

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 20th, 2015
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.**
- Harry Wimberly**
- Heyward H. Livingston**
- Willie B. Owens**
- Clyde Livingston**
- Johnny Ravenell**
- Janie Cooper-Smith**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Harold Young, County Administrator**
- D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney**
- Faith E Carter, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

None

1. PRESENTATION BY THE CROWN GROUP

Ms. Angela T. Clark took the podium to begin the presentation. Ms. Clark is the President and Founder of the Crown Group as well as the local Executive Director of the Miss Orangeburg County and Miss Garden City pageants. Ms. Clark introduced the ladies that will be competing this summer for Miss South Carolina and Miss South Carolina Teen.

Miss Orangeburg County 2015 Sadia M. Robinson, Miss Orangeburg County Teen 2015 Aubrai M. Brailey, Miss Garden City 2015 Maya Grace Slaughter (not present), and Miss Garden City Teen 2015 Shantaria Edmonds. Miss Slaughter is in New Jersey working for TeachForAmerica. Ms. Clark spoke about a new campaign that the ladies will be starting in Orangeburg County called Orangeburg Proud. They will be around the county and in the 17 municipalities discussing the wonderful things happening in Orangeburg County. Chairman Wright wished them success and thanked Ms. Clark for her involvement in promoting opportunities for young people. Ms. Clark especially recognized Councilman Willie B. Owens for his significant support. Ms. Clark advised that Councilman Owens has been inducted in the 2015 Crown Group Hall of Fame. Councilman Ravenell asked Ms. Clark how they would be engaging people in the county and municipalities. Ms. Clark advised that they are creating the Orangeburg Proud campaign through radio and television public service announcements (PSAs) that talk about the individual municipalities and what they have to offer within the county such industry, tourism, and local festivals in order to showcase the resources within the county.

2. PRESENTATION BY CENTRAL SOUTH CAROLINA ALLIANCE

Chairman Wright introduced Mike Mullins of Central South Carolina Alliance. Mr. Mullins took the podium and thanked the councilpersons for the opportunity to speak with them. Mr. Mullins advised that it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with Gregg Robinson at the Orangeburg County Development Commission. Mr. Mullins introduced to the Council Tracy McMillian, Vice President of Operations, Melissa Mims, Director of Investor and Public Relations, and Ted Creech, Vice Chairman of Private Sector. Mr. Mullins gave the Council an update on the activities of the alliance from a regional and county perspective. They are a 501(c)3 organization and represent nine counties in the state as well as the City of Columbia. Mr. Ted Creech addressed the Council thanking them from the private sector for their support of the economic development initiatives in Orangeburg County.

3. AN OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ST. MATTHEWS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Chairman Wright asked Mr. Harold Young, County Administrator to comment on the agreement. Mr. Young advised that unfortunately crime knows no borders and local jurisdictional boundaries are crossed in the course of fighting crime. The Sheriff's Office by law is prohibited from inducing these agreements without the approval of the County Council. Chairman Wright asked for questions. No questions. Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the agreement. Motion was made by Councilman Wimberly and a second by Councilman Owens. Motion carried. (7-0)

4. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO

THE FUNDING NEEDS FOR STATE MAINTAINED AND OPERATED ROADS AND BRIDGES WITHOUT TRANSFERRING THE BURDEN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OPPOSING ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THROUGH LACK OF STATE FUNDING WILL LEAD TO INCREASED TAXES ON THE CITIZENS OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY

Chairman Wright read the resolution in its entirety. Chairman Wright advised that Orangeburg County is the largest rural county in the state and the second largest county in terms of land mass. Chairman Wright appreciated the efforts of the local state delegation however the impact of the transfer of additional miles of road would be devastating to the county.

Councilwoman Cooper-Smith made comments on the Home Rule Act of 1975 and additionally appreciated the efforts of the state delegation. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked the public if they see the state delegation to applaud them for their efforts. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked the public to call their state legislators and tell them the county does not need this extra burden.

Councilman Owens seconded Councilwoman Cooper-Smith remarks. Councilman Owens asked the Times & Democrat newspaper to send the resolution to Columbia. Councilman Owens would like the paper to make a special effort to have the resolution in the state newspaper so the General Assembly will read it.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked if the legislation passes would the Association of Counties challenge it. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith responded that it was already being challenged. Councilman Heyward Livingston clarified that he met in the court system. Chairman Wright advised that he could not specifically answer that question.

Councilman Wimberly advised that it was unfair and that it does not make sense when people know that the county cannot keep up the roads. Councilman Wimberly advised the simple solution would be to raise the gas tax. South Carolina has the cheapest gas tax in the United States. If the state will not raise the gas tax then perhaps Orangeburg County can. Councilman Owens advised that the current proposal is to raise the gas tax by 10 cents but he was unsure if this would be enough to cover the cost of the needed projects. Councilman Wimberly asked if the state raised the gas tax 10 cents and then gives the county 800 additional miles of road, where the 10 cent increase be spent?

Councilman Ravenell advised that he believed that the counties should be sitting at the table with state legislators who are making these decisions to provide input for each individual county.

Councilman Wimberly advised that the Council was advised in the Friday meeting of the specific roads that would be given to the county. Councilman Wimberly advised that upon review of that list it appears that the county will be given sections of road instead of complete roads to maintain. Councilman Wimberly advised that this creates an additional difficulty in terms of identifying who is responsible for the maintenance of sections of specific roads. Councilman Wimberly seconded Councilman Ravenell's comments in regards to the county being at the table with state legislators if the county is to gain additional roads.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Owens motioned that the resolution be approved. Councilwomen Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

County Administrator Harold Young, at the request of Chairman Wright, added the following comments: Orangeburg County currently maintains 800 miles of road. They are maintained by the Roads and Bridges Department. This bill is trying to give Orangeburg County an additional 800 miles of road. There is no way we can handle this increase without an increase in staff, equipment, and other areas that would result in some type of tax increase. Orangeburg County is 1,100 square miles long. One of the biggest impacts that we have to deal with is the width of our county and the amount of dirt roads and the amount of maintenance that it takes. Also maintenance is not just roads, they are talking about throwing in everything that deals with the road itself such as lighting, signage, traffic lights, and traffic stops. We had an ice storm and we spent most of our time clearing our roads. This would give us 800 additional miles of road to clear and maintenance during a disaster. This bill is a detriment. Most counties do not have the amount of roads that we have. There may be counties who are for this because it will make it easier for them to do road projects without having to go to the state for encroachment permits. However, in our case it is a detriment. There are only a few counties that would do that but even the smaller counties cannot accept this burden. The amount of money that has been suggested to give to us is \$1 million and that is not sufficient when dealing with roads because of the fact that maintenance is required.

Councilwomen Cooper-Smith asked how many miles of road \$1 million dollars would pave. Administrator Young deferred to the Public Works Director Sinkler Boone. Director Boone advised that \$1 million dollars would pave approximately 4 miles of road.

Councilman Clyde Livingston asked if the additional mileage was all paved roads. Administrator Young advised that the 800 miles of additional roads were a combination of dirt and paved roads. Councilman Clyde Livingston asked how many of the additional roads were paved. Administrator Young advised that they are in the process of analyzing the list to come up with those numbers.

Administrator Young advised the public that county council is the most accessible form of government and it is easier to complain to the county council members about the issues with the roads versus working your way up to the state or Washington, D.C. Most people's first instinct to call the county when they have issue with a road not realizing that the issue lies with the state.

5. RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Chairman Wright read the resolution in its entirety. Chairman Wright asked for a motion approving the resolution. Councilwomen Cooper-Smith motioned that the resolution be approved. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0). Councilman Owens reminded the public that Councilwomen Cooper-Smith worked hard to develop a program where citizens can pay their taxes in installments. Councilwomen Cooper-Smith reminded the public that the prior tax year must be paid in full prior to signing up for the tax installment plan.

6. ORDINANCE THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO TAKE ANY AND ALL APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION TO OBTAIN REAL PROPERTY RIGHTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE MYERS ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for a summary. Administrator Young advised that Capital Project Sales Tax District Seven has agreed to fund this project however, the ordinance is necessary to obtain the correct easements and right-of-way to complete the project. This is the necessary last step for us to be able to move forward with this project. The project would install sidewalks from Myers Rd. down to Bryan. Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the ordinance on this its third and final reading. Councilman Owens motioned that the ordinance be approved. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

7. ORDINANCE THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY TO ORANGEBURG COUNTY SECURING A SPECULATIVE BUILDING LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 78,000 SQUARE FOOT SPECULATIVE BUILDING; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY OR RELATED TO THE SECURING AND CLOSING OF THE LOAN

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for a summary. Administrator Young advised that this is a speculative program that the county is

participating in order to pass through funds for Sigmalex which is locating in the St. Matthews Park. Administrator Young yielded to the attorney for Economic Development for further comment. Deputy County Attorney Jerrod Anderson had no further comment. No additional questions were asked. Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the ordinance in this its third and final reading. Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned to approve the ordinance. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

8. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT BBU PROPERTY PROVIDING FOR A PAYMENT OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAXES, THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation of the ordinance. Deputy County Attorney Jerrod Anderson addressed the Council. Mr. Anderson announced that the name of the company in the BBU Project is Bimbo Bakeries, USA. There have been changes to the fee agreement that is before council as it references item number eight. This is because the property is located within the county and the city. Mr. Anderson advised that he has been working with the city attorney and has been informed that a resolution to approve this expansion in the multi-county industrial park will be before the City Council on Tuesday. Mr. Anderson advised that he has viewed the resolution and it appears strong. He believes that things are moving in the right direction.

Chairman Wright opened up the floor for public hearing. Ms. Emily Scoville came to the podium to ask about Maxwell Place. Councilman Owens stated that they are about to do something about this matter. Ms. Scoville stated that she had been told that previously but nothing happened. Councilman Owens advised that they currently have funding which was the reason why something was not done previously. Ms. Scoville asked what the Council intended to do about it. Ms. Scoville advised that people cannot even get into their yards when it rains heavily. Chairman Wright advised Ms. Scoville that after the meeting she can speak with Councilman Owens and the County Administrator Harold Young about this specific issue. Chairman Wright advised that the floor was open for discussion as it relates to agenda items number eight and nine. Chairman Wright advised that public comments can be made at the beginning of every council meeting.

No further comments were made and no comments were made in regards to agenda items eight and nine. Chairman Wright closed the public hearing for agenda items eight and nine.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve items eight and nine together. Councilman Owens motioned that items eight and nine be approved. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

9. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EXISTING AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL

PARK BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ENLARGE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARK TO INCUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE HEREAFTER OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY A COMPANY IDNETIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT BBU, LOCATED IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND AUTHORIZING OTHE RELATED MATTERS.

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation of the ordinance. Deputy County Attorney Jerrod Anderson addressed the Council. Mr. Anderson announced that the name of the company in the BBU Project is Bimbo Bakeries, USA. There have been changes to the fee agreement that is before council as it references item number eight. This is because the property is located within the county and the city. Mr. Anderson advised that he has been working with the city attorney and has been informed that a resolution to approve this expansion in the multi-county industrial park will be before the City Council on Tuesday. Mr. Anderson advised that he has viewed the resolution and it appears strong. He believes that things are moving in the right direction.

Chairman Wright opened up the floor for public hearing. Ms. Emily Scoville came to the podium to ask about Maxwell Place. Councilman Owens stated that they are about to do something about this matter. Ms. Scoville stated that she had been told the previously but nothing happens. Councilman Owens advised that they currently having funding which was the reason why something was not done previously. Ms. Scoville asked what the Council intended to do about it. Ms. Scoville advised that people cannot even get into their yards when it rains heavily. Chairman Wright advised Ms. Scoville that after the meeting she can speak with Councilman Owens and the County Administrator Harold Young about this specific issue. Chairman Wright advised that the floor was open for discussion as it relates to items number eight and nine. Chairman Wright advised that public comments can be made at the beginning of every council meeting.

No further comments were made and no comments were made in regards to agenda items eight and nine.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve items eight and nine together. Councilman Owens motioned that items eight and nine be approved. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

10. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY TO ORANBURG COUNTY SECURING A SPECULATIVE BUILDING LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 75,000 SQUARE FOOT SPECULATIVE BUILDING; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY OR RELATED TO THE SECURING AND CLOSING OF THE LOAN

Chairman Wright asked the County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Mr. Young advised Orangeburg County had decided to build a speculative building in the St. Matthews Park. Fortunately before we could get that building finished we have a tenet that is coming in who is Sigmatex. They are in the process of building their industry in the first building. We will still be constructing a speculative building to have product for sale. As we have heard Mr. Mullins explain the economic development industry is competitive these days. Industries no longer come to fields and say can you plant here. They say, "I'm coming from a specific location and have to be up and running by this date." In order to be competitive we have to have product and the product is the speculative building. We are taking advantage of different agreements and loans available through Santee-Cooper and the South Carolina Alliance and other means to pull those funds together. I will yield at this time to the Director of Economic Development for any additional comment. No additional comments were made by the Director for Economic Development, Mr. Gregg Robinson.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilman Wimberly motioned that the ordinance be approved. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

11. ORDINANCE FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2011-09-06-14 ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$820,000) WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2011A (TOWN OF VANCE), OF ORANEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO"

Chairman Wright asked the County Administrator or County Attorney for an explanation of the ordinance. County Administrator Harold Young responded that the projects have been completed and the monies have already been spent however, the closing process required through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) changed some of the language in the original ordinance. County Attorney D'Anne Haydel advised that the USDA wished the payment schedule to change from a monthly basis to an annual basis.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion that agenda items 11 and 12 be approved by the same vote. Councilman Wimberly motioned that agenda items 11 and 12 be approved. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

12. ORDINANCE FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY

AN ORDINANCE AMDENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2001-09-19-15 ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2011, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE

ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,830,000) WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2011B (PHASE I), OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

Chairman Wright asked the County Administrator or County Attorney for an explanation of the ordinance. County Administrator Harold Young responded that the projects have been completed and the monies have already been spent however, the closing process required through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) changed some of the language in the original ordinance. County Attorney D’Anne Haydel advised that the USDA wished the payment schedule to change from a monthly basis to an annual basis.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion that agenda items 11 and 12 be approved by the same vote. Councilman Wimberly motioned that agenda items 11 and 12 be approved.

Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

Public Comment:

- 1) Councilman Wimberly asked Chairman Wright to recognize a group of Boy Scouts who were in attendance at the meeting. Matthew Mattison took the podium and addressed the Council. Mr. Mattison advised that they are from Troop 45 and are working toward their communication merit badge. Troop Leader is Mikey Johnson. Attendance: David Jennings, Patrick Watford. Chairman Wright thanked the Troop for attending the meeting.
- 2) Chairman Wright recognized Miss Aubrai Brailey, Miss Orangeburg County 2015. Miss Brailey advised that her platform is Hope for Violet, which is in honor of her grandfather who died from Prostate Cancer and her grandmother who died of leukemia. This Friday she will be participating in the Relay for Life at the Orangeburg County Fairgrounds. She would like everyone to come and support her to raise awareness about cancer.
- 3) Chairman Wright recognized Miss Shantavia Edmonds, Miss Garden City Teen 2015. Miss Edmonds advised that her platform is organ donation because her father received a lung transplant approximately one month ago. She would like to increase the number of organ donors in the Garden City and Orangeburg areas. On May 16th, 2015 at Howard Middle School she will be hosting an Organ Donation Walk. She would like to invite everyone to attend to raise awareness for organ donation because only 30% of Americans know how to become organ donors.
- 4) Chairman Wright recognized Miss Sadia M. Robinson, Miss Orangeburg County 2015. She will be traveling to Tampa, FL to work on her masters’ degree in Public Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health. Miss Robinson thanked the community for their support of her in the Miss Orangeburg Pageant and in the coming Miss South Carolina Pageant. Miss Robinson advised that her platform is

diabetes awareness. She choose this platform because a number of people in Orangeburg are struggling with managing this disease.

13. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright asked for a motion that the council move into executive session for an update on economic development. Councilwomen Cooper-Smith motioned that the Council participate in the executive session for an update on economic development. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

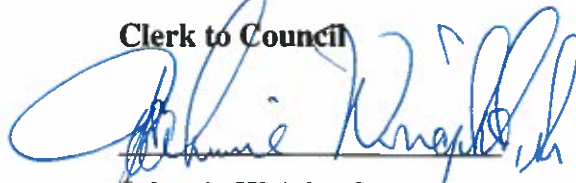
15. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright asked for a motion that the meeting of the County Council should be adjourned. Councilman Owens motioned that this meeting of the County Council should be adjourned. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0). Meeting adjourned.

16. ADJOURNMENT



Faith E. Carter
Clerk to Council



Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman, Orangeburg
County Council