

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 21, 2010
5:30 P.M.**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman
Clyde B. Livingston
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janie Cooper, Vice Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Bill Clark, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Wimberly to approve minutes of June 7, 2010, with two corrections to page 5, last paragraph, to state only Chairman and Vice Chairman were in attendance at the meeting, and last paragraph, changing the word member quorum to minimum quorum, related to the Tax & Tourism Advisory Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston. Motion to approve minutes with corrections as indicated passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NO COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Abe Salama appeared before Council to voice concern about a letter to the editor appearing in The Times & Democrat, warning citizens to be aware of signing the waiver of liability at the Aquatic Center as part of joining the YMCA to participate in the swimming program. He requested the County Attorney review the contract and bring to the next meeting a legal opinion on the waiver, as well as the YMCA's mission statement, and citizens being denied membership who chose not to sign the waiver. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Salama for enlightening Council and recommended he talk with the Administrator with any further follow up.

Ms. Tara Williamson appeared before Council recommending Council give strong consideration to a new library being built for the benefit of all citizens of the county in the upcoming penny sales tax referendum. Following her presentation, Chairman Wright thanked Ms. Williamson for bringing her concerns before Council; she can talk with the Administrator about further expansion on her concerns, but they cannot promise anything, because there are always needs and many needs; Council has to prioritize where the need stops. Many good ideas are brought before Council and Council could say yes we can take care of that, but Council can't do that, but they will consider what she has brought before them.

1. ORDINANCE – THIRD AND FINAL READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS FOR ORANGEBURG COUNTY/JOHN W. MATTHEWS, JR., INDUSTRIAL PARK

Motion by Councilman Ravenell, seconded by Councilman Owens, to approve third and final reading of the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

2. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2010 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, FOR THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BUDGET FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES AND FOR OTHER COUNTY PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE COUNTY MAY LEVY A TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PERSONAL AND REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY FOR ALL COUNTY PURPOSES INCLUDING SUFFICIENT TAX TO PAY

THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY MATURING DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR; TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO ORANGEBURG COUNTY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF SAID TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING TO THE COUNTY DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR

Chairman Wright before opening the Public Hearing, thanked Department Heads, Administration, staff and employees for working together in helping Council to get to this point. Everyone knows what Council is dealing with when it comes to the budget. The budget has been reduced to the point of \$2.5 million dollars less than it was two years ago due to problems with the economy and cuts from the state. He realizes everybody is feeling some pain, and it is commendable that the staff and Department Heads worked with the Administrator to try and come up with ways to try to help Council balance the budget without having a tax increase on the citizens; things had to be done and people had to change some things they may not have liked in their comfort zone.

Capital improvement projects were deferred to another time. Council is prioritizing some of the convenience sites, not filling positions slated to be filled, looking at retirement personnel, and for the second year no salary increase for employees. It is tough on every one, we all are sharing in this matter. With regard to agencies and others, Council is trying to do this so Council would not have to lay off anybody, and do not have to furlough anyone.

It is commendable everyone tried to work together to reach this goal. It will not stay like this forever, but we have to stay together until we get through it. A lot of things have been done; traveling is cut back to only essential training that has to be done to keep certification. A lot has been done, nothing was taken lightly; it is his hope everyone will stay mindful and prayerful; it is a team effort to get to this point. It is not just one or two persons. Everybody helped to get here and everybody is feeling some of the pain

Public Hearing open by Chairman Wright. No comments were made. Public Hearing closed.

Motion made for approval of second reading by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Owens.

Councilman Clyde Livingston asked a question about comparing actual expenditures of the previous year and the year finishing up, how much was actually cut? Chairman Wright asked the Administrator if this was something he

could help with now, or was this something he had to look into specifically to get an answer. The Administrator indicated he did not bring that information to the meeting tonight, but he could certainly get it and forward it to Council. He just looked at the amounts that have been authorized in the budget appropriations. This is where the \$2.5 million came from; he understands the questions and he can get the detail before Council.

Chairman Wright asked all in favor of second reading on the budget let it be known by raising their hands. Five Council members voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Wright asked for a show of hand to those opposed to the motion. Councilman Clyde Livingston voted in opposition to the motion. Chairman Wright thanked him for his vote, stating, "there were no surprises there, you know that right"? Chairman Wright stated he doesn't know how many times in the last years Councilman Clyde Livingston has not voted for the budget; nothing changes he guesses and that's fine.

3. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2010 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, FOR ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES BOARD, THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT, AND FOR OTHER PUBLIC AND SPECIAL EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF SAID TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING TO THE COUNTY DURING THE FISCAL YEAR FOR SAID PURPOSES

Chairman Wright opened the Public Hearing. No comments forthcoming. Public Hearing closed.

Councilman Wimberly made a motion, seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston, for approval of second reading of the ordinance.

Councilman Clyde Livingston stated he wanted to asked the same question for this budget that he asked the previous budget. Chairman Wright asked the Administrator had he taken note of the request, the Administrator replied yes.

Chairman Wright asked those who were in favor of the vote to raise their hands. Five Council members voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Clyde Livingston voted in opposition of the motion.

4. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – TIRE DISPOSAL POLICY – COUNCILMAN RAVENELL, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Public Works Chairperson, Councilman Ravenell indicated the Committee's decision is to present the tire disposal issues as policies for Council to consider, and will carry the matter forward for Council approval at a future meeting.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL – DATA CONVERSION SERVICE – REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE

Chairman Wright asked the Administrator to give a report on this matter. Bill Clark indicated the County has been going through a process of converting the records in the Register of Deeds office into digital format for a period of several years. This process actually converts the records into digital format and indexes them so they can be accessed over the internet and available over the County's website.

Currently 20 years of back data is available in this format. The software vendor who has been doing the work is proposing to go back and do the balance of pre-1989 records and index them and convert them as well, so all can be on the system together, for a cost of \$28,000 over a time frame of 120 days. It is being brought to Council's attention because the Register of Deeds office does have funds available for this purpose to complete the work. Now is an advantageous time to do so because work volume in the office is down as a result of the recession and it would allow a greater amount of staff time to work with the coordination and proofing of the work.

Councilman Owens asked how many days it would take to complete the data conversion. The Administrator replied 120 days, per the software vendor's estimate, and then the County would take a period to review the work. Within six months of authorization, the work should be completed and available over the internet. It would be done with assistance from the vendor, but will also involve in-house contributions as well, which was factored into the proposal. Councilman Heyward Livingston asked if this was a top priority for the Administrator. The Administrator replied it would complete a process of work that was begun several years ago. It would be advantageous to bring it into the conversion process that has been ongoing, at a pretty reasonable proposal, get it done with budgeted funds in the Department, without impacting any other activity.

Councilman Ravenell asked about the impact on the Department and other offices. The Administrator indicated it would have the biggest impact on the Register of Deeds office. The biggest internal impact would be to the citizens who utilize the service of the office. Once all records are digitized, at that point whether some one is doing title research or just personal research, they can access the entire contents of the office with an internet connection 24 hours a day. They would not be confined from accessing records out of town, would not have to drive to the office, could access it after hours, and any records pulled up would be available for printing in their office. All this would impact on the work flow in the office.

Councilman Clyde Livingston asked how many County man hours and personnel would be used in this project. The Administrator deferred to Marion Lloyd as being more familiar with the numbers. Mr. Lloyd stated he could get the numbers, but indicated what the process would do is provide the mechanism where you could use the index books to find a particular project. The records go as far back as 1890; they are out there in the system, but cannot be accessed unless you know the plat book and page. This process would give you the index book so you could search and find the plat and page and retrieve the document back to 1890. County staff will be scanning documents back to 1890 and the creation of the office. This has been done with the plats and is in the process of being done with the deeds and mortgages. This process lets you find the specific page to research. Councilman Clyde Livingston accepted Mr. Lloyd's explanation, but told the Chairman he would like to have at least an estimate of the number of man hours involved.

Mr. Lloyd explained scanning documents from 2003 to 2009 going back to 1989, took about one year using 2 employees in the office working part-time on the documents. One employee working over a period scanning documents from 2003, going back to 1989, took a year. Following further discussion and the involvement of GIS staff in the discussion, Councilman Clyde Livingston said he was just trying to understand the process and man power involved.

Motion by Councilman Clyde Livingston, seconded by Councilman Owens, to accept proposal. Motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes and 6 raised hands.

6. RESCHEDULING OF JULY AND SEPTEMBER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

MONDAY, JULY 5, 2010 TO TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2010 AND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2010 TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010.


Chairman Wright read the agenda item to discover the dates listed on the agenda referred to July and August rather than July and September. The correct months were published to the audience. The individual dates in the body of the specific agenda item were correct to wit: Monday, July 5, 2010 to Tuesday, July 6, 2010 and Monday, September 6, 2010 to Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

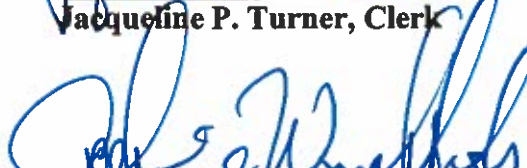
Motion made by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston, to approve rescheduling County Council meetings for July 5, 2010 to Tuesday, July 6, 2010, and Monday, September 6, 2011 to Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment made by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.


Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk


Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman