

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 19, 2019

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Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., in Council Chambers with Mayor Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Bernard Haire
Jerry Hannah
Charles W. Jernigan
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard F. Stroman

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, to approve the January 28, 2019, Special City Council Minutes, as distributed. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Candice Roberson, DORA Director, updated Council on DORA programs. "She stated, the year 2018 was a great year and we have expanded some programs. There were seventeen (17) new businesses in downtown Orangeburg and seven (7) moved out of the district. This created twenty-six (26) new jobs. Thirty buildings were rehabbed in 2018, with a total investment of \$921,165.00. DORA Events included 1,000 volunteer hours including DORA and the City. Moving into 2019, there are a lot of events planned. Our biggest is the Pavilion build and we are currently negotiating with our contractor. Another item is our Merchant Engagement in getting them involved in DORA and Co-Op events. Our Board is currently in our strategic planning session to develop our initiatives. We have agreed to host Main Street SC in Orangeburg in September. All Main Street Directors will come to Orangeburg for training. We are excited and honored to host them this year. In March, we kick off our community campaign and on March 15th we will kick off our St. Patrick's Day Celebration and the Main Street Band will be performing. In April, we will host our Easter Egg Hunt and downtown restaurants will be open that day for brunch. In May, we will have our Annual Car Show, along with the Festival of Roses as well as the Street Dance that weekend. We are coordinating with the Festival Team for these events. We then move to our Farmers Market and Farm to Table in June. That is what we are looking like for 2019. Also, I would like to ask for permission to sell beer and wine at the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 15th. We would love to do that again this year."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, to approve the sale of beer and wine at the St. Patrick's Day Celebration being held on March 15, 2019. This motion as unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt asked, "I know you are trying to keep the downtown doors open while this is going on, what are you doing to promote this?"

Ms. Roberson stated, "I will be walking downtown passing out flyers encouraging them to offer extended shopping hours."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "Mr. William Green came before City Council and asked about lights separate from the City and you may want to piggy back on him and encourage businesses to do this. Secondly, the demographics of Orangeburg are constantly changing, What are the plans of DORA to be more inclusive of the demographics and reflect the demographics on your presentations and projects?"

Ms. Roberson stated, "All of our events are diverse and we have a great representation of our community at our public events from young to old and all walks of life. Our entertainment is diverse."

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Councilmember Hannah asked, "So you are going to continue what you are doing. I am asking what or staying the same."

Ms. Roberson stated, "You mean doing something different, adding on to our event schedule?"

Councilmember Hannah stated, "This month is February and it is speaking for itself. I don't have to say anything else, it hits you over the head."

Ms. Roberson replied, "I do understand what you are saying and will take those comments back to our Board and Committee and our strategic planning team is meeting next week to discuss this."

Councilmember Haire stated, "Several years ago there was a study of persons that would come in and assess the City as it related to the City being more attractive. Have you had a chance to study that and what have you implemented from that?"

Ms. Roberson stated, "Yes, I have. I have studied the Charrette and there are a variety of recommendations from short-term, mid-term and long-term. There is a price point on each one of these on how much money is needed to get these items done. One of these that was minimal on cost was that a lot of our community felt it was not safe to come downtown. There was nothing to do and nowhere to park. Our first step was to hold an event once a month and we have implemented this and have been successful. We implemented start up grants and interior up-fit grants for downtown businesses which was another item to assist with funding gaps that was implemented."

Assistant City Administrator John Singh overviewed the Third Reading of an Ordinance to establish the standards for the placement of small wireless facilities in covered areas in the City of Orangeburg, SC, and from other purposes. He stated, "From the last meeting, the Electric Division met with us along with Mr. Ted Creech from AT&T (who is here tonight) concerning the poles and that is being addressed with DPU, along with pole surveys and they are getting this information to AT&T. You should see some movement on that."

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt stated, "That was one of the topics at MASC."

Assistant City Administrator John Singh stated, "We are keeping this as part of the model Ordinance and we are going to have an Exhibit A as a part of the design overlay district for what the Telecom Companies will do. That is these small cells will blend in with the poles. We have gotten that in place and the attachment is a concern. DPU will have a separate agreement with the attachment on small cells. This gives us the opportunity to have a say in the aesthetics. It is not often that we have an Ordinance as a moving target. We may come back with an amendment soon, as this is a moving target."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "How do we measure up to other cities in similar size?"

Assistant City Administrator John Singh stated, "I can't speak on the rates. Again, by having this in place it positions us to have something friendly to Telecom businesses, your citizens will get the technology before a town that may not have this in place. We are trying to be pro-active in this for the increase in speed. One thing I have learned, there is no magic and it just depends on where it goes to increase the speed of the fiber."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Haire, to approve the Third Reading of an Ordinance to establish the standards for the placement of small wireless facilities in covered areas in the City of Orangeburg, SC, and for other purposes. This motion was unanimously approved.

DPS Director Mike Adams accepted the Character Trait Proclamation for the month of February, 2019, "Justice".

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A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Haire, to enter into an Executive Session for Contractual Matters and purchase of real property located at Boulevard/Railroad Corner and Legal Matters concerning (1) City Fire Tax District and (2) Department of Public Safety Incident dated 12-06-18. This motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Phillips
Assistant City Clerk

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