



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
October 19, 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 F. Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Johnny Ravenell
Willie B. Owens
Janie Cooper-Smith**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Clyde B. Livingston

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr. Chairman

On the 19th day of October, 2015, Chairman Wright called to order a regular session of the Orangeburg County Council at 5:35 pm.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 21st, 2015 (RS)

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council held on the 21st day of September, 2015 as written. Councilman Wimberly motioned to approve the minutes of the September 21st, 2015 as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Michel Anissa Powell was recognized by Chairman Wright. Ms. Powell took the podium and advised that she is running for President of the United States 2016. Ms. Powell advised that she would like Council to waive her presidential filing fee in South Carolina.

Chairman Wright referred Ms. Powell to the state level of government to process her request. Chairman Wright advised that this was not a task that County Council help her accomplish.

Pastor Curtis Johnson of Lower Branch Baptist Church was recognized by Chairman Wright. Pastor Johnson advised that he has been with the church for fourteen years during which time the congregation has sought, multiple times, to have the road in front of the church paved. Pastor Johnson advised that the Church is active in the community and has a membership of over three hundred. Pastor Johnson advised that the Church is prayful for others throughout the state who are experiencing the same problems with their roads. Pastor Johnson advised that the Church was unable to hold services on Sunday due to the condition of the road and the membership must access the road from the Ninety-Six Road side. Pastor Johnson advised that the Church experiences a flood every time it rains.

Chairman Wright yielded to the Councilman from that District, Councilman Heyward Livingston (District 4). Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that Pastor Johnson was specifically discussing Begonia Road in North, S.C. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that Begonia is a state road and the state will not let the County do anything to that road except scrape it. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that Pastor Johnson is correct about the condition of the road. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that the County did tend to the road on last Thursday making it passable. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that the condition of the road was not fantastic but it was passable up to the pond dam. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that the state has not fixed the road yet but the state has been made aware of the problem.

Chairman Wright recognized Public Works Director Sinkler Boone. Mr. Boone advised that he is not aware of the condition of that specific road but he will be glad to follow up with Pastor Johnson after the meeting.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked if someone had looked at that road after the recent flooding. County Administrator Harold Young advised that it may have been the Emergency Services that viewed the road at that time.

Councilman Harry F. Wimberly asked about utilizing transportation funds to pave the road. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that the state engineer has made it clear to the county in the past that the state will not pave the road due to the existence of the pond dam.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked Pastor Johnson if the recent flood has impacted the condition of the road. Pastor Johnson advised that the flooding did have an impact on the road. Councilman Heyward Livingston concurred that the condition of the road was impacted by the flooding. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked County Administrator Harold Young if the damage to the road would fall under FEMA and Emergency Services. Administrator Young advised that he would look into that possibility however, permission from FEMA would be necessary because it is a state road.

Chairman Wright advised Pastor Johnson to meet with County Administrator Harold Young after the meeting in an effort to coordinate a meeting with the state to discuss this issue.

1. RESOLUTION DECLARING OCTOBER BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY

Chairman Wright yielded the floor to Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Vice-Chairman Cooper-Smith read the resolution in its entirety.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on the resolution. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the resolution be approved. Councilman Johnny Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

2. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY LITTER INITIATIVE LITTER BLITZ BY DECLARING OCTOBER 24, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 30, 2015 LITTER FREE WEEK IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, S.C.

Chairman Wright yielded the floor to Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith recognized the Litter Initiative members in attendance. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith read the resolution in its entirety.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on the resolution. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the resolution be approved. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

3. RESOLUTION REGARDING ORANGEBURG COUNTY'S WRITTEN CONSENT TO THE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER OF ORANGEBURG AND CALHOUN COUNTIES TO DISPOSE OF FIVE (5) ACRES OF LAND TO CASA FAMILY SYSTEMS

Chairman Wright read the resolution in its entirety. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on the resolution. Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that the resolution be approved. Councilman Johnny Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

4. ORDINANCE THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND ENACT BOAT LANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that this ordinance was created in order for the County to have standardized rules and regulations for the boat landings in order to deal with

situations which occasionally arise at the landings. County Administrator Harold Young advised that this ordinance creates standard rules and regulations for the public to adhere to while utilizing the landings throughout the County.

Chairman Wright advised that the Council had heard the explanation of the County Administrator and asked for a motion. Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that the ordinance be approved in third reading. Councilman Harry Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

5. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE FROM THE BRANCHVILLE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

Chairman Wright advised that agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7) are similar ordinances with the only exception of town which is named. Agenda item number five (5) is for the Town of Branchville. Agenda item number six (6) is for the Town of Livingston. Agenda item number seven (7) is for the Town of Norway. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7). Councilman Wimberly motioned that agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7) be approved in first reading. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

6. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF LIVINGSTON FROM THE LIVINGSTON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

Chairman Wright advised that agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7) are similar ordinances with the only exception of town which is named. Agenda item number five (5) is for the Town of Branchville. Agenda item number six (6) is for the Town of Livingston. Agenda item number seven (7) is for the Town of Norway. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7). Councilman Wimberly motioned that agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7) be approved in first reading. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

7. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF NORWAY FROM THE NORWAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND

ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

Chairman Wright advised that agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7) are similar ordinances with the only exception of town which is named. Agenda item number five (5) is for the Town of Branchville. Agenda item number six (6) is for the Town of Livingston. Agenda item number seven (7) is for the Town of Norway. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7). Councilman Wimberly motioned that agenda items five, six, and seven (5, 6, & 7) be approved in first reading. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

8. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

Chairman Wright yielded to Mr. Jamie Michaelson, County Financial Consultant of Jamie Michaelson, LLC, Gloria Breland, Orangeburg County Finance Director, and James Okoronkwo, Orangeburg County Assistant Finance Director. Mr. Michaelson took the podium and advised Council on the financial reports for the Annual Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Mr. Michaelson asked Council to view page one of the document before them. Mr. Michaelson advised that this was the letter from the auditing firm of Robert E. Milhouse, CPA, PA and Associates. Mr. Michaelson advised Mr. Milhouse, in his letter, reports that the County financial statements present fairly in all material respects. Mr. Michaelson directed the attention of Council toward the bottom of the schedule on the line that says net change in fund balance. Mr. Michaelson advised that for the year ended June 30, 2014 the general fund increased in fund balance by approximately \$1.3 million dollars to end the year at \$4.7 million dollars in fund balance. Mr. Michaelson advised Council to pay attention to the note sections that begin on page twenty-two (22) and run through page forty-five (45). Mr. Michaelson advised that Council can read the note section while looking through the various financial table. Mr. Michaelson advised that this will help explain some of the numbers. Mr. Michaelson advised that he would be happy to entertain questions about the statements.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly asked if there were any discrepancies in the financial statements. Mr. Michaelson advised that Mr. Milhouse advises that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects. Councilman Wimberly asked about areas that require improvement. Mr. Michaelson advised that there is a discussion in the back of the financial reports which discusses areas of improvement and they are similar to prior years.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked about the similarities to the prior years and if the recommendations made in prior years are being followed. Mr. Michaelson responded that the recommendations made in prior years are being adhered to and Orangeburg County Finance Director, Gloria Breland, has enclosed a document within the packet which discusses the steps that the Finance Department has taken to make improvements. Mr. Michaelson advised that there are still improvements needed and the County needs to continue to invest time and resources with goal of continuing that process.

Chairman Wright asked for additional questions. No additional questions. Chairman Wright thanked the Finance Department and Mr. Michaelson for their hard work and their help with the audit process.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda number eight (8). Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the annual audit for the year ending June 30, 2014 be approved. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that improvements are being made but the Council needs to continue to pursue progress in this area. Chairman Wright advised that he concurred and hopes that in following years there will not be areas which need improvement.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens advised that the Council should commend what the staff have done to improve and challenge them to continue this process.

9. SETTING OF MILLAGE RATES FOR 2015 TAX YEAR AND CARRY FORWARDS

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that the following table is the recommendation to Council that was put together based on information that was received from the Auditor and the Treasurer which were based upon the assessed values of the property within the County. Administrator Young advised the County is recommending 87 mills for the General Fund, 2 mills for Capital Improvements, 10 mills for Solid Waste, 7.8 mills for Education, and 9.0 mills for Debt Service. Administrator Young advised that in addition to the County-wide funds the recommendation for various special purpose tax districts is shown in the second table. The County is requesting 17.0 mills for the County Fire District, 3.2 mills for the New Brookland Lighting District, 4.3 mills for the Brookdale Lighting District, 4.7 mills for the Whittaker Lighting District, and 7.0 mills for the Creekmore Lighting District. County Administrator Young advised that as far as the carry forwards for this fiscal year there are certain projects that were begun in this fiscal year that require being carried forward into the next fiscal year. Administrator Young advised that the carry forward balances are as follows:

General Fund

Project Material and Supplies \$271,473

Medical/Scientific \$59,000

Capital Improvement Fund

Parking Lots \$39,511

Fund Water/Sewer \$125,000

Holly Hill Health Department \$80,836

Law Complex \$10,000

DSS Renovations \$21,000

Technology \$10,709

Chairman Wright advised that Council has heard the explanation of the Administrator. Chairman Wright asked for questions from Council. Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that the Council works very hard to keep taxes at a minimum but it takes a certain amount of money to operate the County. Councilman Wimberly advised that the Council dropped the millage in 2015 by four (4) mills from 2014. Councilman Wimberly advised that in 2016 the County added two mills back but the point is that the millage fluctuates based on need. Councilman Wimberly advised that Council is very sensitive to taxes and tries to keep them at a minimum. Councilman Wimberly thanked that Administrator and the staff of the County for keep expenses at a minimum.

Chairman Wright advised that the rest of the Council echoes those sentiments. Chairman Wright advised that the Council appreciates the efforts of the Administrator and staff at keeping expenses to a minimum but at the same time keep the services that are required of the County.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that if the County had been totally funded through the local government this year then the County would not have needed to increase the millage. Administrator Young advised that if the local government fund would have been completely funded by the state then taxes would have decreased at the county level.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens advised that the County has a specific amount of money to use but not excess.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell advised that the County is attempting to keep the same amount of services that are provided to the citizens of Orangeburg County without having to cut services. Councilman Ravenell advised that Council is doing the best that it can with what it has and is attempting to utilize taxpayer monies in the most efficient manner.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that this partially has to do with taxes. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked the public to consider the cost when requesting more Litter Control Officers, more Sheriff's Deputies, and etc. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that those services can be increased but it will cost more tax money to provide those services to the public. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that the County has not laid-off employees or furloughed any employees which means everyone has a job. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that the Council is doing the best they can in a rural county.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens advised that everyone can help themselves by controlling litter where they live. Councilman Owens advised that if every community would control their own litter it would be surprising how much the County can save and how beautiful the County will become when litter is controlled.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to set the millage for the 2015 tax year. Councilman Owens motioned that millage rates for the 2015 tax year be approved. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

10. ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

A) FY16-0916 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW VEHICLE MAINTENANCE BUILDING

- B) FY16-0929 PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPING/MAINTENANCE SERVICES**
- C) FY16-0930 REPLACEMENT OF CARPET/VINYL COMPOSITION TITLE IN THREE COUNTY BUILDINGS**
- D) FY16-1001 COLLECTION/DISPOSAL OF RECYCLABLE COOKING OIL**

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that FY16-0916 was a solicitation for the construction of a new vehicle maintenance building. Administrator Young advised that a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on August 21, 2015 and bids were due September 16, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. Administrator Young advised that the County received three bids from Penn Contracting, Ballentine, S.C., Brantley Construction, Charleston, S.C., and Lyn Rich Construction, West Columbia, S.C. Administrator Young advised that all three of the above mentioned bids were over the budget approved by staff for the construction of the building. Administrator Young advised that since the low bid exceeded the available funds for the project the County chose to utilize Article 5-C which states that in this determination of circumstance each responsible bidder who submitted a responsible bid under the original solicitation is notified and given a reasonable opportunity to re-negotiate their bids. Administrator Young advised that those three bidders were asked to re-negotiate their bids with specified changes. Administrator Young advised that the results of the negotiations were received on October 2, 2015 by 9:00 A.M. with the result of Brantley Construction, Charleston, S.C. being the lowest responsive bidder and the recommendation of the project team in the amount of \$1,114,000.00.

Administrator Young advised that agenda item ten-b (10-B) is FY16-0929 for professional landscaping/maintenance services. Administrator Young advised that FY16-0929 was advertised on Sunday, August 30, 2015 and again on Sunday, September 6, 2015. Administrator Young advised that a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. Administrator Young advised that six proposals were submitted and the lowest responsive bidder was Johnson's Lawn Care of Rowesville, SC. Administrator Young advised that it is the recommendation of the project team that Johnson's Lawn Care out of Rowesville, S.C. be awarded the bid at \$40,150.00.

Administrator Young advised that agenda item ten-c (10-C) is FY16-0930 for the replacement of carpet/vinyl composition tile for the DJJ Building, Agricultural Building, and the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office to include the Victim's Advocates Offices. Administrator Young advised that the invitation to bid FY16-0930 was advertised on August 30, 2015 and in the August 28, 2015 edition of South Carolina Business Opportunities. Administrator Young advised that there was a mandatory pre-bid meeting held on Friday, September 18, 2015 with three vendors present. Administrator Young advised that the bids were due back with a separation in the bids by building. Administrator Young advised that the low bid in regards to the Agricultural Building was Bonitz Flooring Group, Columbia, S.C. in the amount of \$68,631.00. Administrator Young advised that the low bid in regards to the DJJ Building was Bonitz Flooring Group, Columbia, S.C. in the amount of \$15,642.00. Administrator Young advised that the low bid in regards to the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department (OCSD)/Victim Advocate Offices was Bonitz Flooring Group, Columbia, S.C. in the amount of \$13,698.00. Administrator Young advised that the lowest responsive bidder for the total project is Bonitz Flooring Group, Columbia, S.C. with a project total of \$97,971.00. Administrator

Young advised that it is the recommendation of the project team that Bonitz Flooring Group, Columbia, S.C. be awarded the bid in the amount of \$97,971.00.

Administrator Young advised that agenda item ten-d (10-D) is FY16-1001 for the collection/disposal of recyclable cooking oil. Administrator Young advised that FY16-1001 was posted on the County Procurement Website on September 17, 2015 and advertised on Sunday, September 20, 2015 in the Times and Democrat. Administrator Young advised that FY16-1001 was additionally advertised in the SC Business Opportunities Newsletter on September 18, 2015. Administrator Young advised that proposals were due on October 1, 2015 with one (1) vendor responding. Administrator Young advised that after a review by the Procurement Director and Public Works Director Orangeburg County will be paid \$0.55 per gallon for recyclable cooking oil that will be picked up at the convenience sites and detention center. Administrator Young advised that the County generates approximately 5,400 gallons of recyclable cooking oil each year which can be turned into bio-diesel. Administrator Young advised that it is the County's recommendation that Midlands Biofuels, LLC be awarded the bid at \$0.55 per gallon.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly motioned that the Council reject all the current bids in order to locate local contractors in reference to agenda item ten-a (10-A). Councilman Wimberly advised that the low bid came in at \$1.7 million and then was re-negotiated to \$1.1 million. Councilman Wimberly advised that there was \$600,000 that went somewhere. Councilman Wimberly advised that he believes that the County could find local contractors to complete the project similar to how the Aquatic Center was built.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Willie Owens. Councilman Owens asked if the bids were unusually high. Councilman Wimberly advised that the re-negotiation had a \$600,000 difference. Chairman Wright advised that the County added additional instructions to help the re-negotiation prices to be lower.

Chairman Wright recognized County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that the original bids included items such as paving, landscaping, and other items which constitutes the difference in the bids.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that he believes that the County could act as primary contractor and sub-contract the project out to local vendors as well as come out at a cheaper price.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked why the local vendors did not bid on the project. Councilman Wimberly responded that local contractors generally have bonding issues on large projects.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Heyward Livingston. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that he was also concerned about the half a million dollar drop. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that someone does, however, need to be responsible for the project especially when considering a million to a million and a quarter.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that this project is different from economic development projects that require incentives. Councilman Wimberly advised that the building is county owned and paid for with county money and should be built by citizens within Orangeburg County.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Johnny Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell advised he concurred with Councilman Wimberly in that the money should be kept in the County.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Heyward Livingston. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that if the County is sure that they can handle the project and the bonding is secure then he agrees with Councilman Wimberly that the money utilized to build the building should be kept in County.

Chairman Wright expressed concerns about the bonding, the strain on the County staff, and the need to have follow up conversations with the Administrator about handling to project in-house. Chairman Wright advised that he agrees that the money could remain in County if possible.

After further discussion, Councilman Wimberly amended his motion to state that agenda item ten-A (10-A) be carried forward to the regular session of the County Council scheduled for November 2, 2015. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-1 (Cooper-Smith)-1).

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item ten-b (10-B). Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell asked about the amount of difference between bids on agenda item ten-b (10-B). County Attorney D'Anne Haydel advised that the breadth of the bids this year were very similar to the last year's set of bids on the landscaping/maintenance contracts. Administrator Young advised that the current provider did not bid on the contract for the new year.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked why Julietta Lawn Service, Orangeburg, S.C. did not bid on the contract. Administrator Young advised that Julietta Lawn Services, Orangeburg, S.C. did show up to the pre-bid meeting but chose not to bid.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item ten-b (10-B). Councilman Owens motioned that Johnson's Lawn Care of Rowesville, S.C. be approved in the amount of \$40,150.00. Councilman Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

Chairman Wright advised that Council has heard the explanation of agenda item ten-c (10-C). Chairman Wright asked for questions. Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked if the County was attempting to move away from carpet at this time. Administrator Young advised that in some cases the County has replaced carpet with VCT and other product but in some places the County has moved to carpet squares versus rolled carpet. Administrator Young advised that this allows the County to change out spots without having to replace the entire floor.

Chairman Wright asked if the contractors were bidding on the same materials to ensure that the comparison in price is accurate. Administrator Young advised that this is a process that is conducted in the pre-bid conference which allows the County to explain to the contractors exactly what is expected with all the vendors present.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item ten-c (10-C). Councilman Owens motioned that the Council accept the bid of Bonitz Flooring Group, Columbia, S.C. in the amount of \$97,971.00. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item ten-d (10-D). Councilman Wimberly motioned that the Council accept Midlands Biofuels, LLC in the amount of \$0.55 per gallon for recyclable cooking oil. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

11. APPOINTMENT TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Wimberly motioned that Virginia Townsend be appointed to the District 1 seat on the planning commission. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

Councilman Owens advised that District 7 will carry forward a nomination to the Planning Commission to the regular session scheduled for November 2, 2015.

12. APPOINTMENT TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Councilman Ravenell motioned that Anton T. Williams be appointed to the District 2 seat on the Orangeburg County Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

13. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright asked for a motion for Executive Session. Councilman Owens motioned that the Orangeburg County Council move into Executive Session. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

Chairman Wright recognized Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that the County has worked diligently with FEMA as well as local, state, and federal elected officials to establish three disaster assistance locations for the public in Orangeburg County. One site is located at the Holly Hill Services Building, the second site is at the Orangeburg County YMCA, and the third site in the western end of the county is at the Neeses Town Hall. Administrator Young advised that any individual or small business that requires assistance from FEMA can go to one of those locations to apply for assistance. Administrator Young advised that assistance for farmers has been set up at the County Agricultural Office on Henley Street in the Clemson Extension Office. Administrator Young advised that the County has been working hard to get assistance for the Eutawville/Gibson Road areas and FEMA officials will be out again this weekend to attempt to mitigate the problems in that area. The area still has homes inundated with water and areas of standing water. Administrator Young commended the County Emergency Services and Public Works Divisions along with the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to help the County during this time of need.

Chairman Wright thanked the Administrator for those comments and advised that the Council would like to echo those sentiments of thanks.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked Administrator Young how severe the damages were in Orangeburg County. Administrator Young advised that there were homes that were fully inundated with water during the flood. Administrator Young advised that some citizens are dealing with issues related to mold in their homes. Administrator Young advised that the large financial losses in the

County are agricultural losses in planted crops at the time of the flooding. Administrator Young advised that the threshold for the County to received federal aid is \$325,000 and Orangeburg County has exceeded that threshold in damages. Administrator Young advised that the County is assisting all seventeen towns and mayors with the necessary paperwork in order for their specific communities to receive assistance.

Councilman Owens asked if there were specific numbers in regards to the damages such as the number of household effected by the flood.

Administrator Young advised that the County is still compiling that information and there are homes along the river that the County is just now gaining access too. Administrator Young advised that there is an entire neighborhood in Eutawville that is still under water and the residents did not have flood insurance.

Administrator Young advised that citizens are utilizing the ability to apply online through FEMA and then finalizing claims at the assistance centers.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that agricultural is the number one industry in Orangeburg County as well as the State of South Carolina. Councilman Wimberly advised that when farmers have losses it will affect the economy in a large way. Councilman Wimberly advised that the flooded areas of the state consumed seventy-five (75%) percent of the peanut production in the state. Councilman Wimberly advised that it is still unclear if the crop will be in good condition or not. Councilman Wimberly advised that farmers have had to return home with peanuts due to their condition which is lost revenue. Councilman Wimberly advised a tractor trailer full of peanuts is somewhere between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Councilman Wimberly advised that cotton is the same way. Councilman Wimberly advised that some farmers have been adjusted through their crop insurance and advised to just cut it down. Councilman Wimberly advised that this will greatly affect the state economy over the next year and perhaps some farmers will not survive it.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

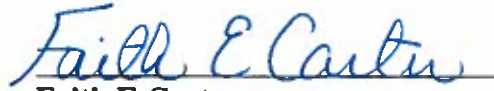
**EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.C. CODE 30-4-70(a)(2) FOR
(A) DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO A PROPOSED
CONTRACT AMENDMENT AND RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE RELATED
TO A POTENTIAL CLAIM AND (B) CONCERNING:**

- A) DETENTION CENTER CONTRACT FOR INMATE HEALTH CARE SERVICES**
- B) THE COUNTY'S POTENTIAL LAND TRANSACTION FOR PROJECTS AND AUDIT SERVICES**

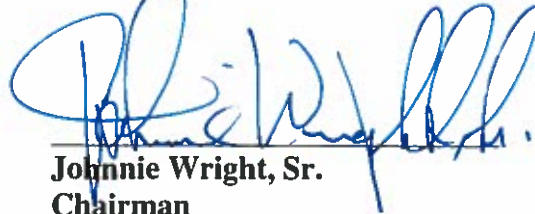
15. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilman Owens motioned that the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council on October 19, 2015 be adjourned. Councilman Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

16. **ADJOURNMENT**



Faith E Carter
Clerk to Council



Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman
Orangeburg County Council