



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 16, 2017
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:

**Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Johnnie Wright, Sr.**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janie Cooper-Smith

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Harold Young, County Administrator
Connie Portee, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Willie B. Owens, Chairman

Chairman Willie B. Owens called to order a special session of the Orangeburg County Public Health and Safety Committee on October 16, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

1. INFORMATION ON A COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Chairman Willie B. Owens advised members of the committee of an overview from the last meeting held with Attorney Jerrod Anderson on October 3, 2016.

Administrator Young advised the committee of the information outline a PowerPoint presentation in order to help build the structure for the Human Relations Council one of the functions of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission is to deal with issues, crisis management, group relations management, event management, and to have assessment of the community. The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission came before County Council and asked the County to create a Community Relations Council, which Council approve to go forward with it and Councilman Willie Owens asked to take the lead on.

Council came back together to have this discussion which are these minutes taken on October 3, 2016 about the Human Relations Council. At a minimum to be recognized by the SC Human Affairs Commission it has to be at least five (5) members, you have to have a written endorsement of the mayor of the city or county councilmember, giving support for the council's programs and objectives. If the local Council is unable to obtain the expressed endorsement of its local government, then you will have at least fifteen (15) or more local citizen which that would not be a problem because Council would endorse it. Then each Council's membership should be representative of the community at large with a fair representation of all racial and ethnic groups and fair representation by sex. Those are the premiers that you would have to have to be recognized by the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. The Human Relations Commission should be charged with evaluating once it is formed should be in charge of evaluating and making recommendations to County Council and these responsibilities should carry with them the authority to receive input from citizens and to attempt to reconcile potential disputes within the community. Council would then pass and enabling ordinance to formally authorize powers and duties of the Human Relations Council. The ordinance you currently have is a sample ordinance we have received that Attorney Jeffries has tried to tailor to our County. Once this commission is started you can get community input through the Human Relations Council to County Council but it can work both ways if there is an issue that County Council feels the commission needs to look at, you could asked them to look at it and receive community input and bring that input back to you. To develop this we need to organize within our community to identify needs and goals of your community, establish priorities, develop confidence and goodwill within your group, find resources such as money, people, and materials, take action to accomplish goals So all of this is going to take some times. Some of the possible activities done by other Counties are: Human Relations Awards, Annual Human Relations Awards recognize those who make outstanding contributions to advancing human rights in their Counties. Awards go to individuals, organizations, businesses and students. County Council Unity Day Celebration. Annual event brings people together, Human Services Grants, other Commissions reviews requests from human services agencies seeking grants from the County and makes recommendations to the County Council, Community Dialogues, and other Commissions have sponsored a series of dialogues that engaged the public in how their Counties can best serve its increasingly diverse population.

Chairman Willie Owens advised that he thought the committee had already decided how we wanted to set it up.

Administrator Young advised but you have to have the ordinance to enable it.

Chairman Willie Owens asked the committee where did they want to go and how did they want to get there, now the committee already asked the attorney to do this information do we want to accept this information as a bases for action.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised he is not on the committee but twenty-nine (29) is too many people. It would be had to get twenty-nine people (29) people, you could cut it down to twelve (12) or fifteen (15) but the twenty-nine (29) is to many and those are his thoughts.

Chairman Willie Owens advised the basic number would be seven (7), which would represent each County Council District, aside from that we need to have one representative from the Colleges which would be the student body presidents and that would be four (4), the Orangeburg City Council will appoint two (2), one (1) from the Community of Character and one (1) from the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce which is a total of fifteen (15). Now we have the number that will represent the Council, fifteen (15) persons.

Administrator Young advised the committee to establish the terms how long will they serve.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised the first appoints by County Council will serve two (2) years and everyone else will be four (4) years then the County Council will appoint again in two (2) years for four (4) years.

Administrator Young advised the college student body president's changes every year.

Councilman Johnnie Wright advised the committee to do one (1) year and two (2) year staggered terms.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised student body president would be term of office.

Administrator Young confirmed one (1) year for college student body president and two (2) years for everyone else.

Administrator Young asked about the Community of Character it is only one representative but for the Chamber of Commerce the Chamber can send a representative or someone from the board.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised let the Community of Character send a person if it is the head person that is fine or an appointee same with the Chamber of Commerce. Let them decide who they want to send.

Administrator Young confirmed now you have one (1) year terms for college student body president and two (2) years terms for everyone else which would be staggered terms. Now let's take a look at the sample ordinance. You can start with the purpose and objectives.

Chairman Willie Owens advised he thought the purpose and objectives statements are really good. We could change it but it would still be the same but he had read section I and section II carefully and he advised it was good.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised for section III membership, terms of office, vacancies, compensation for (c) he had 1.) Orangeburg County Council seven (7) two-year terms, 2.) City of Orangeburg two (2) two-year terms, 3.) Three (3) student body presidents-term of office, 4.) One (1) from Community of Character two year terms and 5.) One (1) form the Chamber of Commerce two year terms. This is fifteen (15) total.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked about the Orangeburg One Initiative will this be the same thing as that are we duplicating the same thing.

Chairman Willie Owens advised no the Committee was not duplicating.

Administrator Young advised it was similar people but the purpose is different, even though they may talk about the same issues that this Commission would talk about its not there mission to deal with it. Their mission is to make Orangeburg One and to put everyone on the same page is to what the County and City is trying to do. Sometimes these issues come up only when they are trying to do brain storm sessions on what are the problems within Orangeburg County. This Commission would deal with the issues like when they had the shooting on Edisto Drive and the citizens felt like the Sheriff's Department wasn't doing enough, or if there's a group that feels like no one is listening to them.

Councilman Johnnie Wright advised that he would hope if the Council Members could not make all of the meetings even if we have to have two people go to this meeting and two people go to another meeting so Council can get a better feel of what the people are trying to accomplish. They have meetings once a month and there are two groups one is called the "1,000" that meets at OC Tech and the Leadership 100 that meets at OCDC. There are four different sections, they have all the superintendents working on the education part, then they have another group working with housing, one group with economic development and they are trying to do is driving everyone in the same direction with information and try to improve any issues that we have with-in the County to make the County a better place, not that is not a better place but it helps everyone understands what is going on with in the County.

Councilman Wimberly advised that Connie Clerk to Council make up a schedule for each month and we will divide it out so that we can take turns attending the meetings.

Chairman Willie Owens advised speaking of meetings once we get this going, he want a quarterly meeting so they will be notified in advance and so we can get somethings accomplished.

Administrator Young advised so our next step is to take this ordinance back and change it based upon the information you have given us today.

Councilman Wimberly advised before we pass it we need to send it to Chamber of Commerce and everyone that is involved to see if they have a problem with it or see if they want to change it in any way. We need to get there input before three reading.

Chairman Willie Owens advised the committee he appreciated there support and all of your comments. If you think of anything we need to add or subtract you can call the Clerk to Council and Connie will respond on the Community Relations Council.

2. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Willie Owens asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilman Harry Wimberly motioned that Orangeburg County Council Public Health and Safety Committee of October 16, 2017 be adjourned. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried (3-0-0-0).

3. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



Connie N. Portee
Clerk to Council



Willie B. Owens, Chairman
Public Health & Safety Committee