



**COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, October 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Scott Biering called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call**

Chairman Scott Biering, Council Vice-Chairman Bubba Trippe, Councilman Steve Murdaugh, Councilman Phillip Taylor, Councilman Johnny Frank were in attendance.

**3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Vice-Chairman Bubba Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**a) Regular Meeting, September 8, 2025**

Councilman Frank moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 8, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

**b) Special Meeting, September 12, 2025**

Councilman Frank moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

**c) Special Meeting, September 19, 2025**

Councilman Frank moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 19, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Awards and Recognitions**

- a) Proclaiming October 2025 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Colleton County

Chairman Biering read the Proclamation, into the record: Proclaiming October 2025 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Colleton County. Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

- b) Proclaiming October 2025 as Head Start Awareness and Weatherization Month in Colleton County

Chairman Biering read the Proclamation into the record: Proclaiming October 2025 as Head Start Awareness and Weatherization Month in Colleton County. Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe commended the agency on all their hard work, not just with the Head Start program but with the citizens all over the County.

- c) Award Honoring Jon Carpenter for Nine Years of Service as the Colleton County Finance Director.

Council awarded Jon Carpenter with a plaque for his nine years as the Finance Director of Colleton County. Council Vice-Chairman Trippe expressed his appreciation to Jon for everything that he has done for the County and that he will be missed. Councilman Murdaugh advised that he has had the privilege of working with Jon throughout his whole tenure with Colleton County, and since Jon became Finance Director, the County has received the Caffer Award each year. Which is not an easy accomplishment, it takes a great deal of effort, Council Murdaugh expressed. Councilman Murdaugh praised him as being the best Finance Director during his tenure, and said he was sorry to see him go, and that the County is indebted to him for keeping the financial house order. Councilman Murdaugh wished him well at his new position. Councilman Taylor commended Jon on the phenomenal work he has done for the County. He will be missed. Councilman Taylor wished him well and thanked him for the support he has given the County for so many years.

**7. Appearances & Public Presentations**

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

Felicia Johnson raised concerns about an unresolved ditch project causing dangerous water accumulation and the need for a lower speed limit and better stop sign enforcement on Robertson Boulevard. She emphasized the dangers posed by speeding vehicles and expressed frustration over the lack of progress on the ditch.

Kathy Hires addressed issues with irresponsible dog owners in their neighborhood, detailing instances where dogs running at large created unsafe conditions and violated ordinances. She

highlighted a loophole in the current ordinance where summons cannot be issued if incidents are more than six months apart, advocating for its revision.

David Leclerc and Donna Gregoire, both residents on Weeks Lane, requested gravel to repair the muddy and pothole-ridden road, citing dust issues, wear and tear on vehicles and safety concerns. Bryce Whitney also voiced agreement with the need for road improvements.

Cathy Sturgis expressed strong concerns about Ordinance 25-0-10, which amends land management to include data centers, noting the lack of maximum size requirements in the ordinance. She highlighted the environmental destructiveness of data centers due to high water usage and tree removal. Sturgis argued against such vanity projects, citing potential negative impacts on the community and minimal job creation.

#### **9. Administrator's Briefing**

Administrator Thomas Higgs provided an update on the County's Comprehensive Plan, announcing the launch of a website for public participation.

Chairman Biering echoed the Administrator, stating that Council voted on the Comprehensive Plan earlier in the year. Chairman Biering emphasized the importance of citizen input for the county's future development and growth.

#### **10. Public Hearing**

Chairman Biering advised that there were no items for Public Hearing.

#### **11. Old Business**

- a) 2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-9, To Amend Title 6, Animals, Section 6.04.050 Enforcement, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinance, to Provide Greater Authority to Animal Service Officers.

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe moved to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 25-O-9, To Amend Title 6, Animals, Section 6.04.050 Enforcement, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinance, to Provide Greater Authority to Animal Service Officers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Murdaugh suggested further amendments to expand the definition of a dangerous/vicious animal to include threats to other animals and to require animal control officers to pick up animals running at large or issue citations.

- b) 2nd Reading Ordinance 25-O-10, To Amend Title 14-Land Management, Article 14.04-6.040 to add the definition "Data Center", Article 14.08-2 Zoning District Regulations and Article 14.08-3 Conditional Uses, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances.

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe moved to approve 2nd Reading on Ordinance 25-O-10, To Amend Title 14-Land Management, Article 14.04-6.040 to add the definition "Data Center", Article 14.08-2 Zoning District Regulations and Article 14.08-3 Conditional Uses, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

**12. New Business**

- a) Ordinance 25-O-11, By Title Only, An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Special Source Credit Agreement by and between Colleton County, South Carolina and a Company known to the County as Project Quail with respect to Certain Property located in the County, Whereby such Property will be Subject to Certain Payments In Lieu of Taxes, Including the Provision of Certain Special Source Credits; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 1st Reading on Ordinance 25-O-11, By Title Only, An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Special Source Credit Agreement by and between Colleton County, South Carolina and a Company known to the County as Project Quail with respect to Certain Property located in the County, Whereby such Property will be Subject to Certain Payments In Lieu of Taxes, Including the Provision of Certain Special Source Credits; and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) Ordinance 25-O-12, By Title Only, Authorizing the Amendment of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by and between Colleton County, South Carolina and Charleston County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property Located in Colleton County as Part of the Park; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 1st Reading on Ordinance 25-O-12, By Title Only, Authorizing the Amendment of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by and between Colleton County, South Carolina and Charleston County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property Located in Colleton County as Part of the Park; and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

- c) Resolution 25-R-61, To Approve Purchase of a John Deere 544 P-Tier Wheel Loader for the Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Councilman Frank moved to approve Resolution 25-R-61, To Approve Purchase of a John Deere 544 P-Tier Wheel Loader for the Solid Waste Transfer Station. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

- d) Resolution 25-R-62, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Trade in Accordance with County Policy.

Councilman Frank moved to approve Resolution 25-R-62, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Trade in Accordance with County Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor, and the motion carried unanimously.

- e) Resolution 25-R-63, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY26.

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 25-R-63, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY26. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

- f) Resolution 25-R-64, To Approve the County's Sponsoring and Providing the Local Match for a PARD Grant for Multiple Recreation Improvements throughout the County.

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 25-R-64, To Approve the County's Sponsoring and Providing the Local Match for a PARD Grant for Multiple Recreation Improvements throughout the County. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

**13. Council Time**

There were no items discussed during Council time.

**14. Executive Session\***

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items listed below. Councilman Frank seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

- a) Personnel Matters related to Fire-Rescue
- b) Contractual Issues Related to Governmental Affairs Services
- c) Personnel and Contractual Matters related to the Office of County Administrator
- d) Legal Opioid Litigation Settlement Update

Councilman Taylor made a motion to exit Executive Session. Council Vice-Chairman Trippe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**15. Items discussed in Executive Session**

Chairman Biering advised that items discussed in Executive Session were, personnel matters related to Fire-Rescue, contractual issues related to governmental affairs services, personnel and contractual matters related to the Office of the County Administrator, and the legal opioid litigation settlement update.

Chairman Biering advised that no action was taken during Executive Session.


16. **Adjournment**

Councilman Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Vice-Chairman Trippe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

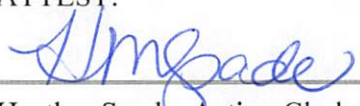
[https://www.youtube.com/live/bcMRBPnxNTQ?si=jwDq\\_CtkWtbvzmRW](https://www.youtube.com/live/bcMRBPnxNTQ?si=jwDq_CtkWtbvzmRW)

This 6th day of October 2025



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Scott Biering, Chairman

ATTEST:



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Heather Spade, Acting Clerk to Council