



MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
July 18, 2016
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
3:30 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
Marion Lloyd, Senior Deputy County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Jerrod Anderson, County Attorney
Sinkler Boone, Deputy County Administrator, Public Services
Henry Summers, Deputy Administrator for Public Services
Lillian Watson, Temporary Clerk to Council

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Ravenell, Chairman

On the 18th day of July 2016, Chairman Johnny Ravenell called to order a special session of the Orangeburg County Public Works Committee on July 18, 2016 at 3:40 pm.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

1. REQUEST ADDITION OF COBB ROAD TO THE COUNTY SYSTEM

Chairman Johnny Ravenell yielded to Sinkler Boone. Mr. Boone advised Public Works received a request from a citizen, Mr. Billy Milhouse, to add the lower portion of Cobb Road to the County System. Sinkler Boone asked the County Administrator, Mr. Harold Young, to bring up a visual of Cobb Road on the smart board. Sinkler Boone advised that the road is in District four (4), Heyward Livingston's district, on Highway four (4). The County has deeded right of way on

a half (1/2) of a mile presently. Mr. Billy Milhouse has been maintaining the other half (1/2) mile of the road. Mr. Boone advised Mr. Milhouse has property on both sides of the road. Sinkler Boone advised that the layout of the road originally had sixty six (66) feet of right away on it. Cobb Road currently has approximately three (3) mobile homes on it, and has a pond at the end of it. Sinkler Boone advised that the County is in the process of paving the first half (1/2) of the road. This project is a Sea Fund Project. Mr. Billy Milhouse is asking the County to maintain the other (1/2) half of the road as well.

Councilman Harry Wimberly confirmed with Sinkler Boone the County already maintaining the first half of the road. Councilman Harry Wimberly asked about how many houses are beyond the first half of the road. Sinkler Boone replied that there were approximately three (3) mobile homes. Mr. Billy Milhouse advised that there are a number of other people who own property on Cobb Road as well, approximately eight (8) others. County Administrator, Mr. Harold Young, advised when Mr. Milhouse request came to the County, Public Works informed Mr. Milhouse about the policy of not accepting roads that were not paved into the system. Mr. Young then advised that Mr. Milhouse wanted to present this to the Public Works Committee. Councilman Harry Wimberly asked what does the policy state. Sinkler Boone advised that this road is tied in with the subdivision regulations. Mr. Boone advised for years the County has been taking roads that were thrown at them and turning some of them over to DOT. The question is do Orangeburg County want to continue taking roads that are not paved. Sinkler Boone advised that Orangeburg County received a threat from DOT. With that in mind, what will be the big approach? Mr. Boone advised that Mr. Milhouse has two (2) more roads where he resides that he wants paved as well.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked what the policy for situations like this is. Administrator Young advised that the County stopped accepting roads that were not paved. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that he has been on Council for twenty (20) years and does not remember a policy as such. Councilman Heyward Livingston continued on by saying in the past if the road met the qualifications with one (1) house or one (1) business the County would accept it. County Council collectively advised that subdivision roads must be paved.

Mr. Billy Milhouse asked Chairman Johnny Ravenell could he speak. Chairman Johnny Ravenell nodded in agreement. Mr. Milhouse introduced himself to the Public Works Committee. Mr. Milhouse advised that he represents a lot of people in the County and he only has interest in one of the roads being paved, Cobb Road. The other roads belong to other individuals who have tried on their own to come to the County for them to help maintain and accept the roads. Mr. Milhouse advised that the County would always respond by reporting the roads are private and they cannot accept it. Mr. Milhouse advised the roads were built under the rules of the planning commission. The road he is inquiring about was bypassed. Mr. Milhouse advised Mr. Houser developed these roads and Mr. Milhouse bought into the situation, this is why he has been maintaining the other end of the road the last

fifteen (15) years. Mr. Milhouse advised that he has been trying to get the County to accept Cobb Road into the system. Mr. Milhouse advised that he understand the County's policy, however Cobb Road is not a new road. Mr. Milhouse advised that he used to be on the planning committee. The road has been in Orangeburg County for approximately over twenty (20) years, but somehow the paving of the road did not get done. When another road in the area was accepted, Mr. Looper, the Public Works Director at that time, agreed to accept Cobb Road when the pavement of the other roads were done. Mr. Milhouse advised that he has been patiently waiting for the past fifteen (15) years. Mr. Milhouse stated that it has been many citizens on the road that have come to him and the County on numerous occasions trying to get the road accepted and maintained.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised that he has been the Chairman of Public Works for approximately the last fifteen (15) years and this is the first time he has heard of the information Mr. Milhouse has brought forth. Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked who Mr. Milhouse was communicating with. Mr. Milhouse advised that he was communicating with Mr. Looper, the former director of Public Works. Mr. Milhouse advised that he has been trying to get this approved for a very long time and the other roads in question are not his roads, but he is the spokesman for the owners of the roads. The other roads belong to Ms. Bell, Cindy Griffith, and Mr. Keith Bates. Councilman Heyward Livingston asked when the County passed the subdivision regulation for the pavement. County Council collectively replied in nineteen ninety nine (1999). Mr. Milhouse advised these roads were built before nineteen ninety nine (1999).

Councilman Johnnie Wright, Sr. advised the County has quite a few subdivisions that the citizens would like the County to maintain. Mr. Milhouse's road is not the only one. Councilman Wright advised the Council to keep in mind if you take one road under this regulation, you would have to take the others as well. Councilman Harry Wimberly advised that he remembers prior to the subdivision regulations. The County encouraged anybody who was going to do a subdivision to go ahead and put it in so it could be grandfathered in prior to changing the rules. Councilman Harry Wimberly advised if Cobb Road is a subdivision it should be grandfathered in like the others. Mr. Milhouse advised that it is a subdivision called "Summer Winds." Councilman Johnnie Wright advised if this is the case the flood gates would open because he has some in his district as well that fits this rule. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised all roads that were put in before the regulations should be looked at.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell yielded to Councilwoman Cooper- Smith. Councilwoman Cooper- Smith advised that she knows quite a few subdivisions where the developer was responsible for paving the roads. Mr. Milhouse advised that this was not the case at that time.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised that the Committee will have to do some research before making any decisions. Chairman Ravenell advised he was told all

subdivisions developed pre nineteen ninety nine (1999) would have to be put in the system to be paved. Councilman Harry Wimberly asked why did the County pave half of the road and not pave it all. Sinkler Boone advised that he did not know. It is a deed in the road's file that only shows two thousand six hundred (2,600) feet. Mr. Milhouse advised that he did not know only the first half of the road would be accepted because he was never approached about the situation. Mr. Milhouse was told by Mr. Looper that the County would maintain the first half of the road and then maintain the other half. Mr. Boone advised that there is nothing in the file stating that. Mr. Milhouse advised that Cobb Road has been recorded at the courthouse since the nineteen twenties (1920s). Mr. Milhouse stated the road has been there longer than that. Mr. Milhouse restated that he is not only coming before Council for himself, but for the other citizens of that road as well. Councilman Wimberly asked that Mr. Milhouse send the committee and Public Works a subdivision map as soon as possible. Mr. Milhouse agreed. Mr. Boone advised that he will call Mr. Milhouse once the research has been concluded.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell entertained a motion to do some research and get back with Mr. Milhouse within the next thirty (30) days in reference to Cobb Road and the other two (2) roads mentioned by Mr. Milhouse (Army Road & Navy Drive). Councilman Harry Wimberly made the motion. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0).

Mr. Milhouse thanked the Public Works Committee for their time.

2. APPROVE SIGNET ROAD RELOCATION

Chairman Johnny Ravenell yielded to Mr. Sinkler Boone. Mr. Boone advised Mr. Alonzo Dickson owns some property on Signet Road and wanted to close that portion off. Mr. Boone along with Administrator Young pulled up a visual on the smart board for the committee to view. Sinkler Boone advised that the Public Works Committee denied his request to close the road. Mr. Dickson chose to relocate the road without notifying Public Works. Mr. Boone advised he found out about it when another gentleman was getting ready to buy the property. Mr. Henry Summers went to take a look at the road after finding out about the relocation. Mr. Boone advised work has been done on the relocated Signet Road to the agreement of Public Works. In the Public Works ordinance the relocation needs to be approved. The new property owner would like a letter stating the relocation is acceptable as well. Mr. Boone advised this can be given to Mr. Dickson, but not to the new property owner. Mr. Sinkler Boone yielded to Mr. Henry Summers. Mr. Summers advised when he first went to look at the road, he was not pleased with the condition of the road. Mr. Summers stated he told Mr. Dickson what needed to be done to get the road in superior condition. Mr. Dickson did indeed take Mr. Summers advice and relocated the road the correct way. Mr. Summers advised the road looks great and looks like it has been there the entire time.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked did the road meet Mr. Summers approval. Mr. Summers replied, "Yes sir." Mr. Summers advised the old road was eighteen (18) feet. The new road is eighteen (18) feet as well. The road was moved right along Mr. Dickson's property line. Mr. Summers advised the road looks good and has been scraped since that time. Councilman Harry Wimberly asked Councilman Johnnie Wright was he okay with the condition of the road. Councilman Wright advised that he was okay with the condition of the road and went to look at it prior to coming to the committee meeting. Chairman Ravenell advised that he could not even tell the difference.

Councilman Harry Wimberly made a motion to accept the relocation of the road, follow proper procedure, and notify the property owner. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0-0).

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that he sees what Mr. Sinkler Boone is talking about concerning the roads. If the County chooses not to accept any more roads in the system, it will be alright with him, but will be unfair to the citizens of the County. Councilman Johnnie Wright advised this was an issue when he first became a member of the Council. There has to be other ways such as the County partnering with the citizens of that particular road or subdivision to get the road paved. Councilwoman Janie Cooper-Smith asked how the County pay will for this if the funding has been cut drastically by the state. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised the state does not help fund the roads, but the citizens on these roads pay taxes. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised according to her monthly reports it's very expensive to maintain the roads. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that the County should be fair. Councilman Harry Wimberly advised the County set rules and the County should follow them. The rule that was set concerning this matter stated if the road was a subdivision prior to nineteen ninety nine (1999) it should be grandfathered in and be paved. Councilman Wimberly advised that the roads in question need to be looked at. Chairman Ravenell advised that he has been arguing this point for the past fifteen (15) years. Chairman Ravenell has two (2) subdivisions close to his neighborhood that has requested the paving of their roads. If this information hits the newspaper this would put the Council members in a tight spot. Councilman Harry Wimberly advised the County is held responsible if the roads meet the qualifications. Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised again the Council members do some research and bring forth the information found. Mr. Henry Summers advised that it concerns him that Mr. Milhouse waited all these years to bring forth the information concerning his road. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised Mr. Milhouse has been inquiring about it for a long time because he remembers taking phone calls from him concerning the road. Sinkler Boone advised Mr. Milhouse has been calling him since last year. Councilman Harry Wimberly again asked why the County took half of the road into

the system and not the whole road. Mr. Summers advised he could not answer that. Councilman Willie Owens advised someone from the County have been assuming the responsibility of the Council making decisions that should not have been made without the proper authority present.

3. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Johnny Ravenell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Heyward Livingston made the motion. Councilman Harry Wimberly seconded. Motion carried. (6-0-0).

4. ADJOURNMENT



Johnny Ravenell
Chairman
Public Works Committee



Interim Clerk to Council
Orangeburg County Council