

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Chairman Scott Biering called the meeting to order with Council Members Steve Murdaugh, Phillip Taylor, and Bubba Trippe in attendance. Councilman Frank was not in attendance.

Others Included: Meagan Utsey, Thomas Higgs, Sean Thornton, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Buddy Hill, Becky Hill, Carla Harvey, Sandy Steel, Donna Lamb, Brantley Strickland, Kenneth Campbell, Roger Johnson, Joey Campbell, Tom Finigan, Meredith Wright, Jimmy Hiott, Julie Hiott, Lee McKinnon Sr., Lee McKinnon Jr., Dr. Lawrence E. Ford, Joey Bagwell, Octavia Lewis, Michael Lewis, Dolphus Pinckney, Hunter Pinckney, Theodore Reed, Donna Crosby, Doris Reynolds, Joyce Ramirez, Leonora Mariano, Nikeya Hammonds, Jermale Paige, Andy Kubik, Sharon Witkin, Jessica Williams, Lynn Stroble, Jeffrey Jones

Councilman Phillip Taylor gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Biering made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Item 11(e). Councilman Trippe approved the motion, and the motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, May 6, 2025

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

Proclaiming June 3, 2025 as Sandy Steele Day

Councilman Biering read the Proclamation into the record; Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

Sandy extended a heartfelt thank you to Council. Letting them know that it was a privilege and honor to help Colleton County, the strength of this County and the people in it, along with the incredible team in Colleton made her job easy. She expressed her excitement to have Brantley step in his role, and along with Donna they are two pieces of excellence. Sandy advised that the future of Colleton is bright, and she was honored to have a part in it, and she just cannot wait to see how good the future will look in Colleton.

Brian Haines, National Weather Service Charleston, SC-Letter of Appreciation to Colleton County Emergency Management

Brian Haines presented to Colleton County Fire-Rescue Emergency Management Division and Council a letter of appreciation. The National Weather Service's primary responsibility is the protection of life and property anytime there is a weather phenomenon. Brian Haines expressed that he was here to thank Director David Greene and the entire Colleton County Fire-Rescue Emergency Management Division for having gone above and beyond countless times. Over the past year Colleton County has experienced multiple floods along the Edisto River, with minor flooding in May 2025, Orangeburg floods in November 2024, which produced flooding along the Edisto, and tropical storm Debby that produced major flooding in the top five crests along the Edisto River at Givhans. Mr. Haines explained what Director Greene and his team have done for the National Weather Service, currently the NWS has flood stage gauges at Givhans Ferry but not at Canadys or Branchville gauges. The NWS doesn't have these stages north of Givhans, and Director Green and his crew have taken over 350 photos and videos during last year's flooding incidents. Mr. Haines explained that counted, that includes a 40-mile stretch along the Edisto River. Mr. Haines went on to say that he has never seen this level of partnership, and in the National Weather Service, the Federal State, and local governments, it's all about partnership. This type of partnership enables the NWS to provide a better service to every citizen of Colleton County. Thanks to Director Greene and his entire team, we can continue to make more informed warning decisions, which will allow us to keep the citizens of Colleton County safer. Dr. David Greene accepted the letter on behalf of the Colleton County Fire Rescue Emergency Management Division. Dr. David Greene addressed Council by reemphasizing that this is a partnership. The National Hurricane Center is in Miami, and the Storm predictions Center is in Norman, Oklahoma. When it comes to impacts that affected Colleton and citizens, these are the people that are on the tip of the sword and they're the ones protecting our citizens and we greatly appreciate what they do. Dr. David Greene said that Colleton County Fire-Rescue has a tremendous partnership with our local office here and we appreciate them tremendously, he also recognized a few members of his team that were able to join him; Captain Roger Johnson, Captain KC Campbell, Chief Mcroy, and Battalion Chief Joey Campbell, certainly there are others that couldn't make it. Lastly Dr. David Greene thanked the National Weather Service for their partnership and support.

Proclaiming June 2025 as Gun Violence Awareness Month

Councilman Trippe read the Proclamation into the record; Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Proclaiming June 2025 as Elevate Fatherhood Month

Councilman Biering read the Proclamation into the record; Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor wanted to recognize the members from the organization and thanked them for the tremendous work that they with helping families reconnect, not only fathers but also mothers. For more information visit www.father365.com.

Birthday Proclamation for Mr. Lee O. McKinnon, Sr.

Councilman Murdaugh read the Proclamation into the record; Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

A standing ovation was given by the whole room. Council thanked Mr. McKinnon for his many years of service. Mr. Lee McKinnon's son thanked Council for recognizing his father.

Proclaiming Recognition and Appreciation for Jimmy Hiott

Councilman Biering read the Proclamation into the record; Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Biering recognized Mr. Hiott as being a tremendous partner and thanked him for his many years of service at Colleton Medical Center. Councilman Murdaugh piggybacked off what Councilman Biering said by saying that Mr. Hiott came in around the same time he got onto Council, and a lot of rural communities' struggle with health care, but here in Colleton County we are very fortunate not to have that struggle, and Mr. Hiott has played a large part in that, Councilman Murdaugh thanked Mr. Hiott for leaving Colleton in a much better place than what he found it in.

Mr. Hiott appeared before Council to express his appreciation for the recognition.

Proclaiming the Week of July 26-August 3, 2025 as Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week

Councilman Taylor read the Proclamation into the record; Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor encouraged citizens to take part in the Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week, to lift up and keep the culture rich that we have in South Carolina. Councilman Biering advised that Ms. Queen Quet couldn't make it tonight, but that the rich culture that she brings is always a pleasure.

Councilman Biering thanked his colleagues for helping with the proclamations.

Appearances & Public Presentation

Mr. Michael Lewis and Mrs. Octavia Lewis with Aspire2Inspire appeared before Council to address the Ruffin project. The phrase "heartbeat of a community" is a metaphor as it describes the vitality and energy that bring life and personality to any community. The video below was presented to Council and members of the public, after the video Mr. Lewis discussed the plans for the Ruffin High School Property including the renovations to building and ball fields. Mr. Lewis also advised that the Ruffin High School site was registered through the National Historic Site. The Lewis's answered questions from Council.

The link below is the video presented to Council.

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGnViZBqMk/r2e5BDpFfPQC0jQd3Wlz2g/watch?utm_content=DAGnViZBqMk&utm_campaign=share_your_design&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=share_your_design_panel

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

Andy Kubik from TCTC addressed Council to present his graduating seniors, he also presented the value the TCTC program is to the community. One of the TCTC students spoke on their experience with the program.

Jacqueline Jenkins spoke on drainage and flooding issues at her home in the Del Ray Community.

Jermale Paige recognized the 2025 Colleton County High School graduating class.

Administrator's Briefing

County Administrator Thomas Higgs did not have anything to share at his administrator's briefing. Council welcomed Thomas to his first County Council meeting.

Public Hearing

Councilman Taylor made a motion to open Public Hearing. Councilman Trippe second the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 25-O-03, To Amend and Extend the Term of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park (The "Park") Between Colleton County and Hampton County, South Carolina; to Further Amend the Agreement for Development Property in Colleton County as part of The Park; and other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Biering opening the floor for the public to speak on; Ordinance 25-O-03, To Amend and Extend the Term of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park (The "Park") Between Colleton County and Hampton County, South Carolina; to Further Amend the Agreement for Development Property in Colleton County as part of The Park; and other Matters Related Thereto. No comments were made.

Ordinance 25-O-04, Approving an Application for Preliminary Certification for Historic Rehabilitation; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Biering opening the floor for the public to speak on; Ordinance 25-O-04, Approving an Application for Preliminary Certification for Historic Rehabilitation; and Other Matters Related Thereto. No comments were made.

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to close Public Hearing. Councilman Trippe second the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

3rd Reading Ordinance 25-O-03, To Amend and Extend the Term of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park (The “Park”) Between Colleton County and Hampton County, South Carolina; to Further Amend the Agreement for Development Property in Colleton County as part of The Park; and other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Trippe moved to approve 3rd Reading Ordinance 25-O-03, To Amend and Extend the Term of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park (The “Park”) Between Colleton County and Hampton County, South Carolina; to Further Amend the Agreement for Development Property in Colleton County as part of The Park; and other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

3rd Reading Ordinance 25-O-04, Approving an Application for Preliminary Certification for Historic Rehabilitation; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve 3rd Reading Ordinance 25-O-04, Approving an Application for Preliminary Certification for Historic Rehabilitation; and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-07, 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 at this time as Project Star with respect to certain Economic Development Property 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 Others Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-07, 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 at this time as Project Star with respect to certain Economic Development Property 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 Others Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-06, To Amend Title 10 - Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 10.04 Truck and Bus Restrictions, of the Colleton County Code of Laws to Prohibit No Through Traffic on Approved Colleton County Roads

Councilman Trippe moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-06, To Amend Title 10 - Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 10.04 Truck and Bus Restrictions, of the Colleton County Code of Laws to

Prohibit No Through Traffic on Approved Colleton County Roads. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-33, Authorizing, Under Certain Conditions, the Execution and Delivery by Colleton County, South Carolina of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement with One or More Related or Affiliated Legal Entities as Sponsors and as Sponsor Affiliated Identified by the County as Project Star with Respect to a Project in the County Whereby the Project Would be Subject to Payment of Certain Fees in Lieu of Taxes; and Whereby Project Star will be Provided Certain Credits Against the Fee Payments in Reimbursement of Investment in Related Qualified Infrastructure; and Providing for Related Matters.

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-33, Authorizing, Under Certain Conditions, the Execution and Delivery by Colleton County, South Carolina of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement with One or More Related or Affiliated Legal Entities as Sponsors and as Sponsor Affiliated Identified by the County as Project Star with Respect to a Project in the County Whereby the Project Would be Subject to Payment of Certain Fees in Lieu of Taxes; and Whereby Project Star will be Provided Certain Credits Against the Fee Payments in Reimbursement of Investment in Related Qualified Infrastructure; and Providing for Related Matters. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-34, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for a Grant for FY25

Councilman Trippe moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-34, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for a Grant for FY25. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-36, To Award an Indefinite Delivery Contract for Colleton County Solid Waste Engineering Services

Councilman Taylor moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-36, To Award an Indefinite Delivery Contract for Colleton County Solid Waste Engineering Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-37, To Reschedule the July and August County Council Meeting

Councilman Trippe moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-37, To Reschedule the July and August County Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-38, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Sale in Accordance with County Policy

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-38, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Sale in Accordance with County Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-39, To Approve Appointment to the Lowcountry Workforce Board

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve, Resolution 25-R-39, To Approve Appointment to the Lowcountry Workforce Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-40, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the following by acclimation, the motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor; Colleton County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs; Sheila McGruder. The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Information and Public Record

Councilman Biering advised there were no items for information and public record on the agenda.

Council Time

Councilman Murdaugh inquired on the upcoming budget meeting; the process should a Councilman have something that needs to be submitted for the budget. Councilman Biering read a letter thanking Councilman Taylor for assisting a family member who was struggling to make it into the bank. The resident thanked Councilman Taylor for going above and beyond to assist them in their time of need.

Executive Session

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the following: Matters Concerning Economic Development is relation to Project Fanatic, Project Quail, Project Craft, Project Badger, Project Bruin, Project Montreal and Project Star. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to Executive Session. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Items discussed in Executive Session

Economic Development Director Brantley Strickland appeared before Council to discuss matters concerning Economic Development.

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

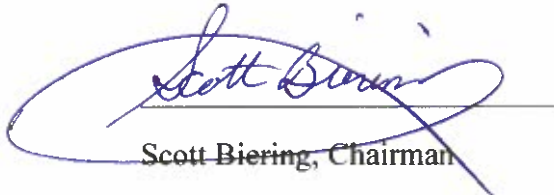
Adjournment

Councilman Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Murdaugh seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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


<https://www.youtube.com/live/ZUXFqU8JVD0?si=kQJB5EX0aBB14ve7>

This 3rd day of June 2025.



Scott Biering, Chairman

ATTEST:



Danielle Murdaugh, Clerk to Council