



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
February 6, 2017
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
4:00 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.
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Janie Cooper-Smith
Clyde B. Livingston**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Henry Summers, Public Works Director
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Connie Portee, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Ravenell, Chairman

Chairman Johnny Ravenell called to order a special session of the Orangeburg County Public Works Committee on February 6, at 4:05 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 17, 2017

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked for a motion on the minutes. Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that the minutes of the sessions of the Orangeburg County Council on the above dates be approved as written. Councilman Harry Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (3-0-0).

1. MAINTENANCE ABANDONMENT REQUEST ON A PORTION OF LOG CABIN ROAD

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised the committee of the agenda items. Councilman Harry Wimberly advised Chairman Johnny Ravenell he would like to make a statement.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised there was a video on the Times and Democrat website that stated he probably had a conflict of interest, with that statement being made he contacted the County Attorney and she asserted the records of though the ethics commission and from his position and his step-son position he has a separate business from him. They have no involvement with each other and he has no financial interest and no control over it. Councilman Harry Wimberly stated he was advised by the County Attorney that he do not have a conflict of interest.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised he hope this would clear up any questions in anyone's mind concerning Councilman Harry Wimberly serving on the Public Works Committee. Chairman Ravenell advised Councilman Harry Wimberly, Councilman Heyward Livingston and himself are the three council members who are on the Public Works Committee and the other council members that are sitting in, are able to voice their opinion as well.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell yielded to Mr. Henry Summers for a summary of his findings on the counts on Log Cabin Road.

Mr. Henry Summers advised Public Service had seventy-seven (77) calls for Log Cabin Road that disagreed with the road closing. There are no school buses that travel Log Cabin Road for .5 miles. The road counter in seven (7) days totaled seven hundred seven-nine (779) cars. A call sheet list of the names and numbers were given for the Committee to view.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked Mr. Summers if he had to guesstimate would the count be 50% because of the work being done in that area.

Mr. Summers advised he could not answer that question because he was not sure.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked, does the U.S. Postal service travel this road?

Mr. Summers advised he was not sure about the mail services.

A local resident advised the mail services does travel the road.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked, was this a five (5) day count?

Mr. Summers advised it was a seven (7) day count with the counter on the road and the two signs. This road only has a prescriptive right of way with the County, it does not have any right of way on this road.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked, are there houses in between Log Cabin Road?

Mr. Summers advised no sir, there are no houses in between where the State maintenance and the County, there only one house on the corner of Homestead.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked, were there concerns of EMS (Emergency Medical Services)?

Mr. Summers advised no sir, because the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) could still go around to the other road if they had to.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked, how far of an inconvenience would it be for EMS (Emergency Medical Services) to go around?

Mr. Summers advised about a half of mile.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked, Council if they had any questions for Mr. Summers.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell recognized County Attorney D'Anne Haydel. Attorney Haydel advised in the last meeting from the minutes the Committee hit all the main concerns for abandoning maintenance on the road aspect for one, which was to make sure Fire and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) do not have any opposition, not having conclusion on those before you decide to abandon maintenance would be unusual. So the committee would need to find out from EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and Fire Services because of their response time would be okay with abandoning maintenance on the road.

Gene Ball with Fire Services advised at the point he did not see any issue however, it could become an issue when buildings are put up.

County Attorney D'Anne Haydel revised the question, for what is currently in the area, if this road were closed would that adversely affect emergency services to whose out there now?

Gene Ball with Fire Services advised access in and out is an issue, he would expect as this is developed there would be consideration ingress and egress which would solve the problem with EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and Fire Services.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked from the West Middle Fire Department which is on Hwy 178, if it goes straight down Tradewinds St and get to Big Buck Blvd and cut that road and go across the interstate and go out to Hwy 36, how much further is it if that fire truck had to leave West Middle and go down to Big Buck Blvd and go all the way around, suppose they couldn't get through?

Gene Ball with Fire Services advised the station on Hwy 178 would be looking at going on the interstate for as response because they are only three (3) miles away.

Councilman Willie Owens asked Gene Ball, if we leave things as they are now, is there a problem at this time?

Gene Ball with Fire Services advised, no there would not be a problem at this time.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised that he was looking at the total count and if the count was right, seventy-seven (77) people who called in that did not want the road closed, he would join with the citizens and if the Committee would needs to revisit this in a few months he would be willing to do that as well.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised that was the purpose of using the counter and we value the citizens' concerns to close the road or not to closed the road.

Mr. Jimmy Padgett Chief of the West Middle Fire Services came before the Public Works Committee to express his disapproval for abandoning maintenance on Log Cabin Road because the West Middle Fire Services use Log Cabin Road for access because the Fire Station serves the Orangeburg County Industrial Park as well as Bethune-Bowman School.

Councilman Heyward Livingston made the motion to deny the request to abandon maintenance on Log Cabin Road. Councilman Harry Wimberly second the motion. Motion carried (3-0-0).

2. MAINTENANCE ABANDONMENT REQUEST ON TRIPLE ROAD

Chairman Johnny Ravenell yielded to Mr. Henry Summers for a summary of his findings.

Mr. Henry Summers advised there were two (2) for Triple Road with residents stating they did not want the road closed. Two (2) Orangeburg School District Five school buses travel the road according to the Orangeburg School District Transportation Director, the first bus is a special needs school bus and the second is a regular school bus. The road count for seven (7) days totaled to be three hundred eighty-three (383) cars traveling the road.

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised that she did speak with James Howard who is the Transportation Director and there are two school buses that are traveling this road daily.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell recognize the local residents to express their concerns about the road.

Dustin Fogle came before the Public Services Committee and advised there are two (2) buses that travel this road but there are no children who live on this road that ride those school buses. When those buses travel this road his grandmother and grandfather in there eighties have to pull over to allow the buses to pass. He stated when his father had been sitting on the road and when the school bus came down it had broken the mirror off of his truck, so there would be no need for the school buses to come down this road. This road is a twenty to twenty-five foot road and one vehicle can barely get down this road much less two and a school bus. People travel this road that are up to no good and people throw out their trash, this road is basically a cut off road. This road was in a deed to access one house down this road, now it's supplying a trailer park. There had been break-ins, it would be better if you would abandon maintenance on this road.

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised she had been out to the road and she knows her District well, she understood from the Fogle's that they do not have any children who attend

school but there are children who ride the buses and she does not believe the school district would have route Triple Road had no children been riding the bus.

Dustin Fogle advised if someone did live on the road they no longer live on the road, so there is no reason for the school bus to travel this road. Everybody gets on that bus lives in Danny Ellis trailer park.

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised there are three trailers on that road and her concerns were they may need medical assistance and fire protection.

Dustin Fogle advised which they have access to Shillings Bridge Road, they have no need to go through the trailer park to get any access or assistance.

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised there are three mobile homes there on the right side and she spoke with all three of those couples living in those mobile homes. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith concern was if a fire broke out or they need medical assistance and that road was no longer maintained by the County.

Dustin Fogle advised we'll maintain that road, off of Shillings Bridge Road to where their trailers are, is thirty (30) to forty (40) feet and he do not believe there will be any obstruction so they could maintain from Shillings Bridge Road all the way to 128 Bayliner Ln.

Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith advised she would hate to think of what would happen if they ever got tired and gave up on maintaining the road and what about these three hundred eighty-three (383) cars that are traveling this road.

Councilman Willie Owens advised he was bus supervisor for a school district for four to five years and they never allowed any bus to go down any road without being able to pass another car coming or going. Any bus that goes down a road the school district has to approve it and the highway department. He would hate to think the school district is not providing safe roads for the kids.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell recognized County Attorney D'Anne Haydel.

Attorney Haydel asked, what part of the road did they want closed?

Robert Fogle advised Rustic Street end of the road. There is a sixty (60) foot right of way coming into a twenty (20) foot right of way.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised he took a look at the road and there are three mobile homes. They would have to come down Triple Road a couple hundred feet to use that road to come out, however he did pass a small car and had to get over enough in order to pass but his concerned was, the road has to be maintain by somebody to service these three people that are renting these mobile homes but the road is narrow.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell thanked the residence for coming to voice their concerns about the road.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised someone would need to contact the school district again and ask what would be the procedure to reroute the school buses.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell entertained a motion. Councilman Harry Wimberly made the motion that the Public Works Chairman and the Public Works Director meet with the Orangeburg School District Five Transportation Director at Triple Road to get clarification on if the buses could be rerouted and then bring it back to the Public Works committee. Councilman Heyward Livingston second the motion.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised the local residence it would be in their best interest for the committee to carry their request forward in order to do more study on the road before the committee make their final decision to abandon maintenance on Triple Road.

3. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ravenell asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that Orangeburg County Council Public Works Committee of February 6, 2017, be adjourned. Councilman Harry Wimberly. Motion carried (3-0-0).

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



Connie N. Portee
Clerk to Council



Johnny Ravenell
Chairman
Public Works Committee