

City Council Meeting

Minutes

June 18, 2019

2817

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor

Bernard Haire

Jerry Hannah

Charles W. Jernigan

L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem

Sandra P. Knotts

Richard F. Stroman

ABSENT:

None

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Council Member Stroman. The vote was 5-0-2, Council Member Jernigan and Council Member Hannah abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

Mayor Butler and Hillcrest Golf Course Manager Gregg Funderburk presented retirement resolution and watch to Mr. Robert Dickson for thirty-one years, one month and 19 days service to Hillcrest Golf Course.

Ms. Barbara Beach of the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center addressed Council. She stated, "I am here tonight to update you on the progress of the Orangeburg Fine Arts Center. We are in the final stages of the tile and paint and should be moving in about two months. We have had some issues but are moving in the right direction. As you know we are in the process of hiring a Director and one issue in the hiring process has been benefits. Is there any way that the City could assist us with that? We could shoulder a good bit of it but need help."

Mayor Butler stated, "Council, she means the employer benefits, if we could help them in that manner with the medical benefits. Are you asking for retirement also?"

Ms. Beach replied, "I have done some research in getting someone in a retirement program but are having issues with a single person with a retirement plan but would like to offer that also."

Mayor Butler asked, "How many employees do you have?"

Ms. Beach replied, "One."

Mayor Butler stated, "It is hard when you only have one employee and do not have group rates."

Ms. Beach replied, "We will be able to get someone in a single member group plan, but you can only do that one month out of the year."

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt asked, "The person that left, did they not have insurance?"

Ms. Beach replied, "No, her husband worked for DPU and was already covered."

Council Member Hannah asked, "Is this person a City Employee?"

City Administrator Yow replied, "Our Resolution requires that the person be a city employee and full time. I am not sure what our current reinsurance contract says but I know our previous contract stated this as well. What she really would be requesting is to increase funding from the City. Mr. Nexsen, I am not sure about our current reinsurance contract, do you know?"

DPU Administration Director Nexsen replied, "Our current stop loss carrier wouldn't allow that."

Mayor Butler stated, "Aren't they a separate entity?"

City Administrator Yow replied, "Yes"

Mayor Butler stated, "The City does donate to them, just like to the Chamber?"

City Administrator Yow replied, "We own the building and they have a lease for the building. The City and the County have donated, and I believe they raised a lot of money for their renovation."

Mayor Butler stated, "The Fine Arts Center is important, and I feel we should do what we can to help them. We can take this under advisement."

Council Member Stroman asked, "Can we put this on our planning meeting agenda?"

City Administrator Yow stated, "It is on there. This group has a new board and is run by volunteers and they have been great to work with."

Council Member Stroman stated, "It is an asset to Orangeburg."

Mr. William Green of Orangeburg came before Council to update them on his bullying project. He stated, "My family has been going through something this past week. I said I wanted to have a format on bullying and suicide. Just last Sunday, my mother's friend's son took his life in the Edisto Gardens. I think people need to be mindful how you treat other people because life is too short to go through this. I have been talking to CASA Family Systems and Wade Family Practice in Columbia and they are on board with this. In other matters, I am passing out the letter that I was asked to by Ms. Keitt where I feel like I was being bullied. As you can see, I was a victim of bullying. Someone does not want me to speak here and I have every right to be here. I was taught as a child to look the devil straight in the face."

Mayor Butler asked, "What is your update on the bullying project?"

Mr. Green replied, "I just said I got in contact with CASA Family Assistance and Wade Family Practice in Columbia. They will be assisting me in what I am trying to do."

Mayor Butler asked, "What are you doing for the project?"

Mr. Green stated, "I am trying to get a larger venue and I am trying to get the auditorium at OC Tech and have speakers from all realms."

Council Member Knotts asked, "Have you been reporting this to the Department of Public Safety?"

Mr. Green stated, "Yes I have, and it is documented."

Council Member Knotts asked, "What is the frequency of this?"

Mr. Green replied, "Just once."

Council Member Hannah stated, "I applaud you for taking a stand. Everyone is eager to assist. I am trying to figure something out. I am trying to defend you, but when I look at this, this is every day. I am a grown man and bullying should be more for younger people. You don't know what the public tells us. If you have done your due diligence and report this, then I would take this like a man and just be done with this."

Mr. Green replied, "I took it like a man and that is why I brought this here, Ms. Keitt wanted to see it and that is the reason why you are seeing this, not just Ms. Keitt since you are all on City Council."

Council Member Haire asked, "Are you aware of who you think sent this to you?"

Mr. Green replied, "I have a very good idea."

Ms. Adeline Yon of Clifton Circle in Orangeburg County addressed Council. She stated, "I am here tonight because I saw the City Administrator on the news and other citizens saying come to Orangeburg. My question is what is there to do in Orangeburg? I know you have done some work and I want to be honest about that, but things are falling apart, and we must look to the future. But, things are going backwards. You have to look at the past in order to do better in the future. We had so much more in the 1970's. I have three children and when they come down, what do you have to do here? There are a number of things that need to be done. With SCSU and Claflin being right here and when George Dean had his business there, things were booming. Now, it looks awful. When people come to bring their children to the Colleges, I feel ashamed. You want to feel proud of your home. Too many of us have not been paying attention. I always like to give Ms. Keitt her due, when I came out of High School she was working with the young people then. That kind of thing keep people out of trouble. The railroad corner is an eye sore, we have 301 and 601 and Highway 33 all right there. Have you focused on the Railroad Corner?"

Mayor Butler replied, "The Railroad Corner has been named an Opportunity Zone and this gives investors an opportunity to work in this area. We have been trying to get owners to sell, but it has been very difficult to get owners to sell their property. We have not given up on it. The City has given that area our fullest attention. The City has been working on this prior to me becoming the Mayor. I am back on it trying to negotiate because the prices are astronomical. I have been to New York to see what they have done up there where places have been named Opportunity Zones and we have a seminar upcoming that you may want to attend."

Ms. Yon replied, "I will and what about the old, dilapidated buildings? Who is responsible, is it the owners?"

Mayor Butler stated, "Our Public Works Department is in charge of code enforcement and a lot of the property owners live out of state and it takes some time to go through all the processes. They meet every week."

City Administrator Yow stated, "Many buildings and homes have been taken down. In fact, one was taken down last week."

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "Since 2015, there have been 24 buildings that have taken advantage of our Facade Grant Program with face improvements down on Russell Street."

Ms. Yon asked, "What can you do to enforce the code, taxes are enforced with your name in the paper."

Mayor Butler stated, "Some make payments and put money towards the renovations."

Ms. Yon stated, "I want to let you know that we have homeless here and the library has turned into a Homeless Shelter. We have students here that need to be involved also in this and I want to be more proactive in this matter. I am going to try to create a committee, we need jobs in Orangeburg, if there is money coming in then people aren't worrying about what is going on. I went to different places last week and people asked me for money. At Dollar General, a young man asked me for money and before I left a woman asked me for a \$1. The Elderly are on a fixed income and cannot buy their groceries. When you go to Walmart and have to pick out groceries, then scan them, load them back up and then take them home. The lady stated, she only can shop once a month. The elderly cannot do it. What can be done to help them? I went to Piggly Wiggly and a young man needed \$13 to get his medication. What is going on? People are in need here."

Mayor Butler stated, "The homelessness is a process, we have been working on this for two years. The Samaritan House is in foreclosure. We have established a new Board of Directors and have raised funds. We hope to have it back open by October."

Ms. Shaniqua Simmons addressed Council regarding the contract for the Horne Wetlands Park Boardwalk renovation. She stated, "I am requesting authorization for the City Administrator to enter into a contract with J. D. Gaskins Construction Inc. for \$402,000 for the Boardwalk renovation at the Horne Wetlands Park. There is a memo in your packet on the synopsis of how we got to this point."

Council Member Stroman asked, "There was only one bid?"

Ms. Simmons stated, "Yes, it was put out for bid twice and the same company bid twice."

2820
Mayor Butler asked, "Don't we have some money for this from FEMA?"

City Administrator Yow replied, "We do, but this is from two storms and FEMA requires you to treat it as two projects. Their first commitment was \$265,000 and we went back to FEMA for additional funding and they approved the \$402,000 amount. There could be change orders though."

Council Member Hannah asked, "I hope you do not go over this amount, was safety guards taken into consideration?"

Ms. Simmons replied, "We have money allocated for additional rails. The contract specifies that the boardwalk be built just like before."

City Administrator Yow stated, "The Boardwalk will be built back to current code."

Council Member Haire asked, "When will this be started and what is the completion date?"

Ms. Simmons replied, "The contractor should start July 8th and they have 180 days pending great weather."

Council Member Haire made a motion to authorization the City Administrator to enter into contract with J. D. Gaskins Construction, Inc. for \$402,000 for Horne Wetlands Park Boardwalk renovation. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt. The vote was unanimously approved.

Council Member Haire made a motion to enter into executive session, seconded by Council Member Knotts. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Haire made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Council Member Knotts. The vote was unanimous.

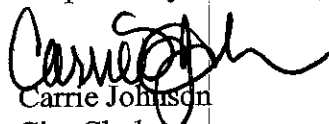
City Administrator Yow addressed Council. He stated, "This project is a very important addition to our community and Veterans across Orangeburg. We have the potential of having a Veteran's Affairs Medical Clinic being built just outside the City to serve local Veterans and have an economic impact in our community. This is a 7 to 8-million-dollar investment, bringing 50 to 60 new jobs upon completion and construction that will be spent locally. This will help the City grow and help annexation and will be a catalyst in encouraging development in that area. Just as important, this would help by increasing freeholders and valuation in the area. This is just a step to assist the developer to encourage the Veteran's Clinic to locate here."

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt made a motion authorizing the City Administrator to enter into Property and Annexation Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Haire. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Haire made a motion to approve the Resolution annexing property owned by the City of Orangeburg into its Corporate Limits. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knotts. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Council Member Stroman and seconded by Council Member Haire to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

Respectively submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

/lm



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Robert Dickson faithfully served the City of Orangeburg's Hillcrest Golf Course for thirty-one years, one month and 19 days with a retirement date of May 16, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, he, through his long and faithful service, contributed greatly to the successful operation of the City of Orangeburg's Hillcrest Golf Course; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council, in recognition of the fine contribution rendered 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 the City 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 and a copy furnished to Mr. Dickson in recognition of his services.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this eighteenth day of June 2019.

Michael C. Butler

MAYOR

Ben Hare

Dandra P. Knott

L. Zimmerman Kest

Richard A. Horn

Charles L. Dugan

James L. ...

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL



ATTEST:

Carrie ...

CITY CLERK



RESOLUTION ANNEXING PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF ORANGEBURG INTO ITS CORPORATE LIMITS

WHEREAS, the City of Orangeburg owns the below described property and find that it is in the best interest of the City that said property be annexed into its corporate limits, and

WHEREAS, the below described property is contiguous to the corporate limits of the City and pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 5-3-100 said property can be annexed by a resolution of City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by City Council duly assembled this 18th day of June, 2019 that the below described property is hereby annexed into the corporate limits of the City of Orangeburg effective as of the date hereof and upon annexation shall be zoned B-1, General Business District.

Description of properties:

All that certain, pieces, parcels or tracts of land set forth and shown as new Tracts 1 and 2, containing a total of 21.51 acres, more or less, and being set forth and shown on an Annexation Exhibit for Magnolia Village prepared by Dangerfield Engineering and Surveying dated May 30, 2019 attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

All that certain, piece, parcel or tract of land containing 13.7 acres, more or less, located on U.S. Highway 178 (North Road) and having the following boundaries and measurements: Northeast by the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 178 and measuring thereon a total distance of 1225 feet; Southeast by property of Esther B. Bonnette 606 feet; South by property of Esther B. Bonnette 313 feet and West by the run of Caw Caw Creek 1280 feet. All measurements being more or less and subject to the widening of U.S. Highway 178. Said property being set forth and shown on a Survey Plat of the land of John F. Buffkin, Jr. dated December 11, 1946 attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, on this 18th day of June, 2019.



Michael C. Butler
Mayor

Jeanne Haire

Douglas H. Knotts

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Richard L. Hume
Members of Council

Attest: [Signature]
City Clerk

