

**City Council Minutes**  
**March 2, 2021**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

**PRESENT:**

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

**PRESENT BY TELEPHONE:**

**Bernard Haire**  
**Jerry Hannah**  
**L. Zimmerman Keitt**  
**Sandra P. Knotts**  
**Richard F. Stroman**

Mayor Butler called the meeting to order by roll call of Councilmembers.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu and seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the February 16, 2021 City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Butler recognized "Self-Respect" as the March 2021 Orangeburg County Community of Character trait. Self-Respect is a feeling that one is behaving with honor and dignity.

Mayor Butler recognized the retirement of Randall L Myers for his service to DPU for 43 years, one month and ten days with a retirement date of February 26, 2021.

DPU Manager Warren Harley stated, "On behalf of all employees that Randy has worked with over his 43 years of service, we appreciate all he has done. He was a dedicated employee. To do something 43 years, you have to love it, so we loved that he enjoyed working at the Department of Public Utilities. We thank him for all of his time, and we wish him the best."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning a Resolution to extend the Business License payment date to June 1, 2021. He stated, "This Resolution will extend the due date for the Business License payment. As you know, the current due date is April 30, 2021. With the Pandemic and the financial difficulties of some of our businesses, this Resolution will extend that due date until June 1, 2021."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the Resolution to extend the Business License payment. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Finance Director Carrie Johnson addressed Council concerning update on collection comparison of 2019 tax delinquencies vs. 2020 delinquencies. She stated, "As of 1/31/2021, 2.7 million dollars (\$2,700,000) has been collected by the County and paid to the City. This time last year, the City collected \$2.4 million dollars (\$2,400,000). So currently, we are ahead over \$300,000 over last year in our tax collections. Penalties are a little different because at the City level we had penalties starting as of January 16<sup>th</sup> at 15%. The County levies penalties in three phases of 3, 5 and 7%. So currently we are collecting very little penalties through the County, but I expect that to increase."

Councilmember Haire asked, "The City gave businesses a consideration and additional time on the Business Licenses. We have citizens who have suffered under the Pandemic. Have we thought of any type of extension for tax payment?"

Director Johnson stated, "The taxes are collected at the County level so that would have to be an agreement made with the County as far as tax collection and delinquent taxes and penalties."

Councilmember Haire stated, "So the answer to my question is, no there have not been any consideration for citizens as it relates to extension of tax payments. Is that correct?"

Director Johnson stated, "That is correct. They have a lower penalty on late payments."

Councilmember Haire stated, "I want citizens to be considered also. Business owners are receiving consideration. I want our residents to receive some consideration."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Can we do the same thing for the citizens that we are giving to the businesses by extending the deadline of taxes for citizens?"

City Attorney Walsh stated, "The collection of taxes on personal property and real estate is governed by state statute. There are certain dates and timeline they trigger. It is my opinion that we could not change that because it is governed by state statute not local law."

Councilmember Haire stated, "Thank you Jimmy. Ms. Johnson, in this chart, it states that penalties collected in 2020 is \$14,086 vs \$672 in 2021. How are these penalties derived?"

Director Johnson stated, "The penalties at the County are only 3% at this time whereas last year, they were at 15%."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "We received the opinion of Attorney Walsh. Can we verify this? Because we are in a Pandemic and this is something we have not seen before. In many cases municipalities, counties and states are making rules and adjustments that they never made before."

City Administrator Evering stated, "Certainly the City Attorney and I will look into it."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning update on DORA St. Patrick's Day Festival. He stated, "At the last Council meeting, Ms. Candice Roberson, Executive Director of Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association made a presentation to you concerning possibly having St. Patrick's Day Event on March 12th. She wanted to host an event for approximately 250 people outside at the Market Pavilion and was looking for guidance from Council. At that time, Mayor Butler asked that you all contact me by phone or email as to whether or not that event should be held or postponed. The vote was unanimous that the event should not be held on March 12th as requested by Ms. Roberson and that she postponed until a later date given the Pandemic that we are facing."

Councilmember Haire stated, "I would like to request a point of personal privilege. Since we are talking about the Pandemic and the fact that we as a City have gone on record as disapproving an activities, I found it rather troubling that our state is going ahead full force lifting all the prohibitions against large gatherings. Scientists are still saying the lifting of regulations should not be going in the directions that they are going because of the mutation of the virus. I think we, as a Council, go on record asking that these things not be lifted based on what the scientists are saying. That is my concern."

Councilmember Keitt added, "I agree with Councilmember Haire, I do not think we should lift anything at this point. Everyone is trying to get the vaccine that is offered. We need to continue like the scientists say. I think it is important that Orangeburg remain with what we have and even put something else in the newspaper to let people know we are not in the clear. We still have a lot of death and we should be concerned."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu added, "I do not know who is giving the Governor its statistics because there is an increase in the number of exposures to COVID-19, especially in Orangeburg. Also, there has been an uptick in the number of deaths in Orangeburg. There are still people who have some reservations about getting the vaccination. It behooves the citizens to get the vaccine unless you have a major illness that would prevent you from getting it. I still see a lot of folks go in stores without masks. We need to do better."

Attorney Walsh stated, "I read the Executive Order today that the Governor issued last week. We need to be specific that the only thing he lifted was the no alcohol be served in restaurants after 11:00 PM. The other thing he lifted was the requirement that gatherings of 250 individuals or more must be approved by some Commerce committee. He encourages local governments to enact and enforce other preventive measures. As you may know, we have a current ordinance that we

have adopted that addresses masks covering your face and nose, gatherings, and social distancing. I want to make sure that the public understands that they are still governed by our local ordinance. There have been no changes, no lifting of requirements in the City of Orangeburg."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning First Reading of Ordinance adopting 2017 and 2018 Building Codes and Standards. He stated, "This item would provide first reading for adopting an updated building code. As you may know, the International Code Council and the State of South Carolina promulgates building codes that the City is required to be in compliance with and this ordinance would essentially bring the City into compliance with those specific codes."

A motion was made by Councilmember Knotts seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the first reading of Ordinance adopting 2017 and 2018 Building Codes and Standards. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Councilmember Haire asked, "Is there someone on staff that can go through Code from previous years and see what changes might have occurred in the code that Council might be interested in knowing. I don't expect that to be done in the next week or so, but is it possible that can be done?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "Yes sir that can certainly be done."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning nominations to Hillcrest Golf Course Commission. He stated, "There are a number of commissioners whose 3-year terms expired on July 1, 2020. I will read these out for Council. Randy Shuler, Lee Harter, Lamont Green and Lynnette Rhoad. We are asking that you submit nominations for these expired terms. I will be in contact with South Carolina State University requesting nominations for their expired appointments."

The following nominations were made:

Councilmember Haire nominated Reverend Dr. Eddie Williams to replace Lynnette Rhoad.

Councilmember Knotts nominated Dr. John Hutto to replace Randy Shuler

Councilmember Stroman nominated Mike Walker to replace Lee Harter

Councilmember Hannah nominated Lamont Green for reappointment

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to accept the nominations of Reverend Dr. Eddie Williams, Dr. John Hutto and Mike Walker to the expired 3-year terms ending July 1, 2023 and the re-appointment of Lamont Green to the expired 3 year term ending July 1, 2023. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

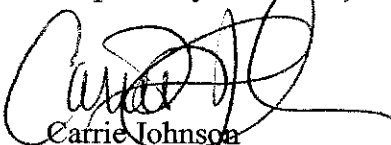
City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning update on the Orangeburg Festival of Roses. He stated, "The Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce and the City's Parks and Recreation Department met to discuss whether or not to proceed with Festival of Roses on April 30 – May 2, 2021 given the Pandemic. It was decided it would be best to postpone the Festival of Roses. This was a very difficult decision as this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival. I've asked Parks and Recreation Director, Ms. Simmons, to join us tonight to answer any questions you may have."

Parks and Recreation Director Shaniqua Simmons stated, "We talked with the Chamber about what can we do in lieu of the three-day festival. We decided since this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year, we will have videos. We are looking to do something every month until the end of the year placed on our Facebook page and the City's website. We encourage individuals to send in pictures, memories of past Rose Festivals. We will put that together as a short movie or clip and we will stream it live. The fall is very busy for the Chamber and Parks and Recreation, but it is still a strong possibility we can have a one-day festival in the fall. We could possibly see some roses blooming as there is a short bloom window in the fall."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "Thank you for the considerations you are giving to us and we will be glad to help you with whatever we can."

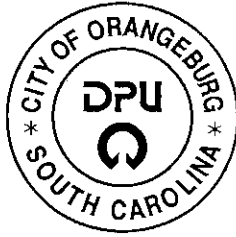
A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Haire to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carrie Johnson  
City Clerk

/lrm





**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** Randall Lee Myers, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for forty-three years, one month and ten days with a retirement date of February 26, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** he, through his long and faithful service contributed greatly to the successful operation of the City of Orangeburg; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council, in recognition of the fine contribution rendered to the City of Orangeburg, wants to inscribe on the records its appreciation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Members of Council, in Council assembled, do officially recognize the faithful service rendered to the City of Orangeburg in the capacities in which he served and we take pride in commending him for a job well done.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution, in appreciation for his devotion of duty to the City of Orangeburg, be placed in the Minute Book of the City in recognition of his services.

**PASSED BY** the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2021.

*Michael C. Butcher*  
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Mayor

*Blaine Haire*  
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*James Paul*  
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*Kelley*  
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*Richard F. Jones*  
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*L. Zimmerman Keith*  
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*Andie P. Kott*  
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Members of Council



**ATTEST:**

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



**RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE TAX PAYMENT DATE TO  
JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2021**

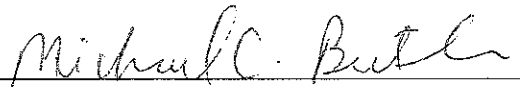
**WHEREAS,** the Business License tax for the calendar year 2021 is due and payable on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and

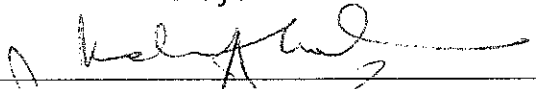
**WHEREAS,** because of the COVID-19 Pandemic businesses are and have been confronted with financial difficulties, and

**WHEREAS,** City Council wishes to provide financial relief to businesses by the extension of the payment date.

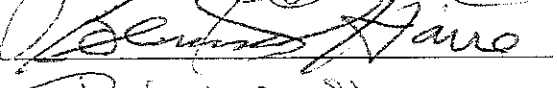
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by City Council duly assembled this 2nd day of March 2021 that the April 30<sup>th</sup> payment date for business licenses is hereby extended for the 2021 calendar year to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

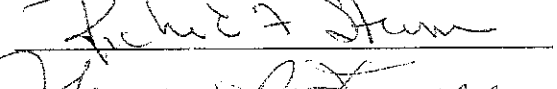
**PASSED BY** the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, on this 2nd day of March 2021.

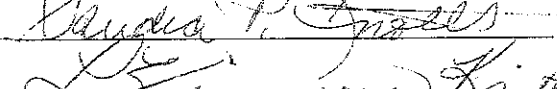
  
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Mayor

  
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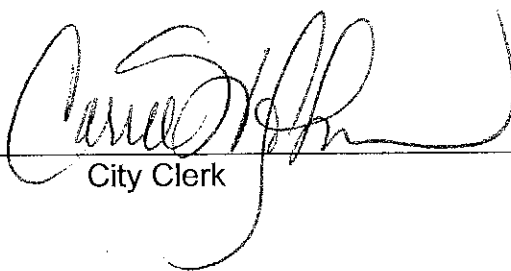
  
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Members of Council



Attest:   
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City Clerk