



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
April 18, 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
Willie B. Owens**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Clyde B. Livingston

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr. Chairman

On the 18th day of April, 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

April 4, 2016 (RS)

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on the minutes. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the minutes of the special sessions of the Orangeburg County Council on April 4th, 2016 be approved as written. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

NONE

1. PRESENTATION BY ORANGEBURG COUNTY COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER

Chairman Wright yield to the Chairperson Mrs. Brothers. Mrs. Brothers began by acknowledging Chairman Wright, Council, Mr. Lloyd, Administrator Young, Ms. Disher, County Attorney Haydel, department heads, elected officials, employees and citizens of Orangeburg County. Mrs. Brothers began by recognizing well deserving employees for the quarterly character. However, before the presentation Mrs. Brothers asked Chairman Wright could they do the Character of Formation led by the new Director of Character Evelyn Disher. Councilman Wright agreed, Evelyn Disher proceeded by having everyone repeat after her with the following statement; "I know that character matters, everything I am is a gift. I count my blessings but I also make my blessings count. I get better each day. I learn from my past how I think, feel and behave. I don't think less of myself. I think of myself less and change starts with me because my character matters."

Afterwards, there was a presentation to the Council, Administrator Young, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Haydel. The presentations began with Mrs. Brother, Chairman Wright, Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith and Evelyn Disher. The Community of Character award for the last quarter of 2015 was awarded to Jannella Shuler for the month of July 2015 for Hospitality and also the Citizens of the month for Hospitality. Latoya Singleton was awarded for the month of August 2015 for Responsibility. Anna Zacherl was awarded for the month of September 2015 for Leadership. Jim Mclean was awarded for the month of October 2015 for Sportsmanship. There were no nomination for the month of November for Citizenship and for the month of December Humility.

For the first quarter of 2016, Kathy Henderson was award for the month of February for Courage and nominated for Leadership. Mr. Ronald Johnson was nominated for the month of March for Endurance and the Citizens of the month.

Mrs. Brothers completed the recognitions and thanked everyone for coming out. Chairman Wright also congratulated the recipient for a job well done.

2. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY AND CRITERIA REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES FOR AGRIBUSINESSES

Chairman Wright began reading the resolution as following: Councilman Harry Wimberly is the 2016 sponsor for the resolution adopting a policy and criteria regarding economic development incentives for agribusinesses. Orangeburg County is and has been historically a rural county and, for this reason, the County's property tax base is composed primarily of agriculture, residential and limited commercial properties due to relatively lack of manufacture warehouses and ancient facilities. The State Departments of Agriculture and Commerce as well as the County's economic development office and alliances are committed to attracting manufactures, including agribusiness manufacturers, without the use of economic development incentives. State laws offer critical economic development incentives including fee-in-lieu, multi-county business park and special source revenue credit.

The county desires to create a unique and specific agribusiness economic development incentive program to encourage agribusiness to locate and expand in the county. In turn,

would allow the county to increase the availability of jobs and enhance real property tax revenue. As a result, will produce a high margin property tax revenue due to the low impact use and the low cost of service of agribusiness development. Therefore, the authority granted to the County Council for Orangeburg County under the constitution statues of the State of South Carolina, the Orangeburg County Council and regular scheduled meeting duly noticed, assembled and attended, hereby resolves, that the following criteria and adapted to determine whether the real property within the County is qualify to apply agribusiness incentive:

- The department of agricultural certify the business is classified as agribusiness.
- The business must invest at least five million dollars within the county and further more resolve that the passage of an ordinance shall be necessary to apply the agribusiness incentives to a specific real property and happen of such shall be in the sole and exclusive legislative discretion of the council, be it further resolve that agribusiness incentive include several options, one of which the council in sole discretion including fee of lieu, business park and special source revenue credit.

Councilman Wimberly stated that Mr. Jack Shuler from the Department of Agriculture is the author of the resolution would like to say a few words. Mr. Shuler stated the agribusiness is the number one business in South Carolina with a forty two billion dollar impact to the State annually. The County of Orangeburg will be the first in the State to pass the resolution.

Chairman Wright requested a motion on agenda item two (2). Councilman Harry Wimberly motion that agenda item two (2) be approved. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion to adopt the resolution. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

3. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RURAL IMPACT CHALLENGE

Chairman Wright discussed the rural impact county challenge stating “whereas small towns and rural communities are home to many Americans and are a vibrant part of our nation’s economy. In 2014, approximately one point four million children were poor (rural area) and seven hundred thousand children live in rural families without income or below the poverty lines; whereas high rate of poverty have existed for generation where over three hundred rural counties with poverty rates being over twenty percent since the 1980’s.”

Investing in poor children and their families not only reduce poverty in the near term but also improve children education, health and earnings outcome later in life. Whereas, rural communities face challenges which includes: limited access to critical services, fewer job prospects and lack of institutional capacity. All families are aspire for economic security such as well-paying jobs, child care, college education, health, home and retirement.

The County of Orangeburg recognizes that a child’s zip-code should not determine his/her destiny. Every child should have the opportunity to succeed. The County of Orangeburg has partnered with the local school districts and local higher education institutions in the past and will continue to do so in the future as well as having placed two YMCA facilities

and are currently in the process of adding another recreational facility to enhance the quality of life for an area that has been stricken with poverty.

The National Association of Rural Counties are encouraging the county to reduce the number of poverty in rural areas. Therefore, chief elected official Johnnie Wright hereby sign on the call of action to reduce the number of children living in poverty, commit to share lessons learned with other counties in the State and across the country to support national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and resident to participate in the development of the rural county challenge.

- Convey on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to reducing the number of children and families living in poverty
- Develop a plan with a measureable outcomes that improves access participation and/or impact of evidence- based as well as other promising practices in one or more of the following areas: early childhood education, nutrition, work force development, health, human services
- Research- based approaches that advance this plan and create a process to track the progress using data and information systems to report of success

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item three (3) Councilman Johnny Ravenell motion first that the agenda item three (3) be approved. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion to pass the resolution. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

4. RESOLUTION BY COUNTY COUNCIL TO APPLY FOR SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Chairman Wright asked Administrator Young for an explanation. Administrator Young proceeded by stating this resolution is required by The South Carolina Department of Transportation to apply for funding on behalf of Orangeburg County for the Orangeburg County Cross County Transit. Chairman Wright read the resolution in its entirety, which authorizes Administrator Young to file an application with the South Carolina Department of Transportation for the Orangeburg County Cross County Connection Transit. If approved, council resolved that the County of Orangeburg will provide the required match for the capital of operation, administrative charges the necessary insurance coverage and all local match for operation losses. Council agrees to comply with all Federal Transit Authority (FTA), South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) statues and regulations to carry out the project described in the application.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item four (4) Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motion first that the agenda item four (4) be approved. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

5. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY REGARDING TMS# 0191-07-13-009.000, A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY UPON WHICH A STRUCTURE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS "THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY-BRANCHVILLE SPORTS COMPLEX" IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

Chairman Wright asked Administrator Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised this ordinance is for the purpose for providing electrical service to the Orangeburg County Branchville Sports Complex that the county is building.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item five (5) Councilman Wimberly motion first that the agenda item five (5) be approved. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

6. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2001-4-2-1 PROVIDING FOR A USER RATE SCHEDULE FOR USERS OF THE WEST EDISTO SEWER SYSTEM.

Chairman Wright asked Administrator Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised The West Edisto Drive Sewer System is owned by the County of Orangeburg but it is serviced by the City of Orangeburg. The City of Orangeburg has done a rate increase. Therefore, the West Edisto Drive Sewer project would mirror what The City of the Orangeburg rates are.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item six (6) Councilman Livingston motion first that the agenda item six (6) be approved. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

7. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chairman Wright asked Councilman Johnny Ravenell for an explanation. Councilman Johnny Ravenell meeting was centered on making improvements to the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department may need additional employees, equipment etc. Discussed were three different scenarios. The director from Public Works and our Administrator may come back and make additional recommendation on how we should proceed.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item seven (7) Chairperson of Public Works Committee Ravenell motion first that the agenda item seven (7) be approved. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

8. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

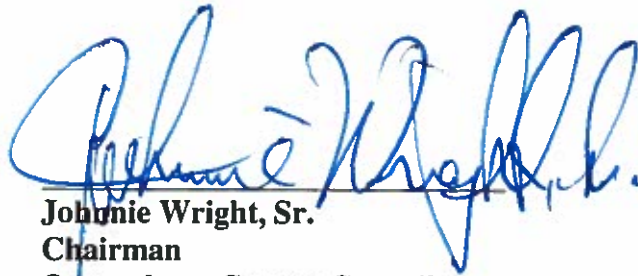
FOIA EXEMPTION S.C.CODE §30-4-70(a)(2)(RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING CLAIM AND OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE)

Councilman Livingston advised before adjournment that the town of Springfield has a military museum and the volunteers there has done an excellent job. Councilman Livingston informed there will be a drop in on May 21, 2016 from 2-5 at the former Springfield High School on Broughton Street.

10. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright asked for a motion for adjournment. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the Orangeburg County Council regular session of April 18, 2016 be adjourned. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0-1).

11. ADJOURNMENT



Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman
Orangeburg County Council



Interim Clerk to Council
Orangeburg County Council