



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
June 19, 2017
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.
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

**Clyde B. Livingston
Janie Cooper-Smith**

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Harold Young, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Connie N. Portee, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr. Chairman

On the 19th day of June 2017, Chairman Wright called to order a regular session meeting of the Orangeburg County Council at 5:32 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 5, 2017

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on the minutes. Councilman Johnny Ravenell motioned that the minutes of the sessions of the Orangeburg County Council on the above dates be approved as written. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Pastor Curtis Johnson of the Flora Branch Church came before County Council to express concern about Begonia Road where Flora Branch Church is located had not been paved. The church had been coming before Council for over thirty (30) years and every time they have

come they left disappointed but when they saw the north side of Begonia Road being paved the church thought their side would be paved also. Pastor Johnson asked Council what their part of Begonia Road. The church is not asking for the hold south side of Begonia road to paved, they are asking from up to the road of the church and back to the Ninety-Six road. Pastor Johnson express how it is not safe for the church members to drive on the road when it rains, how they have to cancel bible study, if it rains while they are in service it gets hard because they don't know how they will get out. So the church wanted to know why one side of Begonia Road paved and they were forgotten.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised this was in his district and Pastor Johnson was right they had been wrestling with this road for fifteen (15) years, it is one of the few State dirt roads left. It's a State dirt road and the only thing the State allow the County to do is scrape the road, if the County put rock on the road the State has to give the approval to put rock on the road. The church have went before the transportation committee numerous of times about the road, the road is long about two (2) or three (3) miles and it crosses over a pound and this is why the State would never do anything with it. They put some mill asphalt down about 200 yards on the other side last year and if we could ever get any mill asphalt, he believe the State would allow the County to put some on the road but because it is a State road the County has to get permission before the County could do anything to it but he advised Pastor Johnson he had not forgotten about the Begonia Road because he knows it's rough he travels the road a couple times a month. The C-Fund would do it but why they keep refusing the church he did not know.

Administrator Young advised the state C-Fund program has certain parameters they have to abide by in order to do the road and the County would have to check with the C-Fund committee the reason for denying the request.

Pastor Johnson asked, was the other side of Begonia Road that was paved a mistake because that road is a State road also?

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised he did not believe it wasn't a mistake, he believe Mr. Summers had a lot of request and it was a fair number of houses on the side of the road.

Councilman Heyward Livingston stated would speak with Mr. Summers and see if he could find some milling and the money to pay for it he would get back with him. Councilman Heyward Livingston advised Pastor Johnson that he was not promising him anything but he would do his best to help him.

Pastor Johnson advised he would greatly appreciate it.

Chairman Wright closed the public comments at 5:49 p.m. and began the first item on the agenda.

1. GENERAL FUND ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018, FOR ORANGEBURG COUNTY BUDGET FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE COUNTY MAY LEVY A TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PERSONAL AND REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES IN SUFFICIENT TAXES TO PAY FOR THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE

OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY MATURING DURING THE FISCAL YEAR; TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO ORANGEBURG COUNTY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING TO THE COUNTY DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

Chairman Wright read the ordinance in its entirety. Chairman Wright entertained a motion to pass the ordinance for second reading. Councilman Willie Owens made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston. Motion carried. (5-0-0).

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked the County Administrator to explain there is no millage increase at this time.

Administrator Young advised this was a millage neutral budget, there will be no millage increase far as the budget we reposed for this fiscal year.

2. EDUCATION ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018, FOR ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, AND FOR OTHER PUBLIC AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES TO THE COUNTY DURING THE FISCAL YEAR FOR SUCH PURPOSES

Chairman Wright read the ordinance in its entirety.

Administrator Young advised this budget is also present in a millage neutral form, as to not increase the millage.

Chairman Wright entertained a motion to pass the ordinance for second reading. Councilman Johnny Ravenell made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Willie Owens. Motion carried. (5-0-0).

3. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE UNINCORPORATED ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION FOR THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS TMS# 0182-14-05-001.000 FROM RS (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY) DISTRICT TO RG (RESIDENTIAL GENERAL)

Chairman Wright yielded to Administrator Young to give a brief summary. Administrator Young advised the planning commission met on March 10, 2017, to discuss the request the

rezone the property at 2192 Whitaker Parkway from RS (Residential Single Family) to RG (Residential General). To allow for a double wide manufactured home. The area is largely vacant and a mix of manufactured and stick built homes. The citizens adjacent to the property submitted petition in support of the request and there was no opposition to the request. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request.

Chairman Wright entertained a motion to pass the ordinance for second reading. Councilman Willie Owens made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston. Motion carried. (5-0-0).

4. RECOMMEDATION FROM TAX & TOURISM COMMITTEE

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that the Tax and Tourism Committee met on June 13, 2017 and submitted the following recommendations for Council's consideration:

1. The Town of North requested funds for Community Celebration for July 1st to commemorate the 4th of July \$500.00.
2. The Town of Cordova requested funds for the 4th of July celebration. \$500.00.
3. The Town of Norway requested funds for advertising for the Christmas parade. The funds will be used to apply for newspaper ads, radio ads, billboard ads, participant letter and flyers \$1,500.00.
4. The Grand American Hunt and Show requested funds to help keep the Grand American in Orangeburg which benefits hotels, restaurants and the economy in Orangeburg County \$5,000.00.
5. The Town of Norway requested funds to put air conditioning, heat, and light in the Town of Norway Museum. The museum is always open for any special events. \$2,500.00.
6. The Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce requested funds to promote tourism in Orangeburg County through two new publications and disseminations. \$6,000.00.

Total Recommended Funding: \$16,000.00

Funds Available for Disbursement \$32,070.52

Chairman Wright asked Council for questions. No questions.

Chairman Wright entertained a motion to pass the recommendation of the Tax & Tourism Advisory Committee. Councilman Johnny Ravenell made the motion to accept all the recommendations. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0).

Chairman Wright asked Council members if they had any comments before he asked for the motion for adjournment.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked for the County Administrator to explain for the interest of the public to give a brief summary on the Business License schedule for first reading on

Tuesday, June 27, 2017, on why the County had to go back to look at the gross income rather than the number of employees.

Administrator Young advised when in the budget proceedings one of the things the County wanted to do was get away from the gross sales, after reviewing the law and the State Statue. The State Statue does not allow us to do anything else but gross sales, so we could not go to the formula that we had discuss in the budget session about going towards the number of employees or other viable that would make it simpler. What Council has done was you went back and cut the cost to it, so the overall aspect what it would amount too would be lowered. This was one of the ways to effect the difference in what we were trying to accomplish. Council agreed to cap the business license fee to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) gross sales and with the different classes built in that would help minimize the cost as well to the local businesses. The first article that came out in the paper, misrepresented what they thought we were going to do.

Councilman Harry Wimberly proposed that the state law/statue be a part of the County businesses license ordinance. So the citizens reading the County business license ordinance will understand it was a requirement of State law for the County to use the State statue for gross sales.

Richard Hall gave a brief summary for the public on the breakdown of the fees for the business license. The business license class schedule will be based on the NAICS Code (North American Industrial Classification System) this is what the IRS use to classify businesses. All large majority of the businesses in Orangeburg County will fall under a rate class 1 or 2. An individual who makes over a \$100,000 a year their business license fee would be \$98.50, for \$200,000 gross their fee would be \$173.50, for 500,000 gross their fee would be \$398.50. The State statue for County basis for tax referenced by SC Codes section 4-9-30(12) the statutory basis for levying a business license tax is required to be measured by gross income. At a million dollars of gross sales is where we get to declining rates anything over a million dollars the fee per thousand starts declining at a rate.

Councilman Johnny Ravenell advised we had discuss about having a cap, what would be the cap.

Richard Hall advised it caps at ten million dollars (\$10,000.00) somebody in a rate class one, making ten million dollars (\$10,000.00) gross a year would pay a fee of \$2,798.50 and that is where it stops.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised the County needed to have Public Hearing on the second and third reading.

Chairman Wright asked, how many days did Council need to have a Public Hearing?

Attorney Haydel advised Council could have a Public Hearing at second reading and have the official Public Hearing at third reading.


Councilman Willie Owens advised that he had been speaking for the last few weeks about making sure the County has the labor force to meet the expected bomb in the economy of Orangeburg County. He advised the newspaper report and Dr. Tobin president of Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College to advocate students in our high schools and local colleges to make sure they take core courses, stem courses so they will be prepared to take the necessary test, past the necessary evaluations in order to get certified for these jobs. We should not wait until it is upon us, let us prepare for it before it comes. He would not want industries to leave Orangeburg County because they cannot find people to work. This is important to this County and to the effort the Council has made in order to bring industry here to Orangeburg County.


5. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright entertained a motion for adjournment. Councilman Harry Wimberly motioned that the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council of June 19, 2017 stand adjourned. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0).

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.


Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman
Orangeburg County Council


Connie N. Portee
Clerk to Council
Orangeburg County Council