



**COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Scott Biering called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call**

Council Chairman Scott Biering, Council Vice-Chairman Bubba Trippe, Councilman Steve Murdaugh, Councilman Johnny Frank, Councilman Phillip Taylor were in attendance.

**3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**a) Regular Meeting, August 12, 2025**

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank and the motion carried unanimously.

**b) Public Health and Safety Committee, August 13, 2025**

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe moved to approve the minutes of the Public Health and Safety Committee held on August 13, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Awards and Recognitions**

**a) Proclamation Recognizing Jonah Givens for Achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout**

Chairman Biering read the Proclamation, recognizing Jonah Givens for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout into the record. Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh, and the motion carried unanimously.

b) Proclamation Recognizing Howard Lambert for Achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout

Chairman Biering read the Proclamation, recognizing Howard Lambert for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout into the record. Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank, and the motion carried unanimously.

Council congratulated both young men. Council Vice-Chairman Trippe advised that only 4% of scouts reach Eagle Scout, and to know that we have two here and the ones we have recognized in the past years, is a great honor. Councilman Murdaugh echoed the same, stating that it is a huge accomplishment that consists of obtaining a lot of merit badges, a lot of hours, and a lot of fundraising which highlights the leadership and personal achievement it represents. The remaining Council echoed the same.

c) Proclamation September 2025 as National Recovery Month in Colleton County

Chairman Biering read the Proclamation, as September 2025 as National Recovery Month in Colleton County into the record. Councilman Frank made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

Nikeyia Hammonds, Director of Colleton Pillars4Hope, along with Sayuanna Williams, thanked the Council for their support, particularly for the opioid funds, and detailed their initiatives, including providing clinical services to over 2,717 individuals and distributing over 737 boxes of Narcan in FY24. They also mentioned that the opioid coordinator has launched a mailing program to distribute safe drug deactivation systems and educational materials to over 8,700 households. They confirmed that Pillars4Hope offers dual diagnosis programs for co-occurring mental health and substance-use disorders and provides services to those without financial means, leveraging various funding programs to ensure treatment accessibility.

d) Proclamation Recognizing and Honoring the Members of the South Carolina State Guard and National Preparedness Month September 2025

Chairman Biering read the Proclamation, recognizing and honoring the members of the South Carolina State Guard and National Preparedness Month September 2025 into the record. Councilman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor, recognized the County Administrator, who has been recognized in the state of South Carolina for this very prestigious award, and for being part of the State Guard. The County Administrator, Mr. Higgs said, "Thank you on behalf of the State Guard and South Carolina Military Department and Adjunct General."

**7. Appearances & Public Presentations**

Chairman Biering advised that there were no items for appearances and public presentations.

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

Ms. Sue Keith from the Legislative Delegation appeared before Council and the public to remind them of the upcoming Legislative Delegation meeting on September 29, 2025 at 6:00pm. She also informed everyone that there was a board position open with the Voter of Registration, and to please apply if interested.

Felicia Johnson expressed ongoing concerns about a dangerous ditch near her house, the lack of change to a speeding sign, and issues at a four-way stop intersection. She emphasized the urgent need for assistance and requested information on who to contact for resolution, as previous attempts had been unsuccessful. Chairman Biering affirmed that they had sent letters to state agencies and would provide additional contact information to Ms. Johnson, while Councilman Murdaugh also suggested that legal action might be necessary for a definitive resolution.

**9. Administrator's Briefing**

The Administrator, Thomas Higgs, briefed the council on a positive update regarding a grant for the after-school feeding program, noting that the finance department has diligently worked to align the program's numbers. They shared that after an increase in participants and prepared food costs during COVID, the program is now preparing more of its own food internally, leading to a reduction in costs.

**10. Public Hearing**

Chairman Biering advised that there were no items for Public Hearing.

**11. Old Business**

Chairman Biering advised that there were no items for Old Business.

**12. New Business**

- a) 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-9, By Title Only, To Amend Title 6, Animals, Section 6.04.050 Enforcement, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinance, to Provide Greater Authority to Animal Service Officers

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-9, By Title Only, To Amend Title 6, Animals, Section 6.04.050 Enforcement, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinance, to Provide Greater Authority to Animal Service Officers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Murdaugh advised that he would like to see a draft of the changes before the 2nd Reading.

- b) 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-10, By Title Only, To Amend Title 14-Land Management, Article 14.04-6.040 to add the definition "Data Center", Article 14.08-2 Zoning District Regulations and Article 14.08-3 Conditional Uses, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances

Councilman Frank moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 25-O-10, By Title Only, To Amend Title 14-Land Management, Article 14.04-6.040 to add the definition "Data Center", Article

14.08-2 Zoning District Regulations and Article 14.08-3 Conditional Uses, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Murdaugh and Councilman Trippe brought up some items for addressing before the 2nd reading.

- c) Resolutions 25-R-55, To Award the Contract for the Design Build for the Veterans Park

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 25-R-55, To Award the Contract for the Design Build for the Veterans Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh, and the motion carried unanimously.

- d) Resolution 25-R-56, To Award the Contract for Debris Management and Disaster Recovery Services

Council Vice-Chairman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 25-R-56, To Award the Contract for Debris Management and Disaster Recovery Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh, and the motion carried unanimously.

- e) Resolution 25-R-57. To Award the Contract for First Push Debris Removal and Disposal Services

Councilman Frank moved to approve Resolution 25-R-57, To Award the Contract for First Push Debris Removal and Disposal Services. The motion was seconded by Council Vice-Chairman Trippe, and the motion carried unanimously.

- f) Resolution 25-R-58, To Award the Contract for Debris Monitoring and Recovery Services

Councilman Murdaugh moved to approve Resolution 25-R-58, To Award the Contract for Debris Monitoring and Recovery Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frank, and the motion carried unanimously.

- g) Resolution 25-R-59, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY25-26

Councilman Frank moved to approve Resolution 25-R-59, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY25-26. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh, and the motion carried unanimously.

- h) Resolution 25-R-60, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies

Council Vice Chairman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 25-R-60, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murdaugh, and the motion carried unanimously.

**13. Council Time**

Councilman Taylor gave an update on the Technical College of the Lowcountry career skills center, highlighting successful programs such as welding, CDL, CNA, and phlebotomy classes, many of which are free to Colleton County citizens. There are ongoing efforts to introduce EV and auto diesel programs, dual credit classes with Colleton Prep, and potential night CDL training with support from Dominion Energy. Councilman Taylor also referenced a letter that was received by a concerned citizen living on Poor Farm Road and the placement of the new Animal Shelter. Councilman Taylor asked if the County could provide information to the public to ease their minds. The County Administrator advised that once the schematics have been worked out in the drawing and design phase. Then the County will make it available once it is available to them.

Councilman Murdaugh spoke on the Animal Shelter, also advising that the letter of concern was received, and that it was his understanding that the drawings are at about 50% completed. He expressed that initially there were concerns about the size of the shelter and that was due to the increased cost in tariffs, causing the cost to increase on the project. Councilman Murdaugh believed that all the past issues should have been resolved, and the County should be moving forward with the project.

Chairman Biering was glad to hear of such great training happening at TCL. He explained that by bringing that service to Colleton it would give more opportunities for people in Colleton. He also advised that the letter was received with regard to the Animal Shelter and Council will share the information when it becomes available in the future, and is fairly certain that that new design will be a great improvement to the current Animal Shelter.

**14. Executive Session\***

Councilman Taylor made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items listed below. Councilman Frank seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

- a) Matters Concerning Economic Development
  - 1. Project Quail
  - 2. Project Fanatic
  - 3. Project Badger
  - 4. Project Boulder
  - 5. Project Triple Play
- b) Personnel and Contractual Matter related to the Office of County Administrator
- c) Legal Opioid Litigation Settlement Update

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

**15. 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. Council also discussed items concerning a personnel and contractual matter related to the Office of the County Administrator, and the opioid litigation settlement update.

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

**16. Adjournment**

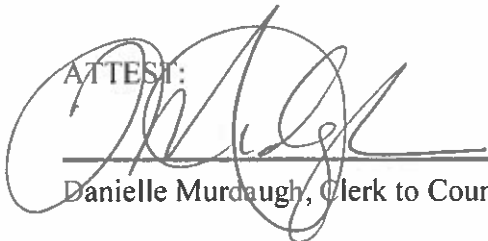
Councilman Trippe moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Murdaugh seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

[https://www.youtube.com/live/3VK8T\\_AZPF4?si=BAD7uZxepdu64VWj](https://www.youtube.com/live/3VK8T_AZPF4?si=BAD7uZxepdu64VWj)

This 8th day of September 2025

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Murdaugh, Clerk to Council  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Biering, Chairman