

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.**

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, David Greene, Brantley Strickland, Donna Lamb, Thomas Higgs, Gary Rhode, Crawford Moore, Jr., Queenie Crawford, Central Williams, Cornelius Hamilton, Dolphus Pickney, Clareace Wiggins, Theodore Reed, Sheryl Gray, Felicia Johnson, David Lies, Beate Lies, Michael Lies, Raymond Allen, Michele Jones, Clint Ferrell, Jacqueline Jenkins, Lashawn Williams, Myrra Arthur, David Arthur

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

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, April 1, 2025

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting, April 12, 2025

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on April 12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting, April 14, 2025

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on April 14, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Budget Work Session, April 15, 2025

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve the minutes of the Budget Work Session held on April 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting, April 18, 2025

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on April 18, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

Proclamation- Veterans of Foreign Wars “Buddy”® Poppy

Chairman Biering read the Proclamation into the record; Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Murdaugh ask about ways to donate, David Lies advised that there would be a Poppy Drive at Ace Hardware on the 24th of May.

Councilman Trippe also advised everyone of the Memorial Day Ceremony that will take place on the 26th of May at the Waterfall Plaza.

Appearances & Public Presentations

South Carolina State University 1890 Extension Services-Mr. Cornelius Hamilton

Mr. Cornelius Hamilton opened the presentation by thanking Council for allowing him to come and speak. Mr. Hamilton discussed some of the service they have been offering to the Lowcountry the following.

- *SC State University 1890 Research and Extension is the cornerstone of the historical land grant status of South Carolina State University.*
- *The Extension belongs to a national system of more than 100 land grant universities and colleges.*
- *The Extension is Public Service grounded with research based data and information.*
- *The SC State University 1890 Research and Extension main office is in Hampton, South Carolina.*
- *Along with Hampton, they also serve Colleton, Beaufort, Allendale and Jasper.*
- *Partnerships with local, state and national agencies and institutions*
- *Three ways for which they can reach their clients, and that is in person, virtually, or through a hybrid model, SC State University try to customize their services to fit their clients needs.*
- *SC State University Research and Extension innovates and educates to elevate the quality of life and raise the standard of living for all South Carolinians.*
- *Through outreach programs and services, SC State 1890 Extension addresses quality of life opportunities for underserved and socially disadvantages minority communities and entrepreneurs.*
- *At the core of it mission, SC State's 1890 agricultural research seeks to identify scientific solutions that would positively impact current and emerging food and agricultural issues at local, state, national and global levels.*
- *The SC State 1890 Agriculture Innovation Scholarship Program covers student, tuition, fees, books and room and board.*
- *The SC State 1890 Extension 4-H Youth Development Program is an educational youth program that helps young people discover and develop their potential, so they will grow into competent, contributing and caring citizens. Some of the programs are Citizenship/Civic Engagement, Healthy Lifestyles, Financial Management, S.T.R.E.A.M, and youth camps.*
- *The Community and Economic Development program is geared toward identifying technical assistance by way of training, coaching, mentoring, networking, and competitive*

grant awards for small business development, non-profit organizations development as well as adult and youth entrepreneurship.

- *SC State University 1890 Research and Extension encourages healthy, active and well-nourished youth, individuals and families by offering evidence-based programs and activities for a healthier South Carolina.*
- *The Education Innovation and Support spearheaded the development of the issue-based action teams that align with current and emerging education innovation and support related needs and opportunities and provide college and career readiness for youth.*
- *SC State 1890 Extension efforts are geared toward providing farmers with the educational tools they can use to take business approach to agriculture. Through the promotion of niche marketing, specialty crops, cooperatives and entrepreneurial opportunities, producers gain skills to advance farm management and increase profit.*
- *Highlights specific to Colleton County are Spring Break Camp(One Week Camp held at the Recreational Center), Residential Camps(Take ages 8-12 away from home from Sunday to Friday, they are taught how to cook, they do rock climbing, fishing and nature walks), 4-H National Conference(designed for professional development-took 4 students from CCHS), Homeschool Club(30 students in the club, award from Tractor Supply for the students to complete garden), Sustainable Agriculture Incentives (local farmers that have signed up for this program had an 100% increase on there income.), Business Expo (Helps local businesses and nonprofit, develop business models.), Cooking Demonstration Graduates (30 people graduated from the cooking demonstration course), 50 partnerships within Colleton County.*
- *How SC State University 1890 Research and Extension is impacting Colleton's economic drive; 80% of staff are residents of Colleton, starting salaries \$50,000, 2025 All Hands Meeting(statewide professional development that is kicked off at the beginning of the year with 100 professional), program supplies are purchased in Colleton, vehicle maintenance is completed in Colleton, local catering, as well as dry cleaning and rentals of vehicles are completed in Colleton.*
- *SC State University 1890 Research and Extension future plans are seeking more visibility, relocation of their office, increase full time staff, expand services, secure more resources, establish more partnership.*

Administrator's Briefing

Interim County Administrator Meagan Utsey introduced Emergency Management Director Dr. David Greene to review the upcoming changes on Public and Individual Assistance for the new hurricane season with Council. Dr. David Greene approached Council and shared the following;

- *Hurricane season starts on June 1st.*
- *Change in Public Assistance (PA-assistance to state and local government). Colleton can expect the threshold to increase (possibly by a factor of 4). If this occurs, Colleton would have to spend \$728,843.52 and the State of South Carolina would have to spend \$38,695,293.00 before Colleton would be eligible for Public Assistance from FEMA.*

- *For Individual Assistance (IA-assistance to citizens), those with insured losses will no longer be encouraged to apply for IA; it is unknown if FEMA will continue to cover uninsured loss or insurance deductible.*
- *Small Business Administration loans would likely remain the same as the previous years.*
- *FEMA IA Grants are very limited in both awards and amounts. For this fiscal year, the maximum amount for an IA grant is \$42,500.*
- *Statics shared; Hurricane Helene last year, South Carolina seen roughly 447,500 IA applications with FEMA. Out of those applicates only fifty-six(56) received the maximum award, that is roughly 0.01% of applicants.*
- *The average FEMA IA award is between \$1,000.00 and \$1,500.00, FEMA assistance is not designed to make individuals whole. Insurance remains still the homeowners best defense against a loss from hurricanes or any other hazard.*

Public Hearing

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

Old Business

2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-03, To Amend and Extend the Term of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park (The "Park") Between Colleton County and Hampton County, South Carolina; to Further Amend the Agreement for Development Property in Colleton County as part of The Park; and other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-03, To Amend and Extend the Term of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park (The "Park") Between Colleton County and Hampton County, South Carolina; to Further Amend the Agreement for Development Property in Colleton County as part of The Park; and other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-04, Approving an Application for Preliminary Certification for Historic Rehabilitation; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Frank moved to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-04, Approving an Application for Preliminary Certification for Historic Rehabilitation; and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Murdaugh advised that some revisions would need to be complete before 3rd reading of the Ordinance.

2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-05, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto

Councilman Frank moved to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-05, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 25-R-26, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants FY-25-26

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-26, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants FY-25-26. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-27, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Sale or Donate in Accordance with County Policy

Councilman Trippe moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-27, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Sale or Donate in Accordance with County Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-28, To Amend County Council Agenda Order of Business

Councilman Frank moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-28, To Amend County Council Agenda Order of Business. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-29, To Recognize and Honor the late Miss Emma Mackenzie Lake by Naming the Intersection of Highway 15 and Pleasant Grove Road in Colleton County, South Carolina, "Emma Mackenzie Lake Intersection" and Having Erected Appropriate Markers or Signage at the Section of the Intersection Containing the Designation

Councilman Trippe moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-29, To Recognize and Honor the late Miss Emma Mackenzie Lake by Naming the Intersection of Highway 15 and Pleasant Grove Road in Colleton County, South Carolina, "Emma Mackenzie Lake Intersection" and Having Erected Appropriate Markers or Signage at the Section of the Intersection Containing the Designation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-30, To Endorse the 2025 Community Development Block Grant, Community Enrichment Application for the Colleton County – New Well/Well Upgrade Project and Funds for the 10% Local Match for the Grant from the City of Walterboro

Councilman Trippe moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-30, To Endorse the 2025 Community Development Block Grant, Community Enrichment Application for the Colleton County – New Well/Well Upgrade Project and Funds for the 10% Local Match for the Grant from the City of Walterboro. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-31, To Approve the Purchase of a Volvo Articulated Haul Truck for the Solid Waste C&D Landfill

Councilman Taylor moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-31, To Approve the Purchase of a Volvo Articulated Haul Truck for the Solid Waste C&D Landfill. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-32, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the following by acclimation; the motion was seconded by Councilman Frank; Colleton County Resource and Development Board; John Givens III. The motion carried unanimously.

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.)

Felicia Johnson stressed to Council for streetlights, speed limit signs and caution lights on River St. and she also asked about finding a solution to the water laying in the ditches in the neighborhood. She was thankful that the club on River St was shut down.

Chef Lashawn Johnson presented the culinary students Seniors Rocco Vera and Hayden Chaplin who participated in the Rice Festivals Annual Rice Cook-Off. The Seniors took home first place for their delicious red rice recipe, and earned a \$500 cash prize and trophy.

Jacqueline Jenkins spoke on drainage and flooding issues in the Del Ray Community.

Council Time

Councilman Murdaugh publicly congratulated Sen. Margie Bright Matthews for reaching a milestone this week, for ten years in the South Carolina Senate. Councilman Murdaugh also addressed how sorry he was that he was not able to make the Voter Registration Ceremony recognizing Mrs. Price and his dear friend Mrs. Lynette. Councilman Murdaugh also wanted to recognize Mrs. Meagan Utsey (Interim County Administrator), that being in the role as Interim

County Administrator is a very tough role, often criticized for all kinds of things, but he wanted to publicly let Mrs. Utsey know that she has done a great job and hopes that she will be around for many years to come. Councilman Murdaugh thanked Mrs. Utsey for serving in that capacity when the County needed her the most, and for all that she has done for the County. Council concurred with Councilman Murdaugh.

Councilman Biering, reiterated the importance of not drinking and driving.

Executive Session

Councilman Trippe made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the following: Contractual, Real Estate, and Economic Development-Update. Councilman Frank seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Councilman Taylor recused himself during the discussion of the Contractual matter with TCL as he is an employee with TCL.

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

Items discussed in Executive Session

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to enter into an agreement with The Technical College of the Lowcountry. Councilman Frank seconded the motion. With Councilman Taylor abstaining from the vote the majority was favorable to enter into agreement, and the motion carried.

Adjournment

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

The full County Council meeting is available at the link below:


[Signature Page to Follow]

This 6th day of May 2025.



Scott Biering, Chairman

ATTEST:



Danielle Murdaugh, Clerk to Council