



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 7, 2015
5:30 PM**



Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted on the bulletin board twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Janie Cooper-Smith
Johnny Ravenell
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Clyde B. Livingston

LATE ARRIVALS:

Harry F. Wimberly (6:12 pm)

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

On the 7th day of December, 2015, Chairman Wright called to order a regular session of the Orangeburg County Council at 5:31 pm.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

November 16, 2015 (RS)

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the minutes of the November 16th, 2015 regular session of the Orangeburg County Council be approved as written. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-2).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Reverend Dorothy White of Parlorville AME Church was recognized by Chairman Wright. Rev. White took the podium and advised that she lives on Five Chop Rd (Hwy 301/267). Rev. White advised that last evening around 6:00 pm or 6:30 pm one of her cousin's family members, of Oak Road Baptist Church, car was crushed between an eighteen-wheeler and

another vehicle. Rev. White advised that this accident was, thankfully, not fatal. Rev. White advised that it was a very bad accident and individuals had to be taken by helicopter to Charleston. Rev. White advised that on Friday another incident occurred. Rev. White advised that the community has been talking with their elected officials about the accidents that are occurring at this intersection. Rev. White advised that Hwy 267 does not have a right turn lane. Rev. White advised that if Hwy 267 did have a right lane turn the truck would have been able to avoid that accident. Rev. White advised that if there is enough money to bring a waterpark to Santee then there is enough money for preventative measures at this intersection. Rev. White advised that the community has been asking for assistance with this intersection for years.

Chairman Wright advised that he would like to give the Councilman from District 2 the opportunity to respond to her comments in regard to that specific intersection. Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell.

Councilman Ravenell advised that he would like to thank that Santee Community for attending the meeting. Councilman Ravenell advised that there are funds in place to help the conditions at the intersection in question. Councilman Ravenell advised that it is now a matter of time. Councilman Ravenell advised that the Council has collaborated with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG). Councilman Ravenell advised that SCDOT advised that they allocated a specific dollar amount and LSCOG put \$500,000 in place for improvements at that intersection. Councilman Ravenell advised that this process has been on-going for about a month and a half. Councilman Ravenell advised that he sympathizes with the incident that occurred last evening as he was there. Councilman Ravenell advised that SCDOT did not say exactly what would be put in place. Councilman Ravenell advised that Sam Glover is the Commissioner for that area and Ms. Joann Woodrum is the engineer for this area. Councilman Ravenell advised the community to place pressure on those individuals to see that the work is done in a timely manner but the money is there for those improvements.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that she is a member of the TAC committee. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that when the improvements were proposed to the committee no one opposed those improvements.

Chairman Wright thanked Rev. White for her comments.

Thomas Houser was recognized by Chairman Wright. Mr. Houser took the podium and advised that he had a bad accident on May 3rd. Mr. Houser advised that he does not remember much about the accident. Mr. Houser advised that a couple from North Charleston was traveling from Elloree on Hwy 267 and they did not know there was a stop sign there. Mr. Houser advised that he was flipped twice and he was outside the vehicle. Mr.

Houser advised that he only heard two voices: one advising that they would get him out and the other was Rev. Fuller from Saluda Baptist Church. Mr. Houser advised that later he heard the helicopter. Mr. Houser advised that that the other driver had to have been traveling at a good speed to cause the damage that was caused during the accident. Mr. Houser advised that Councilman Ravenell towed the vehicle. Mr. Houser advised that the Lord blessed him with the car. Mr. Houser advised that he had the vehicle for 41 years and it was the vehicle that he used to show at parade as well as car shows. Mr. Houser advised that the car was a 1969 Mustang which protected him also because it was not made a fiberglass. Mr. Houser advised that he hopes and prays something will be done about the intersection.

Chairman Wright recognized County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that there are many things the County does that go unnoticed for a period of time. Administrator Young advised that the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) is in charge of the transportation enhancement program which is money that is given through the state. Administrator Young advised that there are six counties in our region: Barnwell, Allendale, Bamberg, Orangeburg, Aiken, and Calhoun Counties. Administrator Young advised that monies which are put forth for transportation and transportation enhancements under the safety loop program has to funnel through the LSCOG. Administrator Young advised that some time ago Councilman Ravenell presented this particular issue. Administrator Young advised that Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith, as she mentioned, is a member of that committee. Administrator Young advised that he is the Chairman of the committee. Administrator Young advised that Councilman Ravenell requested that the committee apply for the transportation enhancement at that intersection. Administrator Young advised that unfortunately the way that the state does transportation enhancement is based on deaths. Administrator Young advised that the more deaths that occur at an intersection that higher points it scores for transportation enhancement. Administrator Young advised that when they went to present this project it had to compete with every other transportation project in the Lower Savannah region which is composed of 300,000 square miles of road. Administrator Young advised that the project went up against projects in Barnwell, Aiken, Allendale, Calhoun, and Bamberg Counties. Administrator Young advised that Councilman Ravenell attended the meeting and gave testimony as a tow-truck driver to the number of tows that have occurred at that intersection. Administrator Young advised that the South Carolina Department of Transportation is in the processing of doing the engineering on this project. Administrator Young advised that SCDOT will come back with their decision about what they believe is the best way to deal with the intersection. Administrator Young advised that there will be a public hearing prior to the final decision which is when the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on the enhancements at that intersection. Administrator Young advised that once the project is funded then it is sent to the engineering group to be designed. Administrator Young advised that the design group will bring back a recommendation to the Director of DOT of that region. Administrator Young advised that then the next phase is called letting. Administrator Young advised that bids would be taken at that point if

necessary. Administrator Young advised that this intersection has been funded but the design and the work still needs to be completed. Administrator Young advised that the community needs to understand that DOT is working hard to deal with the results of the flooding and emergency fixes will happen first. Administrator Young advised that Councilman Ravenell has worked diligently to secure this funding and Council has cooperated in matching that funding. Administrator Young advised that everything is in place and the Council understands what is occurring. Administrator Young advised that any pressure on the subject should be aimed at the DOT office as far as the design of the project. Administrator Young advised that another option that the County is looking at doing is getting with the property owned over the old gas station, at the intersection, to have it removed so citizens, if something does happen, have the option of pulling off the roadway and not hitting the building.

Chairman Wright thanked Administrator Young for his comments and allowing the public to hear the entire story of the project. Chairman Wright thanked the public for their comments on the subject of the intersection.

Frank Mack was recognized by Chairman Wright. Mr. Mack advised that he picks up children on a route in a van. Mr. Mack advised that people do not want to slow down when they see the van is stopping to pick up children. Mr. Mack expressed concerns about the excess speed on Highway 267. Mr. Mack advised that the area needs to have extra patrol to slow people down.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens advised that the Administrator write a letter to the Highway Patrol asking them to provide extra patrol in that area. Administrator Young agreed and advised that the Highway Patrol would only do this for a period of time but not permanently.

Chairman Wright recognized County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that even though there were complaints about the number of accidents at the intersection, there were no complaints about the County's emergency services to include Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Fire Services. Administrator Young advised that he would like to commend those services and personnel.

1. ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY FROM THE COUNTY OF ORANGEBURG TO WEATHERS FARMS, INC.

Chairman Wright opened the floor for public hearing on agenda item number one (1). No person came forward to comment on agenda item number one (1). Hearing no comment, Chairman Wright closed the floor for public hearing on agenda item number one (1).

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item number one (1). Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number one (1) be approved in second reading. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-2).

2. ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY"), SIGMATEX CARBON TEXTILE SOLUTIONS INC. ("SIGMATEX") AND PIEDMONT COMPANIES, INC. ("PIEDMONT"), EACH ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, WHEREBY THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (COLLECTIVELY, THE "PROJECT"); (2) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SIGMATEX, PIEDMONT, AND THE PROJECT; (3) CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Chairman Wright opened the floor for public hearing on agenda items two and three (2,3). No person came forward to comment on agenda items two and three (2,3). Hearing no comment, Chairman Wright closed the floor for public hearing.

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation of agenda items two and three (2,3) from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young yielded to the Deputy County Attorney for Economic Development, Jerrod Anderson. Attorney Anderson advised that agenda item number two (2) and three (3) are related. Attorney Anderson advised that agenda item number two (2) deals with the fee agreement between Orangeburg County and Sigmatex whereas agenda item number three (3) deals with placing the expansion in a multi-county industrial park.

Chairman Wright advised that Council has heard the explanation from Attorney Anderson. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda items two and three (2,3). Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that agenda items two and three (2,3) be approved in second reading. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-2).

3. 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 INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA NOW OR TO BE HEREAFTER OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY SIGMATEX CARBON TEXTILE SOLUTIONS INC., PIEDMONT COMPANIES, INC., AND/OR ONE OR MORE COMPANIES RELATED THERETO; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Chairman Wright opened the floor for public hearing on agenda items two and three (2,3). No person came forward to comment on agenda items two and three (2,3). Hearing no comment, Chairman Wright closed the floor for public hearing.

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation of agenda items two and three (2,3) from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young yielded to the Deputy County Attorney for Economic Development, Jerrod Anderson. Attorney Anderson advised that agenda item number two (2) and three (3) are related. Attorney Anderson advised that agenda item number two (2) deals with the fee agreement between Orangeburg County and Sigmatex whereas agenda item number three (3) deals with placing the expansion in a multi-county industrial park.

Chairman Wright advised that Council has heard the explanation from Attorney Anderson. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda items two and three (2,3). Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that agenda items two and three (2,3) be approved in second reading. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-2).

4. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT TO BUY AND SELL REAL ESTATE BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND JAMISON CONSULTANTS PERTAINING TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ORANGEBURG COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SUCH REAL PROPERTY BY THE COUNTY TO JAMISON CONSULTANTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that this is in reference to a property that the County owns in Holly Hill that was previously utilized by a state agency which has since moved to a new location. Administrator Young advised that the property no longer serves County purposes. Administrator Young advised that the County placed the property on the market for sale

and the County has received an offer on the sale of the property. Administrator Young advised that the ordinance before Council will approve the sale of this property.

Chairman Wright asked for questions from Council. No questions. Chairman Wright asked for motion. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that agenda item number four (4) be approved in second reading. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-2).

5. ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Wright yielded to the Chairman of the Public Works Committee, Councilman Ravenell.

Chairman Ravenell advised that the recommendation of the Public Works Committee in reference to the abandon maintenance request on Ninety-Six and Babe Road is that the County to continue to maintain the road as it has done historically with no changes to the maintenance schedule.

Chairman Ravenell motioned that the Council continue to maintain Ninety-Six and Babe Road as it has done historically with no change to the maintenance schedule. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-2).

Chairman Ravenell advised the committee considered a request to abandon maintenance on a portion of Underbrush Court. Chairman Ravenell advised that the committee requested that the Public Works Department provide the Committee with additional information prior to making a recommendation.

Chairman Ravenell motioned that the matter of Underbrush Court be further investigated prior to making a decision on the abandoning of maintenance on that portion of the road. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-2).

6. A RESOLUTION OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO APPOINT OR ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF SIX INDIVIDUALS TO THE 2016 CAPITAL PROJECT SALES AND USE TAX COMMISSION; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that South Carolina Code Section 410-300 Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) Act authorizes the County to impose a one cent sales tax subject to a referendum for capital needs within the County. Administrator Young advised that under that act County Council must create a Commission for the consideration of proposals for funding the capital projects within the County as well as formulate questions for the referendum to be voted on by the citizens. Administrator Young advised that this is the first

step in forming the fourth imposition of the CPST. Administrator Young yielded to Attorney Sidney Evering of Park Poe for additional comments on agenda item number six (6).

Attorney Evering advised that Administrator Young explained the process and that the resolution simply appoints six individuals to the commission. Attorney Evering advised that these individuals would be responsible for making project recommendations to Council for approval. Attorney Evering advised that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that she has no issues with the appointees to the Commission, however, she would have preferred to have seen at least one woman appointed to this Commission.

Chairman Wright thanked Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith for her observation and advised that hopefully the composition of later Commissions would be different.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Heyward Livingston. Councilman Heyward Livingston asked if the Commission was the same as the last series of appointments. Administrator Young advised that the only change to the Commission was that he is listed instead of the previous administrator.

Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number six (6) be approved. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

7. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO ENTER INTO AN ANNEXATION COVENANT WITH THE CITY OF ORANGEBURG TO OBTAIN UTILITY SERVICES TO REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ORANGEBURG COUNTY

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that Council has approved the building of a new Public Works Shop on Ellis Avenue. Administrator Young advised that anytime a building is built that the County needs to get a new service or tap for water in the proximity of the Department of Public Utilities services area (DPU) an annexation covenant is required by DPU. Administrator Young advised that DPU requires an annexation covenant to be signed prior to the tap. Administrator Young advised that this is a standard agreement that is utilized in this situation.

After some additional discussion in regards to what constitutes the city limits of the City of Orangeburg, Councilman Ravenell motioned that agenda item number seven (7) be approved. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

8. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY") AND A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT CHIP, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (THE "COMPANY"), PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY

SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (COLLECTIVELY, THE "PROJECT"); AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young yielded to the Deputy County Attorney for Economic Development, Jerrod Anderson. Attorney Anderson advised that the minimum investment from the prospect is \$32.6 million (\$8 million land and improvements, \$24.6 million construction and installation, minimum 15 new jobs). Attorney Anderson advised that the prospect wishes to be placed in a multi-county industrial park with Dorchester County, South Carolina. Attorney Anderson advised that this resolution is to approve an inducement agreement. Attorney Anderson advised that a fee ordinance and expansion ordinance would follow later.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Heyward Livingston. Councilman Heyward Livingston asked what the company produced. Attorney Anderson advised that the prospect is a chip processing company that produces raw materials for products such as paper.

Chairman Wright asked for questions from Council. No questions. Chairman Wright asked for a motion. Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number eight (8) be approved. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

9. AN OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY WITH TMS# 0236-00-08-018

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that this piece of property that needs to be purchased for a state project that is being passed through Orangeburg County in a joint project with Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter. Administrator Young advised that part of this property is necessary to secure the borders of the Fire District. Administrator Young advised that the funding for this project will come as pass through funds from the state which the County already has monies in hand for this project and the additional monies needed will come through the Fire District.

After some additional discussion about the meaning of the FACETS program, Councilman Wimberly motioned that agenda item number nine (9) be approved. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

10. ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

A) FY16-1113 HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR INMATES – ORANGEBURG COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that the County has historically felt that partnering with a private agency for healthcare services in the detention center is advantageous for the County. Administrator Young advised that the County had a proposal from Southern Health Partners however, the County feels the need to periodically bid out these services to see what other offers may present themselves to ensure pricing and quality of service. Administrator Young advised that the County did approach the local hospital about providing the services however, they declined at this time. Administrator Young advised the hospital may be able to provide these services to the detention center in the future which would be the hope of the County as it would be preferable to spend this amount of money locally. Administrator Young advised that request for proposals were made and the one proposal that was received back was from Southern Health Partners. Administrator Young advised that it is the County's recommendation that the contract with Southern Health Partners be extended for one year until the hospital is prepared to take over these services.

Chairman Wright asked for questions. Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell asked how the cost compared to the previous contract. County Administrator Harold Young yielded to Deputy County Administrator Marion Lloyd. Administrator Lloyd advised that the contract price was \$10,000 cheaper.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. Councilman Ravenell motioned that agenda item ten-a (10A) be approved and the bid be awarded to Southern Health Partners, Chattanooga, TN in the amount of \$585,780.00 (1 year contract). Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

11. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2016 PAID HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR ORANGEBURG COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item number eleven (11). Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number eleven (11) be approved. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

12. APPROVAL OF THE 2016 ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION SCHEDULE

Chairman Wright asked for questions from Council. No questions. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item number twelve (12). Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that agenda item number twelve (12) be approved. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

13. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that the Orangeburg County Council moved into executive session to discuss an economic development update and a potential land transaction. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

Chairman Wright recognized County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that in the wake of the flooding the County has been advised that other states have utilized CDBG federal funds to help put their communities back together specifically related to agricultural needs. Administrator Young advised that the County has spoken with the Congressional Delegation who is on board with supporting the County in its application of those funds but it will take a request from the state through the Governor's Office. Administrator Young advised that unfortunately, as of this date, the Governor's Office has not made that request. Administrator Young advised that there was talk throughout the community which led to an event sponsor by the Farm Bureau to make the citizens aware of the damage to the agricultural community. Administrator Young advised that our economy will suffer if we do not find some way to offset the cost of losses to the agricultural community. Administrator Young advised that it is necessary and helpful for the citizens to express these concerns to their state and federal representatives which was the purpose of the event held in Columbia today. Administrator Young advised that Eutawville still has individuals with homes underwater which will require more assistance than FEMA can provide. Administrator Young advised that he wanted to share that with the citizens.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that a press conference was held in Columbia today at the Capital with an established 250 to 300 farm families in attendance. Councilman Wimberly advised that during the press conference it was requested that the Governor request \$376 million from the federal government which is the number determined to be the agricultural losses in South Carolina. Councilman Wimberly advised that during the course of the weekend Congress has been lobbied and are onboard if the Governor requests the funds. Councilman Wimberly asked the citizens to please contact the Governor's Office to ask that she request those funds. Councilman Wimberly advised that the Finance Committee met in Columbia and Mr. Hugh Weathers and Mr. Harry Ott, Farm Bureau President State of South Carolina, testified in front of the committee who unanimously endorsed the farmers' request to the Governor for federal funds.

Chairman Wright asked why the Governor would be opposed to the request. Councilman Wimberly advised that the Governor's position is that farmers are like any other small business. Councilman Wimberly advised that the drought ruined the corn and then the flood came along and finished the peanuts and cotton. Councilman Wimberly advised that if a business suffers it can bounce back but once the farm is lost – it is lost.

After some additional discussion of the agricultural needs in Orangeburg County and South Carolina, Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens.

Councilman Owens advised that the Council should consider a sign in process for the public comment portion of the meeting to promote efficiency. Chairman Wright recognized

County Attorney D'Anne Haydel. Attorney Haydel advised that if Council decides to take action on this subject then an amendment to an ordinance is necessary because there is an ordinance in place which allows the public to take the podium without a sign in procedure. Attorney Haydel advised that it would be a three reading change.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked if a sign-in procedure is disallowing citizens to speak. County Attorney Haydel advised that a sign-in procedure is not currently part of the ordinance.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

S.C. CODE 30-4-70(a)(2) FOR (A) [PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND (5)(PROPOSED LOCATION/EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE COUNTY] AND (B) CONCERNING:

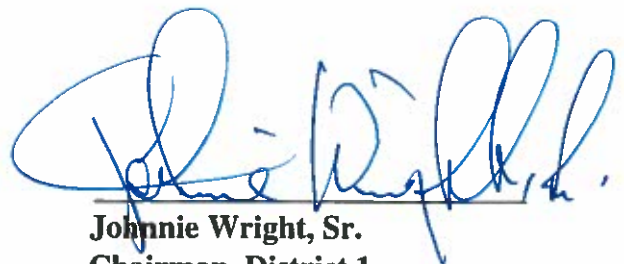
- A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- B) POTENTIAL LAND TRANSACTION**

15. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright asked for a motion for adjournment. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the regular session of December 7, 2015 of the Orangeburg County Council stand adjourned. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

Chairman Wright thanked the public for attending the meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT



**Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman, District 1
Orangeburg County Council**



**Faith E. Carter
Clerk to Council**