COLLETON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Colleton County Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Date: August 3, 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. Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Biering requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 6, 2026. Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances and Public Presentations: Dr. Queenie Crawford, representing the Voter Registration and Elections Board, thanked Council for its continued support of the Voter Registration and Elections Office and introduced the Board members. Janis Blocker, also representing the Voter Registration and Elections Board, provided a summary of the compensation paid to poll workers and clerks and requested that Council consider providing county funding to supplement their compensation in the FY 2027–2028 Budget.

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

Paul Sperry: Mr. Perry stated that he is with the South Carolina Animal Welfare Alliance and provided an overview of the organization's efforts to improve animal welfare in Colleton County.

Administrator's Briefing: Administrator Higgs acknowledged Animal Services Director Laura Clark and thanked her for her work in bringing the new Animal Services facility closer to completion. He also acknowledged Fire-Rescue Chief Greene, spoke about a recent fire, and asked that everyone keep the Fire-Rescue personnel and the affected family in their thoughts and prayers. Administrator Higgs also commented on the passing of Senator Lindsey Graham, noting his support of several initiatives benefiting Colleton County and stating that the County would continue moving those efforts forward. Administrator Higgs noted that the regularly scheduled September Council meeting falls on the Labor Day holiday and recommended moving the meeting to Friday, September 4, 2026, to avoid conflicts with the City of Walterboro and other neighboring jurisdictions' meeting schedules. Following discussion, Council agreed by consensus to move the September Council meeting to Friday, September 4, 2026.

Old Business

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

b. Third 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: Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the third reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Second Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Granting of an Easement on a Portion of Real Property Identified as TMS #132-00-00-028 to the City of Walterboro to Maintain a 100' Pollution Free Radius Around the Proposed Thunderbolt Drive Well: Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the second reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

a. A Resolution to Approve Amendment of the Agreement for Establishment of a Multi-County Business Park, By and Between Charleston County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Establishment of a Jointly Owned and Operated Business Park, So As To Include Additional Property in Charleston County as Part of the Multi-County Business Park: Vice-Chairman Trippe made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

b. A Resolution to Accept the FY 2026 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and to Authorize the County Administrator to Execute All Documents Necessary to Administer the Grant:

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

c. A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Contract Agreement with Edmunds Gov/Tech, Inc. for Financial Software and Related Implementation Services in the Amount of $183,864.00 and Authorizing the County Administrator to Execute All Necessary Documents Related Thereto: Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

d. A Resolution Approving the Form and Content of Joint Resolution 2026-01 of the Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission, the City of Walterboro, and Colleton County, and Authorizing Its Execution on Behalf of Colleton County: Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

e. A Resolution Appointing a Member to the Lowcountry Workforce Board: Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the Resolution appointing Vincci Wong to the Lowcountry Workforce Board, as requested by the Lowcountry Council of Governments, seconded by Councilman Taylor. 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 Commission of Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Tamara Chisolm-Dobison
Colleton County Library Board of Trustees: Janis Blocker, Janice Moore, Kenneth McCaskill
Colleton County Resource & Development Board: Corey McMillan

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

Council Time:

Vice-Chairman Bubba Trippe asked whether there was a way to better notify the public that smoke detectors are available through Colleton County Fire-Rescue at the County's fire stations. Administrator Higgs stated that Fire-Rescue does a great job of sharing this information with the public through its Public Information services and encouraged anyone interested in assisting with those efforts to contact Fire-Rescue.

Executive Session: Chairman Biering requested a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Taylor made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the following topic:

a. Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Civil Action #2026-CP-15-00241

The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously. Council entered into Executive Session at 6:41 p.m.

Public Session: Councilman Frank made a motion to return to Public Session, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. Council returned to Public Session at 6:54 p.m. Chairman Biering stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment: Chairman Biering requested a motion to adjourn. Councilman Frank made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 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: 9/4/26