

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 19, 2012
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
Janie Cooper, Vice Chairman
Clyde B. Livingston
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Owens, to approve minutes of March 5, 2012 with corrections, if any. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NO COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Abe Salama appeared before Council to distribute handouts related to the plans by the City of Orangeburg to make improvements to motorists gaining access to Highway 301 south from the end of Russell street. He asked Councilman Owens whether he still favored his position with the scope of the proposed work. Councilman Owens replied after studying the SCDOT proposal, he favors their plan. Mr. Salama stated for the record, he is asking Council to become a part of a City, SCDOT, County coalition to close the road for a temporary 60 day period to test his theory.

Mr. Salama also brought up a Letter to the Editor appearing in the T&D, mentioning Councilwoman Cooper, alleging the NAACP was behind the intersection improvements. Mr. Salama also brought up some concerns his citizens group has regarding financial matters related to the superintendent in School District 5. He also expressed concern about the pre-tax installment payment program which has not been implemented and the lack of information available to taxpayers about the program.

Following his comments, Councilwoman Cooper asked Chairman Wright for permission to respond to Mr. Salama's allegations, stating the NAACP knew nothing about the intersection improvements, and the Letter to the Editor was, "full of lies." She further stated she is a member of the NAACP, and "I'm sure that if you are of color or black you would join the NAACP for what it stands for."

Councilman Cooper stated she, Chairman Wright, and the Administrator met with the Treasurer and Auditor about the pre-tax installment program. While it is too late for tax relief this year, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and approved by all involved in the implementation of the program, spelling out all the details. Notices will be sent out in tax bills alerting all citizens as to requirements necessary to participate in the program.

Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Salama for his concern and bringing information to County Council.

1. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY FROM THE COUNTY OF ORANGEBURG TO LAKE MARION WATER AGENCY

Prior to opening the Public Hearing, Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Clark to give a briefing on the proposed ordinance. Mr. Clark explained the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will be constructing wastewater collection lines along U.S. Highway 301 that connect to the Orangeburg County (Goodby's) Wastewater Treatment Plant at the site of the Matthews Industrial Park. The needed wastewater pumping station requires a transfer of approximately 2.2 acres of County-owned property adjacent to the Convenience Site to the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency. The property identified as Tract A, Tract B and Tract C, is adjacent to an existing Solid Waste Collection Site on U.S. 301 near the Town of Santee. Assistant County Attorney Jerrod Anderson is representing the County in this transaction.

Chairman Wright opened the Public Hearing and solicited questions from the public. No comments were made by the public. Public Hearing closed.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Ravenell, to give second reading to the ordinance transferring an interest in real property from the County of Orangeburg to Lake Marion Regional Water Agency. Motion carried.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL – CATTLE CREEK TELECOMMUNICATIONS OUTSIDE PLANT PROJECT (BROADBAND PROJECT CONSTRUCTION)

Chairman Wright asked Mr. Clark to give a summary on this agenda item. Mr. Clark explained the County recently solicited proposals for the construction of approximately 40.28 miles of buried fiber cable and 19.96 miles of buried service entrances within the Cattle Creek area for Phase II of the Broadband Project. A pre-proposal meeting conducted on March 6, 2012 determined submissions would be due March 14, 2012. The solicitation and evaluation of proposals was conducted by William Metts, P.E. with Metts Engineering Company. A total of four vendors responded to the solicitation. W. Metts Engineering Company is recommending for County Council's approval Jim Young Construction, Cleveland, Georgia, in the amount of \$776,473.00, which breaks down to \$231,823.00 for materials, and \$544,650.00 for labor. USDA Rural Utilities will pay for 75% of the project cost with the remaining 25% coming from the pledged deposit account that was funded by the County through the Capital Projects Sales Tax.

Councilman Owens asked about the expected start date. Mr. Metts replied as soon as the cable wire is received, sometime in April. Councilman Owens, asked about the completion date. Mr. Metts stated sometime in the fall. Councilman Wimberly asked what was the turn around on next scheduled phase, possibly Bowman, how has Mr. Metts outlined the phases for construction, and when was the next proposal scheduled. Mr. Metts stated the next bid is scheduled for on or about May 15, 2012, outlined for Fire Fighter Lane, crossing Hwy 301, and connecting up with other intersections. Chairman Wright asked whether the overlapping in bids was to keep everything flowing as fast as possible? Mr. Metts stated this was the strategy. With the second bid, two contractors are running parallel.

Councilman Ravenell asked whether Mr. Metts had all the materials needed to stay on the timeline, are things flowing smoothly, does he anticipate any discrepancy? Mr. Metts stated they still have that concern, but have been fortunate to get verbal commitment from a cable supplier whose quoted delivery was 26 weeks, but he thinks they will do better than that. First cable for Rowesville will be delivered in late March, a second delivery will be made in April. Councilman Ravenell questioned the time span needed for the manufacturer to make the cable and whether Mr. Metts will wait until the second phase cable is actually needed, or will his request orders make sure he will have supplies on a timely basis. Mr. Metts said purchase request orders are in for the second, third, fourth, and fifth phases. Mr. Clark stated all request orders were processed today.

Councilman Wimberly asked if the requests being made today will have a designated delivery time. Mr. Metts replied yes. Mr. Metts stated, in full disclosure, they are about three to four weeks from ordering cable for the Caanan site and after, Bowman, Branchville sites. Councilman Wimberly asked when the sites are to be completed, Mr. Metts stated June 30, 2015.

Motion by Councilman Wimberly, seconded by Councilman Ravenell, to accept the proposal submitted by Jim Young Construction, Cleveland, Georgia, in the total amount of \$776,473.00 (\$231,823.00 for materials and \$544,650.00 for labor). Motion carried.

3. REQUEST TO LEASE OLD FIRE STATION BUILDING – TOWN OF NORWAY

Chairman Wright asked Bill Clark to summarize this agenda item. Mr. Clark stated the Town of Norway is asking County Council for permission to lease the Old Fire Station building that is County owned, located near the corner of Saxton Avenue and Cope Road in Norway on property adjacent to the County Solid Waste Collection Site. They are requesting a lease with a nominal consideration of \$1 yearly. The building is vacant now, and the County is not anticipating use of the building at this time. Norway wishes to utilize the building for vehicle and equipment storage. As an alternative to leasing the building, the Town of Norway indicated they would consider an exchange of property if the County found this to be more desirable. Under this scenario, the Town would provide the property that is leased by the County for the Solid Waste Collection Site in exchange for the property of the Old Fire Station. Mr. Clark is presenting the request to County Council for their input and will follow up with the Town of Norway based on Council's directions to him on this matter.

Councilwoman Cooper asked Mr. Clark how long the property had been vacant. Mr. Clark did not have an exact time, but said a couple of years. Councilman Heyward Livingston responded the property has been vacant five or six years. Councilwoman Cooper asked was any renovation required. Mr. Clark replied it was an old building with a concrete floor and bay windows, intended to be used for storage. Councilman Heyward Livingston stated the lease was the right way to go with this now because it joins the Convenience Site. It's a very small Convenience Site for Norway that might never need enlarging; however the land is there. If Council gives Norway a lease that would solve their problem, and keep the County's interest in it.

Motion by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Wimberly, to lease the Old Fire Station Building to the Town of Norway for a nominal fee of \$1.00 annually. Motion carried.

4. REQUEST TO ABANDON MAINTENANCE OF ALLEY WAY OFF OF OLD STATE COURT (S-38-1230) – REFERRAL TO PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Wright asked Bill Clark to summarize this request, stating such matters are usually referred to the Public Works Committee. Mr. Clark stated such requests are typically referred to the Public Works Committee for the purpose of providing notification to the public to receive public input if there should be any. He has looked at this road and he does not anticipate there will be any conflict with this particular request; however, regardless, it is his recommendation to refer the matter to the Public Works Committee. Councilman Ravenell asked whose District the road was located in. Mr. Clark indicated it was off Highway 601,

adjacent to the Koyo facility; Councilwoman Cooper stated it was located in District 5, it was formerly an old club, Club 601 at one time.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper, to refer the request to abandon maintenance on Alley Way to the Public Works Committee for review. Motion carried.

5. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – (A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE AND (B) LEGAL BRIEFING – TRMC

Motion to adjourn for an executive session made by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried,

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment made by Councilman Wimberly, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman