303 Sidewalk Project FY25**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 25-R-11, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for SC303 Sidewalk Project FY25. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion was carried unanimously.

**E. Resolution 25-R-12, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for an Agricultural Grant for FY25**

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 25-R-12, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for an Agricultural Grant for FY25. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion was carried unanimously.

**F. Resolution 25-R-13, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies**

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the following by acclimation and was seconded by Councilman Taylor; Colleton County Recreation Commission: Matthew W. Hooker and Branshea Brown.

**Items for Information and Public Record**

Councilman Biering advised there were no items for information and public record on the agenda.

**Public Comments (3 minutes per person/max time 20 min.)**

Councilman Biering opened the floor for the public to speak on their concerns:

Audrey Henderson spoke on her concerns and her neighbors' concerns about the rock yard that will coming to the Maple Ridge Area.

Jeffery Jones Commander of Post #93 American Legions, spoke on the importance of pushing the Veterans Park for completion.

Lynn Stroble extended an invitation to an open house at the Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center for the grand opening of the new barbering and nail tech class at TCTC. The ribbon cutting will be February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm; this allows the public to come in and see all the new changes. Lynn Stroble also bragged on all the teachers at the schools and at TCTC for what they offer to the students and how they are helping to grow Colleton County's work force through student.

**Council Time**

Councilman Taylor shared education opportunities. He also congratulated the school district on the new barber and nail school at TCTC.

Councilman Murdaugh thanked Dr. David Greene at Colleton County Fire Rescue for the great collaboration effort his group preformed during the winter storm. He also thanked the school district for inviting Council to the TCTC grand opening.

Councilman Trippe also thanked Mrs. Lynn Stroble for coming and speaking to Council. The barber and nail school is a great program for children and a good career for those that are seeking.

Councilman Biering thanked Mrs. Lynn Stroble for the invitation and plans to attend. He also thanked all the Veterans that were present at the meeting and advised that Council is determined to push the Veterans Park through. Councilman Biering also wished Mr. Williams a Happy Belated birthday. Administration was also thanked for their work.

### **Executive Session**

Councilman Frank made a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss the following: Personnel – Budget Projects, Contractual – Capital Projects, Legal – HR Consultant. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Frank made a motion to exit Executive Session. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Biering advised that no action will be taken.

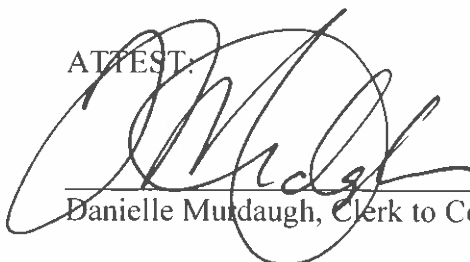
### **Adjournment**

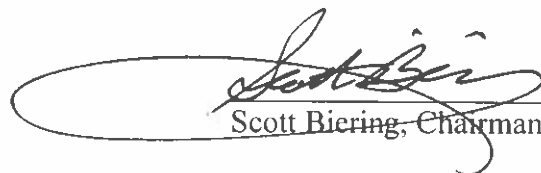
Councilman Murdaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The full County Council meeting is available at the link below:  
<https://youtu.be/veJMjSHcT08>

This 4th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

  
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Danielle Murdaugh, Clerk to Council

  
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Scott Biering, Chairman