

**City Council Minutes
February 16, 2021**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

**Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Dr. Kalu Kalu**

PRESENT BY TELEPHONE:

**Bernard Haire – Joined after Item #1
Jerry Hannah
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard F. Stroman**

Mayor Butler called the meeting to order by roll call of Councilmembers. Mayor Butler recognized Sidney Evering II as the new City Administrator.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt and seconded by Councilmember Stroman to approve the February 2, 2021 City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ms. Candice Roberson, Executive Director of DORA made an appearance before Council concerning an update on DORA activities and St. Patrick's Day Festival. She stated, "Good evening, I want to begin with a recap of what we saw happen in 2020 in downtown Orangeburg. We all know COVID hit our community right after we finished the construction on our Pavilion in March of last year immediately after our St. Patrick's Day Festival last year. To recap 2020, we welcomed the new County construction project, Orangeburg County Library, which is a great addition to our downtown. We saw almost two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in investments into downtown Orangeburg with 29 buildings rehabbed and the new construction completion of the DORA Pavilion. This figure does not include the Orangeburg County Library project. Thirteen new businesses came into our downtown district to include a new gift shop and a new real estate agency. Now we did lose a few businesses due to COVID, but most of our businesses were strong and held through and we were able to help them get PPE loans and a lot of them received the Cares Act funding and grants from the Department of Commerce. We were able to hold our St. Patrick's Day Festival along with our Farmers Market. One of the main reasons for the construction of the Pavilion was to house our Downtown Farmers Market and it was successful. We had more vendors than we have ever had. An average of 250 people came to our Farmers Market every week. We also held a Holiday Market downtown at the Pavilion that was well attended. For 2021, we are releasing our Love Downtown Orangeburg Campaign that will run throughout the full year. It will include merchant highlights. We will take videos and talk with our merchants, spotlight them on Facebook and our other advertising areas. We will also run community contests to hear about why the community loves not just Downtown Orangeburg but our surrounding areas. We will be adding some color downtown as we have purchased flowerpots that will be installed at the Pavilion in the next couple of weeks. We hope one day, we can extend those down Russell Street so we can have flowers down Russell Street. We are looking at our festivals and events. We have looked very closely with the Department of Commerce, Accelerate SC and the CDC guidelines and we have developed how we can have a St. Patrick's Day Festival in a COVID world. In your packet is what we have developed as our guidelines for reopening any events. We are not talking about huge events for thousands of people. We are talking about 250 – 500 people. We have been granted an exemption by the Department of Commerce to hold our event if we proceed with it. We are looking at Friday, March 12th. It is completely outside. We will be looking at our spring events to include the street dance, car show and maybe opening our Farmers Market a little earlier. We will know more after our upcoming meeting with the farmers. The key is we want safe activation for Downtown Orangeburg, so our community has a safe place to get out and shop which helps our downtown businesses."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council. He stated, "First let me commend Ms. Roberson in all her hard work in regards to helping to revitalize downtown and bring folks in. For the St.

Patrick's Day event she mentioned, obviously my suggestion is that you would want to put the public safety, health, and welfare first and foremost. Ms. Roberson stated she had received exemption to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-63 which in Section 4 would restrict gathering in excess of 250 people. The discussion will be whether it would be prudent to move forward with the festival in light of COVID and the potential risks. This would more about enforcement and whether DPS could offer proper enforcement of the guidelines that Ms. Roberson has outlined. Also, we spoke with Chief Adams this afternoon. He has agreed to look into guidelines that require appropriate social distancing. I can tell you other cities such as Columbia have decided to forgo the St. Patrick's Day events at this time due to COVID."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "Because of the guidelines that the City has in place in the Emergency Ordinance asking people not to gather more than 4-10 at a time, I feel the City would be sending a message that if the City can do this, why not the citizens? I would love to see us have something, but because of the Pandemic, I think that we need to forgo this time. You are talking out 250 people, but you may get more than that. Are you going to turn them away?"

DORA Executive Director Roberson stated, "I understand your hesitation and I want to reiterate, we are putting all of the parameters into place to include signage, masks, the ingress and egress. All the guidelines will be followed. There are bigger towns that have cancelled their St. Patrick's Day events such as Columbia and Savannah, but smaller local municipalities are having this same event this same weekend. The towns are supporting them. It's a balancing act, you are right."

Mayor Butler stated, "When we get to Item 8, Council will discuss this item more. Thank you, Ms. Roberson, for this overview."

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning an update on Skateboard Park interest meeting. He stated, "This meeting was held on January 26th at Stevenson Auditorium to allow for social distancing. Around 24 individuals attended to include eight virtually. We were glad to have Councilmember Hannah in attendance. We received very good feedback. On the screen you will see a rolling kind of course located in Columbia, SC. There are two options when we look at skateboard facilities. One is this rolling with banks so you can still get movement with the skateboard and smaller kids can ride scooters. There is another concept that is called a bowl that has areas that allows them to make cuts. I have included in your packets, suggested locations. The skateboarders recommended the vacant lot across from the Arts Center in the Edisto Memorial Gardens. A lot of our skateboarders will actually skate to wherever this facility is located so they would like it in town, so it is central to them. The skaters stated if we have a neat park, people will come from other areas. It was a very positive meeting. I think the next steps are Administrator Evering and I will work with our grant writer to look at available grants and feedback from Council. I will be glad to answer any questions."

Councilmember Haire asked, "I am interested in receiving a copy of the sign in sheet from the interest meeting. How do you protect the City from any liability of someone using the park and getting injured?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "The facility would be covered under the general liability like any other facility. The key is to construct a facility that conforms and is considered safe in the industry. One reason we are looking at a rolling hill type instead of something with a bowl is that a bowl is more advanced skateboard technique versus something that rolls and turns. The other part is feedback that we received that the prefabricated setups have screws in them and over time, the screws begin to come loose, and injuries can occur."

Councilmember Haire asked, "Will there be a fee to attend and/or skate at this park?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "We are in the infancy stage. We will need to look at this. For an open range rolling type of park like we were showing, there would not be a fee. The park pictured is in Columbia and there is no fence around it. There is a complex park in Charleston which is a fee-based park. It depends on what level and what you are looking at doing."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "On the property in the gardens you mentioned, would you fence off some of the property?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "Yes, I would definitely consider fencing off the downside. This would be part of the design process. We have to compose a master plan for all of our ballfields, soccer fields, etc. This would fall right into this planning stage. I wanted to impress on Council that I personally enjoyed that the kids were engaged in this meeting. They stated they wanted activities and talked about competitions and having a concession area. They talked about different things that could help generate some revenue. Council may want to start small with a rolling park and we may look at a bowl at some point."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "I am very interested in the skateboard park because there are young people that do not participate in any of the sports. This would give them another outlet to have something to do. We need to have more things to engage our young people."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "I agree with Councilmember Keitt and this is something I think we should do for our young people here in Orangeburg. I see young people skateboarding near and into the streets and I am concerned about their safety. I think the location close to our water park is a good idea."

Administrator Evering stated, "I just wanted to add that I have attended the park at Owens Field in Columbia that has been pictured here tonight. It is very well attended by not just young people but older adults also. It is not only used for skateboards, but also bicycling. People ride around the loops on bicycles or scooters. It's a great way to get some exercise if you are an older person. I think it would be enjoyed by everyone."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "We need to look at a couple of things. Do we need this park, is it affordable and is it safe? The answer is yes. If you check the national registry of safe parks, you will find that skateboard parks are very safe. As far as policing it, as it has been said before Columbia does not police their park. I have probably been out there 50-60 times over the years. I just like to look at it. As far as location, I think we need to have Parks & Recreation have a stronger hand in this as they are trained experts in Parks & Recreation. There are young people skateboarding near the old bus station and there is a makeshift skateboard at their house skating into the streets. It was alarming and I told them I would do everything I could to get a skateboard park in Orangeburg. You need to realize it is revenue producing also as people will be coming into the City from places to use this park. Like we said not only young people, but seniors will also use this park."

Councilmember Knotts asked, "What input and interest have you had from the Parks & Recreation Department?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "Mr. Shawn Tayler attended the interest meeting and Parks and Recreation are interested."

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning an update on UNC - DFI Railroad Corner Project. He stated, "We wanted to give Council a quick update on Railroad Corner and let you know where we are in the process. DFI has been pulling together information. We are getting ready to begin the most important process, public engagement. We will begin the process of holding interest meetings online or in person in Stevenson Auditorium. I want to remind the public to go to the City of Orangeburg website, Railroad Corner and complete the survey of your thoughts and what you feel is important. Then, the next step is Council will be called on for your input the next time DFI comes to town."

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning the First Citizens Bank Project. He stated, "Mr. Michael Allen from Greenville, who is an architect, has looked at the building and we are at the next step. At this point, we need to move forward with that and then Mr. Evering and I will have to exchange thoughts and ideas to where we are heading. We need to engage Mr. Allen and move forward as well as the Opportunity Zones Funding Source. We would turn the building over in a sale for the Opportunity Fund. I just wanted to keep Council up to date."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "As we look at this project and we will be spending a few million dollars, I hope that we will be diversified and go down more than one street."

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "I think Mr. Allen would be the first one to do that."

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning an update on Planning Commission meeting and public hearing January 28, 2021 to review the City of Orangeburg 2016-2026 Comprehensive Plan for the purpose of reviewing and possible amendment and change of the Future Land Use map and plan. He stated, "Mr. John Ford of Robert and Company is with us via Zoom to answer any technical questions. I tried to explain it in written form, but the simple answer is there are two processes going on here. The process the Planning Commission voted on and sent to Council to recommend changing the area from Suburban Residential to Urban Residential. That change would allow zoning opportunities to expand. It would expand it to go all the way to B-1, but it covers the whole area of Pecanway Terrace the way it is presented. If it changed from Suburban Residential to Urban Residential to open that door, it does not automatically turn everything into B-1 or B-3. It says you will be able to apply as you have in the past and you can request B-1, B-2, or OI. It would go to the Planning Commission to decide. They could agree or they could decide not B-1, but OI and then it would come to Council for the ultimate decision. In the planning process, you are looking in the future at where we are going. This just opens that door. Mr. Ford, did I miss anything?"

Mr. Ford responded, "That sums it up very well. The primary element that needs to be evaluated is that a B-1 or a B-3 zoning is possible if it is a conditional zoning. That means that appropriate setbacks and other criteria regarding the design should be part of the discussion as to whether or not a business category is appropriate."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "Buffering is probably the biggest word to keep in mind with what Mr. Ford is talking about if you look at a higher use than the current Residential. The City always tries to protect its residential areas. When we did our new Comprehensive Plan, we looked at protecting our residential areas. As the future goes, as Saint Matthews Road and Chestnut Street goes, that question comes into play about that area of the first layer of Pecanway Terrace. If that is something that Council looks at, buffering is going to be the key to making sure to protect that residential area that you have in the inner part of Pecanway Terrace. It may be that Council still says we want Residential. That is the crux of everything. What we did is partially a mistake, which is my fault. Mr. Walsh and I discussed near the end of the week whether we needed to pass this by ordinance, which I should have known. So, we are presenting it to you to get your feedback to say move forward with drafting an ordinance or not. We just need Council's direction."

Mayor Butler stated, "I thought the next step was to have a Public Hearing."

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "Not for this part. This part would just be setting an ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan. This process we are going through presenting the study that was done is for you as a Council to decide if you want to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change from Suburban to Urban. We would not have a public hearing on that. Depending on what Council decides, all the planning actions that would occur if you did decide to make a change would go through the process. We would have to post the properties, advertise the properties, and have public hearings at the Planning Commission as well as City Council."

Mayor Butler added, "The new trend for every municipality, county, and as you travel, they are bringing businesses to the neighborhood so they can have walking traffic and making it a convenience for people. I know that on the front side close to St. Matthews Road and Chestnut Street, those are the places where it would be. But that is still going into the heart of that neighborhood. I do not think we would want to go into the heart, but it depends on what we change it to."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "The change would cover the whole section, from Suburban to Urban, but Council would approve or disprove what would change. I think it is Council's intent not to go deep into the heart of Pecanway Terrace but stay in that zone you are talking about. All of this is the decision of Council. How and what happens there is a decision of the Planning Commission as well as Council."

Mayor Butler stated, "I watched when they put Walgreens and the plaza there. The residents on Nelson Street and those other streets are still back there. This is to open up to give people a choice on the front side where it is more commercialized."

Councilmember Haire stated, "Mr. Singh provided me the list of persons in attendance at the meeting. I was able to contact one of the residents who had property on Russell Street and all the people at that meeting were not in favor of what is being proposed. She was disturbed to learn what was going on and she was not in favor of making those changes. She wanted to maintain the neighborhood she was in and not be pressured later in life by the changing neighborhood to Commercial. I have been opposed for a long time until we can get any sizable growth of residential areas. I am opposed to doing anything that might cause displacement of residents either through my neighbor selling their property, putting pressure on me where I must sell because of the residential area that is going up next to me. I have not changed my position. I would definitely be opposed to what was presented."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "Mr. Singh, who initiated these changes?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "I will walk you through the whole thing. We had three individuals who applied to have their zoning done. The Planning Commission denied it. It came to City Council and it was denied. At the next Council meeting, an individual was placed on the agenda and spoke to Council. Council decided at that meeting to have a study performed. At the request of City Council, we performed the study that is being presented tonight. So, the initiation came from Council which stemmed from an application. We held a public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting and then delivered the study, feedback from the public hearing, and a vote from the Planning Commission to Council."

Councilmember Haire stated, "Mr. Singh, when the three property owners came to Council, Council authorized the study, but that study has grown beyond what Council had initially asked for, correct? Now we are talking about properties on Columbia Road. "

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "We expanded that at the request of the City Administrator at the time to put Columbia Road in there."

Councilmember Haire asked, "That was not the request of Council though, was it?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "No, it was not, but in discussing it with the City Administrator, while we had a planner involved, we could do it one of two ways. We could have expensed a fee three times or we expensed one fee at one rate and cover three areas as we looked at future planning. The areas of future planning we looked at with Columbia Road was one piece of property on the corner was approved as Office-Institutional. The discussion was would we want to look at doing the rest of it since we have a City owned property in that section. Boulevard came up as part of the study, not necessarily to make any decisions as with Columbia Road, but to give us some guidance of what our future may need to be. Keep in mind that a Comprehensive Plan is updated every ten years. That was the reasoning behind it. That was done at a staff level to move those two sections."

Councilmember Haire responded, " I just have a problem with what this initial request has turned out to be. We specifically said what we want. If there were to be changes, that should have been brought back to Council. I do not recall it coming back to Council."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "Sometimes we have to think of the growth of where we are. There are times when we must think about our younger people and what should be here for them, job wise and growth for them. Most of the people in that area wanted to have this change because of growth. These are the things that Council needs to look at for our younger people. We cannot be stagnant here. We are here to make the right decisions so they will have the opportunity to do even more than what we are doing now."

Councilmember Haire responded, "If we do not maintain a healthy residential area, where are these people going to be? We are not doing anything as it relates to annexation. We had a study that was done when Martin Cheatham was Mayor wherein it was proposed that we draw a circle around the City and work to annex new residents into the City. Nothing has become of that. These people are not going to have a place to live in the City. Look at our population in the last two census periods. We have not grown. Until that time comes that we are moving forward with some new residents and new areas to be annexed into the City, then kids are not going to be here because it will not be attractive to new businesses coming here. No growth here has been one of our problems

why we have not been able to attract people. We are not progressive. Until I can see some growth, my position is going to remain."

Mayor Butler responded, "We hope in the near future with the new changing of guards, we will start annexing into our City and moving forward. For future growth, we hope to move forward in that area."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "If we have to go back to that concept of buffering, that is a strong word in terms of zoning. I think we need to look at a broad view. I came to Orangeburg in 1985. The way Orangeburg is now is not the way it was in 1985. If you look at Moncks Corner, Summerville, and Charleston that wasn't the way it was some years ago. If you drive down 77 to Rock Hill, to Charlotte or Greensboro, they are not the way they were some years ago. By the same token, a few years ago if you drive 77 to Clemson Road, most of those businesses moved from Two Notch Road to Clemson Road. If you look at Five Points, it is a different story. In our assessment, yes, we do need population, but when you have businesses that is where the buffering comes in. Looking at Chestnut towards Walmart area, Saint Matthews, towards Columbia Road, we need to annex. If you go further towards Creekmoor there is a County line that we can also annex because when you have all the businesses people flow in and then you can annex. Our main goal is to bring in some of those areas into the City which have been in the County. I am looking at ones we can bring inside. I am looking at 301. For us to make an advancement, we need to look forward. We must do something because we are talking about a skateboard park for the young people. We need to have something for the young people to call their own and they will stay here in Orangeburg. We have those three schools but do the young people live in Orangeburg or Columbia? We need to think outside the box. Sometimes, you just have to buy the Kool-Aid and make the advancement. We have got to make a change. That is the only way. We must step outside and find areas to bring into the City. When the new City manager was coming in that was also my thing, what he is going to do for Orangeburg? We are working on the Railroad Corner Project to give them an attractive area."

Councilmember Stroman asked, "Mr. Ford, what is a B-3 business?"

Mr. Ford responded, "That is one of your zoning categories. It is a little more intense zoning."

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "B-1 would normally be the main area. B-3 gets into some specific larger scale businesses. I do not have my zoning book in front of me."

Councilmember Stroman asked, "What is the advantage to making it Urban Residential?"

Mr. Ford responded, "By making it Urban Residential, you are talking about the land use of the area. What you are trying to do is ensure that any commercial uses that may be along the edges of an Urban Residential area are designed to fit in appropriately. That means they do need appropriate buffers, appropriate design, appropriate access, and egress so that minimizes impact on the continued maintenance of residential uses. You are looking at a scenario where you have more and more mixed uses occurring closer to where people live. People want the ability to walk to a restaurant or a small shop. That should be provided in an Urban Residential area. What we are looking at now is creating a little bit more mixed use within those Urban Residential areas that allow people to have an urban lifestyle. That seems to be what people are seeking out rather than the old style suburban one acre, half acre lots. If people are looking for some Suburban Residential, they may be looking for larger lots. The Pecanway Terrace is a very specific area that we tried to maintain as low intensity as possible, but what we are seeing now is there is significant pressure along all the edges of that area. In order to protect the people who, live on Dantzler Street and some of the other interior streets, we need to provide better design scenarios in order to allow people to be buffered away from the intrusive commercial uses."

Councilmember Stroman asked, "If I was going to open a tax office, would that have to be B-1 or O-1?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "It could be B-1 or Office-Institutional."

Mr. Ford added, "Office-Institutional would be allowed now."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "Let's just say I have a piece of property on Saint Matthews Road, and I want it to be rezoned. Am I supposed to tell Council what I am going to put there so the people behind me would know?"

Mr. Ford responded, "Specifically, what you would apply for, that may be included in a conditional zoning that you might identify specifically what you are proposing. However, it could be that you are identifying that you are designing a structure that allows commercial uses. It still has design elements to it that allow a transition from commercial uses to residential uses. Part of the intent is to put more of the decision of how property is used into the design element rather than just say it has to be one zone or another. What is happening in planning now is we are getting away from one use for each type of zoning. Rather than segregating the zoning out, we are looking at opportunities to allow the developer and the community (City) to make decisions in the design stage rather than a yes or no when they apply for a zone."

Assistant City Administrator Singh, "That is the struggle we are having. If you remember, when we did the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, we made some dramatic changes from the past Comprehensive Plans we had done in Orangeburg. If you remember, Mr. Ford added character traits. If you look at the Comprehensive Plan, Mr. Ford indicated these areas, such as Saint Matthews Road, these different areas, are transitional points. For lack of a better term, they are trouble areas for making decisions on what you want to do in the future. We changed the Comprehensive Plan to a more modern version. That caused a struggle though because it has opened up, which was the intent of it, was to open up to be able to look at those transitional areas to bring Orangeburg into a time in a way that you could make those decisions if you wanted to. That does not mean you can't revert to a structured, locked in way, but it is giving you the opportunity to choose other options. It's just an update, but I need a little guidance as to whether Mr. Walsh and I need to work on an ordinance."

Mayor Butler stated, "I just want to see our community in that area understand this a little bit better. I have gotten a few calls today. I would like to understand it a little better. We can put it on hold for now. I don't think they have a full understanding of it. You all have done a good job, but I just want to see that the people over there understand it. We are trying to open a way that we can be more progressive, and that message needs to get to them."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "We need the community in that area to understand what you are saying."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "I think the citizens can contact all of you to give some feedback and direction. The feedback we got was very clear at the meetings we held, but I understand."

Mayor Butler stated, "The details of it need to be communicated."

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning discussion on Business License renewal deadline extension to June, 2021 due to the Pandemic. He stated, "Because of the Pandemic, last year we extended our Business License renewal deadline to June, 2020. If Council would like to extend the deadline again this year, we will bring a resolution to Council at the next meeting."

City Administrator Evering stated, "As presented earlier, DORA has applied for exemption from the SC Department of Commerce to hold the St. Patrick's Day event that would allow for the 250 people to attend. Ms. Roberson do you want to comment more on planned safety measures."

Ms. Roberson stated, "I am adding another safety measure that is not listed in the packet to have designated forms of ingress and egress where volunteers will check temperatures and anyone with an abnormal temperature would not be able to enter. A few highlights of this document you received are attendee safety is our number one priority. We will mandate masks because that is a City Ordinance, but we would need some assistance from the Department of Public Safety in the enforcement of this ordinance. We will have signage stating masks are required. You must stay six feet from others that are not in your household. We will have hand sanitizing areas throughout along with our restrooms have running water and soap. We are encouraging the public, if you are sick, please stay home. We want to enforce all the rules and regulations to make sure everyone feels safe and comfortable in the event and the event space. We will utilize the pavilion which is

open and the parking lot adjacent to it. There will be a food truck on either end of the parking lot and the DJ will be positioned so that everyone in the parking lot can see the DJ and hear the music. You will still wear your mask unless you are eating or drinking. All volunteers will have temperature checks and will be required to wear masks and gloves at all times. They must wash their hands every hour and sanitize in-between. We will only allow food vendors that have the Palmetto Priority through Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) which means they have gone through all the regulations to ensure they are COVID compliant. We will have a designated area so if anyone feels ill, they can go to this area. They will then be escorted out of the property to go home or if needed we will help facilitate getting EMS to pick them up.”

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, “How many officers will you need for the crowd?”

Ms. Roberson stated, “I do not think our crowd will be what our normal crowd would be for our events. One good thing about the ingress and egress is we will two points one on Russell Street and one on St. John Street so if we deem the Festival is too many, we will say unfortunately, we have hit our capacity. We will need DPS’s help in enforcing some of those things. We normally have two officers in attendance.”

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, “What will you do if someone refuses to wear a mask?”

Ms. Roberson stated, “Unfortunately, I am a citizen just like they are, and I do not have the authority to make someone wear a mask. This is where I will lean on our Public Safety who is that enforcing body for the Ordinance.”

Mayor Butler asked, “What is the date of the event?”

Ms. Roberson stated, “Friday, March 12th 6:00-9:00PM.”

Councilmember Hannah asked, “Is this an event we have to have, or have you considered moving the date further into Spring?”

Ms. Roberson stated, “We have another event in spring planned. The Rose Festival Street Dance and Car Show in May. Starting in March, every month, we offer some type of free activity to our community. It is a quality of life thing. Do we have to have it? No. Does our community need it? A safe way to get out of the house and enjoy their family and friends? I think our community is at a point that they need that in a safe environment.”

Councilmember Hannah stated, “If you are talking about 250 people, that is not a lot of people.”

Ms. Roberson stated, “Correct. We are also outside.”

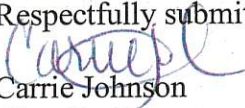
Councilmember Keitt stated, “I am totally for getting the people out, but it seems to me a double standard. We as the City are saying one thing and doing another. I love to come to the festivals as you know I love to dance, but it is a double standard for Councilmembers to say one thing to our citizens and we host an event.”

Mayor Butler stated, “I want to ask Council to write your decision and send it to City Hall whether you are for it or not. Ms. Roberson thank you for presenting. You know the City supports DORA and we thank you for all that you do.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman and seconded by Councilmember Knotts to enter Executive Session concerning Legal Matter A. Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70 (a)(1). The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

/lrm

