COLLETON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Colleton County Council Public Hearing
Date: August 3, 2026
Time: 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Chairman Scott Biering, Vice-Chairman Bubba Trippe, Councilman Steve Murdaugh, Councilman Johnny Frank and Councilman Phillip Taylor were present at roll call, and Chairman Biering declared a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda: Chairman Biering requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Chairman Biering requested a motion to open the Public Hearing to hear comments on an Ordinance to Postpone Colleton County's Scheduled Quadrennial Reassessment for One Year and 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 Taylor made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing Comments:
Paul Smith spoke regarding data centers, questioned whether County Council had signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), and stated that the rezoning request should be submitted to a referendum.

Perry Smith stated that he was unaware of the first and second readings of the rezoning ordinance. He stated that he is not opposed to data centers but does not want one located on the subject property.

Donna Hamilton asked whether Council had reviewed any geological studies regarding the potential impact of data centers on the water table and encouraged Council to educate themselves on the issue.

Donnie Clayton stated that he did not know what was planned for the property, expressed concern that it could be clear-cut, questioned the need for the zoning change, and stated that he believes data centers should be located in the industrial park.

Mary Ingram stated that she supports growth in Walterboro but does not support rezoning 638 acres for a project that she believes could be located in the industrial park.

Elizabeth De Sa urged Council to vote against the rezoning ordinance, expressing concerns that data centers could negatively affect the water table and create stormwater issues.

David [last name unknown] spoke about the importance of maintaining a strong industrial base in Colleton County to provide employment opportunities and encourage young people to remain in the community.

Barrett Olm stated that Council has a difficult responsibility but expressed concern that citizens do not know what is proposed for the rezoned property or why the rezoning is needed. He also expressed concerns regarding the potential impact of data centers on Colleton County.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Biering requested a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilman Frank made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Chairman Biering requested a motion to adjourn. Councilman Frank made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL

Scott Biering

By: Scott Biering, Chairman

COLLETON COUNTY SEAL WALTERBORO SC

ATTEST:

Martha B. Thompson

Martha B. Thompson, Clerk to Council

Approved: 9/4/26