



MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
January 16, 2018
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
4:30 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:

Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Janie Cooper-Smith
Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Willie Owens
Ray W. Sabalis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Connie Portee, Clerk to Council
Henry Summers, Public Works Supervisor
Marion Lloyd, Deputy County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Ravenell, Chairman

Chairman Johnny Ravenell called to order a special session of the Orangeburg County Public Works Committee on January 16, 2018 at 4:44 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JANUARY 2, 2018

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

1. MAINTENANCE ABANDONMENT REQUEST ON SEVEN OAKS ROAD

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised the committee of the agenda item.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell yielded to Mr. Henry Summers for an update on Seven Oaks Road.

Henry Summers advised Mr. Samuel Wayne Axson was in attendance, he is requesting to discontinue maintenance on a County maintained road along with other landowners along the seven oaks road. A copy of the letter signed by the other landowners showing they are all in agreement to discontinue maintenance on the road for a total of approximate length of .90 of a mile. There are no mail carriers travel this portion of the road. There are no school buses that travel the road. There are no other homes on the entire road beside Mr. Axson's home that maintains a ninety-six road address. Public Services does not see any conflict with Mr. Axson's request to discontinue maintenance along seven oaks road. Councilman Heyward Livingston has travel the road also because it is in his County Council district.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised it is just basically a field road.

Samuel Wayne Axson they owned the land on both sides of the road. They plain on clearing and cutting the timber and farming on the land.

Henry Summers advised for the record Mr. Henry Griffith owns about two hundred feet of the road and he has signed the letter that you have received.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked was did the road come to a dead end.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised no it was not a dead end it just ties back into another road but it is a field road it is only a half a mile to get to another pave road.

Councilman Willie Owens asked how many children did he have because wanted to make sure his children do not come back to the County and try to sue because the County abandon maintenance on the road.

Samuel Wayne Axson advised no because his son farms with him.

Henry Summers advised Mr. Axson son Jeffery Coleman Axson also signed the letter in agreement to discontinue maintenance.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised if the road went somewhere he would object but this is just an old field road it serves no purpose.

Chairman Ravenell ask the committee for a motion. Councilman Heyward Livingston made the motion to grant the request of Mr. Axson to abandon maintenance on Seven Oaks Road. Councilman Harry Wimberly second the motion. Chairman Ravenell advised it has been motion and properly second to grant the request to abandon maintenance on Seven Oaks Road. Motion carried (3-0-0).

Chairman Ravenell advised Mr. Axson even though the County is abandoning maintenance on the road that does not give you the right to put up a fence or gate. You would need to go through the court in order to legally close the road because if you put up a gate and someone has an accident he will be liable.

Councilman Wimberly advised we may want to get legal opinion that once the County abandon maintenance and the landowner two months from now put up a cable or something and someone runs into it and although the County abandon maintenance to two months ago does that release the County from any liability because right now we do not know. If the County abandon maintenance it should the County out of it.

Samuel Wayne Axson advised he was not planning on putting up a gates and in the future it just a field and anybody would know the road was closed.

Chairman Ravenell advised we will get a legal opinion on that.

Chairman Ravenell advised Mr. Axson the Public Works Committee will make this recommendation to County Council for their approval.

2. DISCUSSION ON EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE

Chairman Ravenell began the discussion and gave an example about subdivision that are not in the County system and roads are really terrible. This road has holes in it that are three foot deep. There is a gentleman that brought a mobile home but the mobile home company won't bring the mobile home into the subdivision because they are afraid they will get stuck in there because it's not one hole it is a series of holes.

Vice-Chairwoman Janie Cooper-Smith asked was it a private road.

Chairman Ravenell advised it was a private road more like subdivisions with mobile home parks.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked does the person own the property they are putting the mobile home on.

Chairman Ravenell advised the person own the property.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised if one landowner own the property and renting spots that is one thing big difference if a land owner owns the property and he renting spots but if there are fifteen or twenty people that own their own property then that is fifteen to twenty people that paying property taxes.

Henry Summers advised this is an issues because does are some very big holes and so many people call the County Administrator and he has said Henry we have to stop this, but that onetime fix. We were doing more onetime fixes until we could not do our work.

Councilman Willie Owens we need to go through a standard procedure.

Chairman Ravenell advised we have to do something because these are tax paying people and they deserve some help.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised you know my thoughts on that, if you pay taxes you deserves a road to ride on. They paying taxes on their land, their mobile home, and their car. I do understand with Henry is saying we can't stay there no (6) six to (8) eight months fixing on no road. If he gets a request because a Volkswagen fall in a hole, it's time to do something. Occasionally he did not see nothing wrong with fixing the worse ones because somebody is paying taxes.

Henry Summers advised he did not have a problem with do it if that is what the Committee wants to do but if we fix one we going to have to have to fix them all.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised the Committee has covered this years ago by stating if there were (3) three property owners in a subdivision mobile home park. That means (3) three people living that own property in the area the County can do work on that road. It was not regular maintenance but on occasions. It is called an access road, if there are (3) three or more people living on that road we suppose to fix it.

Councilman Willie Owens advised he does believe this is something that needs action as a Council because this is Orangeburg County we have 92,000 people plus if we are bringing industry in and we anticipate growth if we are going to grow we have to take care of our growth.

3. VOTE FOR ADJOURMENT

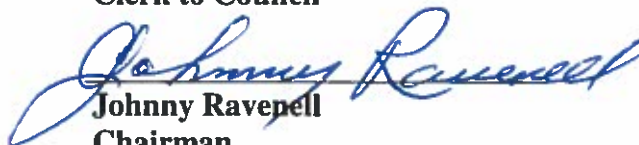
Chairman Ravenell asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilman Harry Wimberly motioned that Orangeburg County Council Public Works Committee of January 16, 2018, be adjourned. Councilman Heyward Livingston second the motion. Motion carried (3-0-0).

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.



Connie N. Portee
Clerk to Council



Johnny Ravenell
Chairman
Public Works Committee