

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
December 1, 2014
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-Smith, Vice Chairwoman
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Clyde B. Livingston**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Harold M. Young, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Angel Howell, Interim Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Harry Wimberly-Prayer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes presented for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA ITEMS:

Councilman Wright yielded the floor to Jeanette Jeffries to discuss Item Number 1 (One) on the agenda. Ms. Jeffries asked County Council to explain the election process for jurors. Councilman Wright yielded the floor to Administrator Young. Administrator Young stated that the new process would allow the magistrate to select jurors countywide. Administrator Young then yielded the floor to Judge Derrick Dash. Judge Dash stated that the Constitution allow individuals the right to a jury trial. Central courts have been established. Judge Dash said normally jurors are selected from the area from which the crime occurred and heard in the area where the crime occurred. However, since central courts have been established, Chief Justice signed an order allowing jurors to be selected countywide. Individuals and/or their attorney still have the right to opt out and have jurors selected from the area in which the offense occurred. This applies to CDV (criminal domestic violence) cases and traffic cases. The Chief Justice is requiring approval from the county's governing body. Chairman Wright

yielded the floor to Councilman Clyde Livingston. Councilman Clyde Livingston asked if the individuals still have a right to select their peers and Judge Dash stated yes. The floor was yielded to Vice Chairwoman Janie Cooper-Smith and she asked how many times a request has been made to have jurors come from the area where the incident occurred. Judge Dash responded that in his nineteen years that this was the first year he has encountered this request.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OTHER MATTERS: NONE

Councilman Owens made a motion to amend the regular agenda by adding a letter to the Joint Bond Review Committee for South Carolina State University by South Carolina legislatures. The motion was seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston. Chairman Wright said the amendment will be Item Number 2a. Motion carried. Vote: 7-0-0

1. APPROVAL OF NEW JURY SELECTION PROCESS FOR CENTRAL TRAFFIC COURT AND CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

Vice Chairwoman Cooper-Smith made a motion to approve the new jury selection process for Central Traffic Court and Criminal Domestic Violence Court. Councilman Johnny Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote: 7-0-0

2. ORDINANCE-THIRD READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE CERTIFYING THE PETITION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF THE EMPIRE ESTATES SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHING THE EMPIRE ESTATES SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT WHICH SHALL BE CREATED TO PROVIDE FOR STREET LIGHTING WITHIN THE PROPOSED DISTRICT

Chairman Wright yielded the floor to Administrator Young for an explanation. Mr. Young stated that the residents of Empire Estates have seen where other neighborhoods have experienced a decrease in crime by improving the lighting. Administrator Young said that state statute requires that a community wanting a special tax lighting district must produce a petition and have it certify by council.

Chairman Wright yielded the floor to Councilman Ravenell. He stated that it is a good thing when subdivisions create a lighting district to help to deter crime. Councilman Ravenell stated that anytime you have more lighting in an area, you have less people trespassing on your property. He advised other areas to do the same.

Public hearing was opened. No one came forward. Chairman Wright closed public hearing.

Councilman Ravenell made a motion to approve third and final reading of the ordinance certifying the petition for the creation of the Empire Estates Special Tax District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harry Wimberly. Motion carried. Vote: 7-0-0

2a LETTER TO THE JOINT BOND REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA STATE.

Councilman Wright yielded the floor to Councilman Owens to give a summary. Councilman Owens made motion that a letter of support be written to the Joint Bond Review Committee for South Carolina State University acknowledging and supporting the Blue Ribbon Committee panel recommendations that will be made and discussed on Wednesday.

Chairman Wright asked if there were any questions. Chairman Wright yielded the floor to Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell asked for an explanation of the function of the Blue Ribbon Panel. Councilman Owens stated that the function of the Joint Bond Review Committee is to set guidelines and support for South Carolina State University. The Blue Ribbon Committee has already made these recommendations and ask that they be supported by the general public.

Councilman Owens made a motion to support the recommendations and indicate support by writing a letter. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Janie Cooper-Smith. Motion carried. Vote: 7-0-0

3. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairwoman Janie Cooper-Smith made a motion to go into executive session for an economic development update. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnny Ravenell. Motion carried. 7-0-0

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

5. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

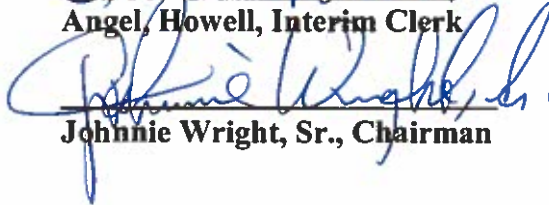
Motion was made by Councilman Willie B. Owens for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston. Motion carried. Vote: 7-0-0

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.



Angel, Howell, Interim Clerk



Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

