



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
March 7, 2016
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.
Janie Cooper-Smith
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Clyde B. Livingston
Willie B. Owens**

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

On the 7th day of March, 2016, Chairman Wright called to order a regular session of the Orangeburg County Council at 5:37 pm.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 1, 2016 (RS)

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on the minutes. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the minutes of the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council on February 1st, 2016 be approved as written. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

NONE

1. PRESENTATION FROM THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE DEAN FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

Kenneth Middleton, Chairman of the Orangeburg County Economic Development Board took the podium and was recognized by Chairman Wright. Mr. Middleton advised that it was it is an honor to present a resolution from the Orangeburg County Economic Development Commission to Mr. George Dean for sixteen (16) years of service. Mr. Middleton read the resolution in its entirety. Mr. Middleton presented a plaque to Mr. George Dean.

Mr. Gregg Robinson, Executive Director, Orangeburg County Development Commission took the podium and was recognized by Chairman Wright. Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Middleton for his presentation. Mr. Robinson advised that Mr. Dean has served the Commission well by being on-call at all times. Mr. Robinson advised that the board members serve at the pleasure of Council but the members also serve out of desire to see the county grow as a community.

Councilman Wimberly motioned that the resolution be accepted by Council. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Dean for his years of service to Orangeburg County and his commitment to the county.

Mr. George Dean took the podium and was recognized by Chairman Wright. Mr. Dean advised as the citizens continue to utilize the assets of Orangeburg County; the County will continue be great. God Bless You All.

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that approval has been given for a resolution to be written from the County so one is forth coming.

2. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT TO BUY AND SELL REAL ESTATE BY AND BETWEEN THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY CITY INDUSTRIAL PARK COMMISSION (“OCCIP”) AND A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT BULLDOG, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (THE “COMPANY”) PERTAINING TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY OCCIP; AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SUCH REAL PROPERTY BY THE OCCIP TO THE COMPANY; 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 prospect wishes to build a class-A distribution center with the creation of five (5) new jobs. Attorney Anderson advised that the property in question is approximately 11.68 acres and is located in the Orangeburg

County/City Industrial Park (OCCIP). Attorney Anderson advised that the deed is in their name so the contract will be between them. Attorney Anderson advised that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell inquired about the purchase price of the property. Attorney Anderson advised that the purchase price of the property is \$150,000.00.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked if the County had done business with the prospect before. Attorney Anderson advised that the prospect will be locating within the County for the first time.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item number two (2). Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number two (2) be approved in second reading. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

3. RESOLUTION HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Chairman Wright yielded to Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that this resolution honors National Women's History Month. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that the first secretaries were not women; they were men. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that she is not aware of many men who occupy those positions currently.

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith read the resolution in its entirety. Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number three (3) be approved. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

4. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOWER SAVANNAH REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM

Chairman Wright read the resolution in its entirety. Chairman Wright asked County Administrator, Harold Young, for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that Orangeburg County has been a member of the Lower Savannah Home Consortium for the purposes of doing housing rehab. Administrator Young advised that resolution allows the County to seek additional funding. Chairman Wright advised that Council has heard the explanation of the Administrator. Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item number four (4).

Councilman Ravenell motioned that agenda item number four (4) be approved. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TAX AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that the Tax and Tourism Committee met on February 23, 2016 for their regular quarterly meeting. The Committee made the following recommendations for funding:

Xpress Grassroots Sports, Inc.	\$25,127.00
Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association (DORA)	\$10,000.00
Santee Cooper Country	\$20,000.00
Rayrode Daze Festivul	\$5,170.00
Grand American Hunt Show	\$7,000.00
Omari Shrines	\$0.00
Springfield Governor's Frog Jump	\$4,000.00
Orangeburg County Chamber	\$0.00
Amount of Recommended Funding	\$71,297.00

Chairman Wright advised that Council has heard the explanation by the County Administrator. Chairman Wright asked for questions. No questions.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item number five (5). Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that agenda item number five (5) be approved. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

6. APPOINTMENTS TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that Ms. Freddie O'Bryant be re-appointed to the District 5 seat on the Orangeburg County Library Board. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Councilman Ravenell motioned that Ms. Mary Felder be re-appointed to the District 2 seat on the Orangeburg County Library Board. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Councilman Wimberly motioned that Mr. John Ott be re-appointed to the District 3 seat on the Orangeburg County Library Board. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that Mrs. Barbara Jeffcoat be re-appointed to the District 4 seat on the Orangeburg County Library Board. Councilman Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Councilman Owens motioned that Ms. Doris Johnson-Felder be re-appointed to the District 7 seat on the Orangeburg County Library Board. Councilman Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell advised that he was informed that the Library Board was struggling to form a quorum to hold meetings. Councilman Ravenell advised that Council is appointing the same people back to the board. Councilman Ravenell inquired about the status of the Chairperson.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that Ms. Barbara Jeffcoat resigned as Chairperson but is still a member of the board.

Councilman Ravenell advised that it is important for the members of the board to be re-appointed as they have institutional knowledge of the Library however, the board needs to be able to have a quorum to have a meeting.

Councilman Wimberly asked if there were guidelines for missing meetings. County Attorney D'Anne Haydel advised that there is an ordinance which outlines attendance at meetings.

Councilman Owens advised that the ordinance be checked and the boards abide by the ordinance. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that there was a time in the past that Council received attendance reports from the boards. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that it should be mandatory that Council receive attendance reports so they will know who attends and who does not attend. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that her appointee for District 5 attends meetings but if there is not quorum then there is no meeting; if there is not meeting - there are things that need to be discussed. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that Council does need to follow up on this matter.

Councilman Wimberly motioned that the Clerk to Council give Council an update on the attendance of all Boards and Commissions for the previous two years. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. [6-1(C. Livingston)-0-0].

7. APPOINTMENTS TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that Mr. Charles Artis be appointed at-large to the Orangeburg County Development Commission. Councilman Owens seconded the motion.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Heyward Livingston. Councilman Heyward Livingston inquired where Mr. Artis is from in the county. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that Mr. Artis is from the greater Orangeburg area. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that Mr. Artis will be replacing Mr. George Dean who is from the greater Orangeburg area.

Chairman Wright put the above motion to a vote. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens motioned that Dr. Henry N. Tisdale be appointed to the District 7 seat on the Orangeburg County Development Commission. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

8. APPOINTMENTS TO THE SANTEE FIRE COMMISSION

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell motioned to re-appoint and appoint the following individuals: Billy Joe Armstrong, John West, Paul Rollison, Kenneth Wright, and Roosevelt Hezekiah to the Santee District Fire Department Commission. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Councilman Ravenell recognized Mr. Roosevelt Hezekiah as a new appointee to the Commission and in attendance at the Council meeting. Councilman Ravenell advised that this was a good example of a new appointee wanting to be involved in the process.

Councilman Ravenell advised that the rating in a five mile boundary from the substation as come down tremendously. Councilman Ravenell advised that this will be announced publicly at a later time but some areas are a four and some are a nine. Councilman Ravenell advised that this is a significant change for the better and he commends the Commission for the work they are doing especially for lowering the rate.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

A) FY016-0229 ORANGEBURG COUNTY-BRANCHVILLE SPORTS FACILITY (ELECTRICAL SYSTEM)

Chairman Wright yielded to Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that this is an RFP (Request for Proposal) with only one bid. Councilman Wimberly advised that the bid is double the budget for this project. Councilman Wimberly motioned that the RFP be rejected and for the County Administrator to negotiate with the current contractor.

After some discussion of the motion and the cost of the project, Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that he would like to make a statement in regards to the last Orangeburg City Council meeting whereby the City gave second reading on an ordinance that allows the City and the County to negotiate on impact and taps fees. Councilman Wimberly advised that this is related to economic development activity which is very important to the County. Councilman Wimberly thanked City Council for passing the Ordinance. Councilman Wimberly advised that there was some resistance from a couple of the City Councilmembers. Councilman Wimberly advised that in the Times and Democrat the statement was made that the County does not do anything for the City. Councilman Wimberly advised that he wanted to remind the citizens of the County and the City that without Orangeburg County the City would not have a jail, a landfill, a lot of the infrastructure surrounding water/sewer that was paid for by the County, ...

Councilman Owens inquired about the City Gym. Councilman Wimberly advised that was paid for through Capital Penny Sales Tax monies. Councilman Wimberly advised that it could go on and on how much help the County is to the City. Councilman Wimberly asked those Councilmembers to take a look at what the County does for the City of Orangeburg. Councilman Wimberly advised that the County is working closely with the City on establishing on a fire district. Councilman Wimberly advised that the only way to accomplish projects is to work together. Councilman Wimberly advised that togetherness and the willingness to work together is what makes things happen in this County. Councilman Wimberly advised that everything that the County has done as far as partnership in the county industrial parks and economic development has created a revenue stream for the City of Orangeburg in public utilities: water, sewage, whatever.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that she concurs with Councilman Wimberly's statements. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that the County just, in this session, awarded the City \$10,000 for DORA (Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association).

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Clyde Livingston. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that he concurs with Councilman Wimberly and Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that he would like to point out that, over the years, there are things that the City has done for the County. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that this is a failure to get the word out. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that several months ago, District Six (6) came up with \$100,000 or better to help with the Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that in years past the CPST helped with the funding of the Veteran's Memorial, Spray Park, Stevenson Auditorium, Golf Cart Storage Building at Hillcrest, and several other projects. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that the problem is a failure to communicate. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that the City and the County are working toward correcting these communication failures. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that he is looking forward to the City/County working together in the future.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell advised that there are a lot of comments that have been made and sometimes when you look at comments you can't make an assumption that everyone is being negative or positive; sometimes it is a select few. Councilman Ravenell advised that the City and the County have had several meetings together and we are accomplishing a lot. Councilman Ravenell advised that a select few should not come between what the group is trying to accomplish and drive a wedge which can easily happen. Councilman Ravenell advised that some folks do not want it to work. Councilman Ravenell advised that the majority want togetherness and to try to accomplish what we can to make Orangeburg County a better place to live, work, and play. Councilman Ravenell advised to be careful the comments that are made or made to us because....we just need to be aware of the select few.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Heyward Livingston. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that he was at function with several of the City Council Members. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that he was able to chat with them for thirty or forty minutes. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that the majority of the City Council is anxious to work with the County. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that the couple he has spoken with are very happy and thankful to be working together. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that there will always be one or two that disagree but that's life.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that his first comment was that he appreciates the City for what they did.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Clyde Livingston. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that the County continues to work diligently with all the municipalities throughout the county. Councilman Clyde Livingston advised that it will take us all working together.

Chairman Wright thanked Council for their comments.

10. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright asked for a motion for executive session. Councilman Owens motioned that the Council move into executive to discuss agenda items eleven-a and eleven-b (11A & 11B). Councilwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE ON PROJECT ARROW, PROJECT BULLDOG, PROJECT CHIP, PROJECT TECHNOLOGY FOIA EXEMPTION S.C. CODE §30-4-70(a)(2)(DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS) AND S.C. CODE §30-4-70(a)(5)(DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY)

FOIA EXEMPTION S.C.CODE §30-4-70(a)(1)

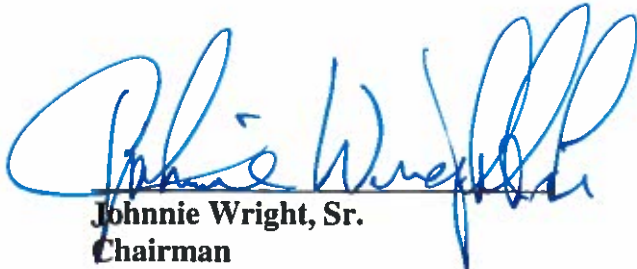
B) DISCUSSION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE

12. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council of March 7, 2016 stand adjourned. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0-0).

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright thanked the public for attending the meeting and thanked the members for their input.



Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman
Orangeburg County Council



Faith E Carter
Clerk to Council
Orangeburg County Council