

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 21, 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:

**Janie Cooper, Vice Chairman
Clyde B. Livingston
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Janie Cooper, Vice Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Ravenell, to approve minutes of May 7, 2012 with corrections, if any. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NO COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Abe Salama spoke, reminding Council he appeared before Council previously, requested a change in the starting time of meetings from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 or 7:00 p.m., so people living in the eastern and western areas of the county, would have the opportunity to attend Council meetings.

Councilman Clyde Livingston stated once meetings are adjourned Council members meet for executive sessions, and these sessions do not conclude sometime until 10 p.m., presenting possible travel problems for members travelling to the

eastern and western areas of the County. For this reason Council will continue meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Jeanette Jeffries appeared before Council, distributing a letter she wrote addressing the issue of Sheriff's Department personnel, whom she named, using two county-owned vehicles, and a county gas card to travel out of the state to attend the funeral of a parent of one of the travelers. Councilman Wimberly stated Ms. Jeffries needed proof, not just a letter she wrote to back up her allegations. Vice Chairman Cooper thanked Ms. Jeffries for bringing the matter before Council, stating County Administrator Clark would look into the matter.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston to move item #6 on the agenda, Presentation – Junior Leadership Program- Chamber of Commerce – F. Ralph Faulling, to the front of the agenda so the Junior Leadership students could make their presentations and leave to attend their graduation ceremony. Motion carried.

1. PRESENTATION – JUNIOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – F. RALPH FAULLING

Mr. Faulling appeared before Council, thanking members for allowing the students to make their presentations early in order for them and their families, also present, to attend their graduation. Presentations were made by the Junior Leadership students who all expressed their appreciations for being selected to participate in the Junior Leadership Program by the Guidance Counselors from their individual schools. Each student reported on the positive activities they engaged in as part of the Program and the insights each received from their participation in the Program.

Following their presentations, Vice Chairman Cooper, thanked Mr. Faulling and the students, encouraging them to think about becoming future Council members, committing themselves to improving the quality of life for coming generations in Orangeburg County.

**2. ORDINANCE FIRST READING (BY TITLE ONLY) BUDGET
ORDINANCE FOR FY 2012-2012**

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2012 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2013, 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

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Ravenell to give first reading approval by title only to the Budget Ordinance For Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2012 and Ending June 30, 2013. Motion carried.

3. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING (BY TITLE ONLY) BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FY 2012-2013

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2012 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2013, FOR ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES BOARD, THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT, AND FOR OTHER PUBIC 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

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Council Ravenell to give first reading approval by title only to the Budget Ordinance For Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2012 and Ending June 30, 2013 For Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. Motion passed.

4. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO LEASE PROPERTY TO TOWN OF NORWAY

Vice Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Clark to give a briefing on the ordinance. Mr. Clark stated a few months prior Council had been approached by the Town of Norway to lease the old Fire Station building located on County-owned property adjacent to the Solid Waste Collection Site. The County owns the old Fire Station

building which is vacant; the County does not have any immediate future plans for the building. The Town intends to use the building as storage of property and equipment. The ordinance is needed to officially execute the Lease with the Town as authorized by County Council.

Motion by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Owens to give first reading to the ordinance. Motion passed.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

A. BROADBAND CONSTRUCTION

Councilwoman Cooper asked Mr. Clark for a briefing on this bid. Mr. Clark explained the bid opening was held May 14, 2012, with four contractors responding. The low bidder was determined to be Edwards Telecommunications Inc, Columbia, S.C, in the amount of \$2,438,102.65 , which amount includes labor and materials. This bid covers Phase III of the Broadband Project, encompasses Duncan Chapel and Firefighter Lane area, involving the construction of approximately 109 miles of mainline fiber and 62 miles of customer drop fiber, providing coverage to 902 potential customers. The fiber service will provide high speed data rates of up to 1 Gigabit/second.

Cost for the Broadband Project will be provided through USDA Rural Utilities Service grant for 75% of the cost, and 25% of the cost will come from Capital Projects Sales Tax funding. Project engineers William Metts and Ethan Beeks are present to answer any questions Council might have.

Motion by Councilman Clyde Livingston, seconded by Councilman Wimberly, to accept the bid submitted by Edwards Telecommunications in the amount of \$2,438,102.65. Motion passed.

Prior to the motion being passed Councilman Ravenell stated he wanted to add something. He stated he had no problem with what County was doing, but he wanted to add he was received a lot of calls from people feeling broadband is only being put in certain areas of the county. While he knows this is not true, what the County is trying to do is put broadband into unincorporated areas of the county. Councilman Ravenell said there should be money available for research in other areas for inclusion in the broadband project.

Mr. Clark stated the goal is to bring broadband into Holly Hill and Eutawville. The first phase covered the Rowesville area and the second phase will cover the

Cattle Creek area. It is expected Rowesville should have broadband in place by the end of the year. The County has received a second grant designed to build out the system.

Councilman Wimberly stated the intent is to cover Orangeburg County. Right now it extends from the Edisto River to Four Holes Swamp and up to 301 in Rowesville. The next phase is to go up to Holly Hill and Eutawville. Right now there is a bill in Columbia to try and stop Orangeburg County from providing broadband to people who have never received it.

B. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

County Administrator Clark gave an overview of the emergency communications system indicating Emergency communications consoles in the 911 Center are reaching an age where they are becoming difficult to obtain parts for repairs and will soon no longer be supported under existing maintenance contracts. Additionally, radio interference on the Fire Dispatch System is affecting the quality of communications for the fire service.

County staff, including representatives from the fire service, have analyzed the issues and are prepared to make a recommendation to County Council concerning upgrades to the 911 Center and fire service radios. The recommended solutions for the issues, within the emergency communications system are technical and involve a commitment of financial resources.

Harold Young, Deputy Administrator, presented Council with a proposal from Motorola in the amount of \$1,419,354.85 for a new console for the emergency operations center for 911 traffic and for about 290 800-megahertz radios for the Orangeburg County Fire District. The services contract for radios will be with Kelly Communications, a local vendor. Payments for the dual upgrades will be monthly over a nine year period, with an interest rate of 3.3 per cent; payments would begin July 1, 2013. Discussion followed, with Councilman Ravenell asking if the Fire Districts were in accord with the upgrade. John Smith replied in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilman Wimberly, seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston, to purchase a new console for the Emergency Operations Center, and 290 800-megahertz radios for the Orangeburg County Fire District. Motion passed.

C. COURTROOM SEATING – LEC COMPLEX

Mr. Clark stated the new bench seating is the final phase of an on-going renovation project at the Law Enforcement Complex. The County solicited bids for new bench seating with specifications reviewed and approved by the Sheriff. The solicitation was advertised on the County's website, locally in the Times and Democrat, and statewide in the South Carolina Business Opportunities. A pre-bid conference was held April 31, 2012 with the bid opening on May 10, 2012.

One vendor responded with a bid, Sauder MFG in the amount of \$23,325.00. The Purchasing Director feels the amount of the bid is fair and reasonable. The vendor has provided seating in the Orangeburg County Courthouse during the 2008 renovation of the Courthouse. Cost for the renovation to the Law Enforcement Complex was anticipated in the FY 2012 budget and funds were appropriated in the Capital Improvement Fund for this purpose. Mr. Clark is recommending County Council approve the bid for Sauder MFG in the amount of \$23,325.00.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Wimberly to approve the bid of \$23,325.00 from Sauder MFG for new benching in the Law Enforcement Complex. Motion passed.

6. RESOLUTION – HONORING 1962 CLASS OF WILKINSON HIGH SCHOOL 50TH REUNION

Councilman Owens read the Resolution and recognized the members of the Class of 1962 who were present.

Motion by Councilman Clyde Livingston, seconded by Councilman Ravenell to adopt the Resolution. Motion passed.

7. APPOINTMENT – YMCA ADVISORY COUNCIL – COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston, to recommend the appointment of Ms. Linda Keith Hightower to the YMCA Advisory Council. Motion passed.

Councilman Owens introduced Ms. Hightower to members of Council.

8. VOTE FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL MATTERS (A) WATER/SEWER OPERATIONS AND (B) INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Wimberly, to adjourn for an executive session. Motion passed.

9. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment by Councilman Wimberly, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman