COLLETON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Colleton County Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Date: July 6, 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: Councilman Taylor gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Chairman Biering requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Taylor 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 June 1, 2026, the Special Called Meeting of June 18, 2026, the Public Hearing of June 22, 2026, and the Special Called Meeting of June 22, 2026. Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions:

a. Proclamation Recognizing Captain K.C. Campbell for Achieving the South Carolina Certified Emergency Manager (SC CEM) Certification: Chairman Biering read into the record the Proclamation Recognizing Captain K.C. Campbell for Achieving the South Carolina Certified Emergency Manager Certification. Councilman Taylor made a motion approving the Proclamation, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances and Public Presentations: Sheila Keaise, representing Community Innovations, introduced and recognized Tatianna Ramos as the winner of the Colleton Voice Contest. Ms. Ramos performed a vocal selection during the presentation.

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

Carol Black: Ms. Black expressed concerns regarding data centers and the fact that Special Called County Council meetings are not live streamed.

Jeff Jones: Mr. Jones commented on the work being done at Veterans' Park and thanked County Council for its continued support of local veterans.

Paul Smith: Mr. Smith expressed concerns regarding data centers.

Administrator's Briefing: Administrator Higgs had no report.

Old Business

a. Third 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 third reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Second Reading of an Ordinance to Postpone Colleton County's Scheduled Quadrennial Reassessment for One Year: Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the second reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Second Reading 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 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 by Title Only of an Ordinance Granting an Easement on a Portion of TMS # 132-00-00-028 for a 100' Pollution Free Radius for the Future 400 GPM Well on Thunderbolt Drive: Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the first reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

b. A Resolution Declining Acceptance of a Roadway Currently Owned and Maintained by the South Carolina Department of Transportation and Supporting the Transfer of Ownership and Maintenance Responsibilities to Jacksonboro Baptist Church: Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

c. A Resolution of Colleton County Council Expressing Its Intent to Participate in the South Carolina Association of Counties Property and Liability Trust: Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

d. A Resolution to Accept a Grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety for the State Fiscal Year 2026-2027 School Resource Officer (SRO) Program and to Authorize the County Administrator to Execute all Necessary Documents Related to the Grant: Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

e. A Resolution Authorizing the Optional Issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Independent Auditing Services and Authorizing the County Administrator to Negotiate, Execute, and Enter into a Contract for Such Services on Behalf of Colleton County: Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

f. 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 Board of Adjustments and Appeals: Kimberly Crouse
Colleton County Commission of Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Keisha Williams
Colleton County Land Use Zoning Board of Appeals: Shane Moody
Colleton County Planning Commission: Frank Santorella

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to accept the results and to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Frank. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Time:

Councilman Steve Murdaugh expressed condolences to the family of Carl Gooding following his passing and recognized Mr. Gooding's contributions to the community through Big Dog Radio.

Councilman Phillip Taylor provided an update on upcoming SCDOT road work and the recent Lowcountry Area Transportation Study.

Vice-Chairman Bubba Trippe recognized Edisto Beach as a valuable asset to Colleton County and thanked the Mayor and Town Council of Edisto Beach for their efforts in preserving the community. He also thanked all veterans for their service.

Councilman Johnny Frank thanked all veterans for their service.

Chairman Scott Biering reminded the public that commemorative bricks may be purchased through the Veterans Council to support Veterans' Park. He thanked the Economic Development Department for coordinating the receipt of commemorative America 250 flags for County buildings and thanked the Recreation Department for its work on the Splash into Safety program.

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

COLLETON COUNTY SEAL WALTERBORO SC

COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL

Scott Biering

By: Scott Biering, Chairman

ATTEST:

Martha B. Thompson

Martha B. Thompson, Clerk to Council

Approved: 8/3/26


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