COLLETON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Colleton County Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Date: June 1, 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, 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: Reverend Andrew Cooper gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Chairman Biering requested a motion to amend the agenda to move item #8 – Administrator's Briefing to follow item # 4 – Approval of the Agenda. Councilman Frank made a motion to amend the agenda to move item # 8 - Administrator's Briefing to follow item #4 – Approval of the Agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Biering requested a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Briefing: Administrator Higgs recognized the Colleton County Fire-Rescue first responders who recently responded to a fire incident that resulted in a loss of life. He acknowledged the difficult circumstances faced by emergency personnel and encouraged members of the community to explore volunteer opportunities and ways to support those affected, including donating blood, supplies, and other needed resources. Administrator Higgs requested a moment of reflection for the first responders and victims involved, followed by a moment of silence in honor of the victim.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Biering requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2026, and the Council Workshop of May 22, 2026. Councilman

Murdaugh made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions:

a. Proclamation Declaring June 2026 as Forging Strong Fathers and Families Month: Chairman Biering read into the record the Proclamation Declaring June 2026 as Forging Strong Fathers and Families Month. Councilman Taylor made a motion approving the Proclamation, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Clint Ferrel: Mr. Ferrell with the American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12102 addressed Council and provided an overview of the organization's ongoing community involvement, outreach initiatives, and support provided to local veterans and residents.

Nate Knox: Mr. Knox with of the Colleton County Veterans Council addressed Council regarding the Veterans Council's activities and expressed appreciation to Colleton County for its efforts in completing Veterans Park.

Marsha Johnson: Ms. Johnson addressed Council regarding the need for additional information on meeting agendas and expressed concerns about a rezoning ordinance scheduled for consideration.

Hank Amundson: Mr. Amundson with Lowcountry Council of Governments provided an update on the Council of Governments' recent activities and initiatives.

Frank Santorella: Mr. Santorella expressed surprise that Councilman Murdaugh is not seeking reelection, thanked him for his service to the County, and expressed appreciation for County Council and Administrator Higgs' fiscal responsibility.

Art Williams: Mr. Williams stated that he had requested a copy of the draft budget but had not received one. He referenced provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and expressed the opinion that a FOIA request should not be required to obtain a copy of the draft budget.

Kevin Williams: Mr. Williams thanked Councilman Taylor for working with him to encourage young people to become involved in the trucking industry. He also spoke about positive developments occurring within the County, the need for infrastructure improvements, and the importance of the community working together to support future growth.

Old Business

a. Second Reading of an Ordinance Imposing a Moratorium on the Consideration and Issuance of Special Exceptions, Conditional Use Approvals and all Other Land Use or Development Approvals for Data Centers: Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the

second reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

a. First Reading of an Ordinance to Postpone Colleton County's Scheduled Quadrennial Reassessment for One Year: Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the first reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

b. First Reading by Title Only of an Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map for Colleton County, South Carolina, so as to Rezone Approximately 638 Acres of Real Property Identified as TMS #192-00-00-116 from Urban Development – 2 (UD-2) to Industrial (ID); and Other Matters Related Thereto: Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the first reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

c. A Resolution to Appoint Members to Board, Commission, and Committee Vacancies: Council proceeded with the appointment of members to various board, commission, and committee vacancies. Voting was conducted by secret ballot. The Clerk to Council tallied the ballots, and the results were verified by Administrator Higgs. Administrator Higgs announced the results. Based on the results, the following individuals were appointed:

Colleton County Commission of Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Jessica Grayson
Colleton County Accommodations Tax Advisory Board: Scott Grooms
Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Trail Committee: Gary Hermann
Colleton County Planning Commission: Willis Ponds and John Rogers

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to accept the results and to approve the Resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Time: Council members expressed their appreciation to the first responders and 911 dispatchers for their service to the community. Councilman Taylor also thanked a K.C. Campbell for assisting The Department of Aging with their recent senior program. In addition, Councilman Taylor acknowledged the recent passing of a county employee's brother in a drowning accident and expressed his condolences to the employee and family. Councilman Frank informed the public that smoke detectors are available through the County and stated that K.C. Campbell can assist residents interested in obtaining one. Councilman Murdaugh thanked Mr. Santorella for his remarks and recognition during Public Comments. Chairman Biering spoke about the Splash into Safety program, which provides swimming lessons to children.

Adjournment: Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL

By: Scott Biering, Chairman

ATTEST:

Martha B. Thompson, Clerk to Council

Approved: 7/6/24