

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.**

Chairman Scott Biering called the meeting to order with Council Members Steve Murdaugh, Phillip Taylor, Bubba Trippe and Johnny Frank were in attendance.

Others Included: Thomas Higgs, Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Carla Harvey, Donna Lamb, Brantley Strickland, Susan Keith, Rebecca Hamilton, Marc Fillion, Ann Fillion, Carl Coffin, Clarence Wiggins, Colette Bailey, Royce Herndon, Therdore Reed, Henry Cohen

Councilman Biering gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Biering congratulated Councilman Murdaugh on his new role as Chairman of the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board of Directors.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, June 3, 2025

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 3, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh and the motion carried unanimously.

Budget Work Session, May 29, 2025

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Budget Work Session held on May 29, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Health and Safety Committee, June 24, 2025

Councilman Trippe moved to approve the minutes of the Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting held on June 24, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion passed with a 4 vote (Councilman Murdaugh abstain from the vote as he was not present at the meeting).

Councilman Murdaugh asked to have the presentation that was presented by Animal Service Director Laura Clark sent over to him.

Special Meeting, June 25, 2025

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 25, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Colleton County.

Councilman Biering read the letter from the GFOA awarding an Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Colleton County. Councilman Murdaugh recognized Jon and everyone involved. This marks the 11th consecutive year the County has received the award, highlighting the finance department's significant accomplishment and transparent financial reporting.

Appearances & Public Presentation

Pathway Community Foundation-Ayinde Simon-Virtually

Ayinde Simon and Kevin Fomengia from Pathway Community Foundation presented their HBCU Smart Cities program, which aims to create smart city applications by engaging HBCU students to solve critical community issues like transportation, public safety, waste management, water management, and sustainability. The program, which has been operating for three years and is in its first year in South Carolina, focuses on building tangible products and expanding the R&D capacity of municipalities. The South Carolina Smart Cities Program challenges communities to create a smart city application leveraging IoT, AI, machine learning and other emerging technologies. The program encourages student developers, entrepreneurs, designers, and engineers to develop tech solutions that solve real-world problems.

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

Rebecca Hamilton shared her experience regarding an incident in Cottageville where she tried to report a dog in distress and was subsequently denied the opportunity to respond to public accusations made against her by the Cottageville Police Chief at a Town Council Meeting. She advocated for fairness, truth, and accountability in public service, emphasizing that citizens, regardless of their residence within or outside town limits, should have the right to speak when public officials discuss them in public forums.

Administrator's Briefing

County Administrator Thomas Higgs did not have anything to share at his Administrator's Briefing.

Public Hearing

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

Councilman Biering opening the floor for the public to speak on; 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. No comments were made.

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

Old Business

2nd 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 Banks Construction Company (Which was Previously Known to the County 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 Murdaugh moved to approve 2nd 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 Banks Construction Company (Which was Previously Known to the County 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 Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Murdaugh asked that Council be provided with a break down of the fees at the 3rd reading.

2nd 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 Murdaugh moved to approve 2nd 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.

New Business

Resolution 25-R-35, To Award the Contract for Planning Services for the County's Comprehensive Plan Update

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 25-R-35, To Award the Contract for Planning Services for the County's Comprehensive Plan Update. The motion was seconded by Councilman

Trippe. Discussion was held by Council to look at completing phase one of the plan. Council also spoke on adding an additional two drop-in meetings to the cost.

Councilman Taylor withdrew his original motion and made a motion to amend Resolution 25-R-35, To Award the Contract for Planning Services for the County's Comprehensive Plan Update; to include only the Comprehensive Plan update with two additional drop-meetings with a cost not to exceed \$73,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-41, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$2,500,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds of Colleton County, South Carolina; and Others Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve Resolution 25-R-41, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$2,500,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds of Colleton County, South Carolina; and Others Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously

Resolution 25-R-42, To Award the Contract for Engineering Services for the Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility Evaluation for Colleton County to Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 25-R-42, To Award the Contract for Engineering Services for the Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility Evaluation for Colleton County to Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-43, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Sale in Accordance with County Policy

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve Resolution 25-R-43, To Declare Surplus Equipment and to Authorize the Sale in Accordance with County Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-44, To Authorize the Waiver of Various Fees for the Summer 2025 Jerusalem Project Home Repair Program

Councilman Frank moved to approve Resolution 25-R-44, To Authorize the Waiver of Various Fees for the Summer 2025 Jerusalem Project Home Repair Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 25-R-46, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the following by acclamation, the motion was seconded by Councilman Frank; Colleton County Board of Assessment Appeals; Calvin Bailey and Ryan Crosby, Colleton County Recreation Commission; Clarence Wiggins and Colleton County Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Trail; Ian Dillinger. 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 reviewed the FoCCAS (Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter) Annual Report provided to Council by the Animal Service Director Laura Clark.

Executive Session

Councilman Taylor made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the following: Matters Concerning Economic Development in relation to Project Fanatic, Project Craft, Project Badger, Project Montreal, Project Ricochet, Project Triple Play and Personnel and Contractual Matter related to the Office of County Administrator. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Items discussed in Executive Session

Economic Development Director Brantley Strickland along with Project Manager Donna Lamb appeared before Council to discuss matters concerning Economic Development.

Councilman Biering advised that no action was taken during Executive Session

Adjournment

Councilman Trippe moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Frank seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously

Informal Meeting of the Whole

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

<https://www.youtube.com/live/CnD6Dekj90E?si=rqzWjm55I71DQZGP>

This 8th day of July 2025.



Scott Biering, Chairman

ATTEST:



Danielle Murdaugh, Clerk to Council