

City Council Minutes
June 1, 2021

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Dr. Kalu Kalu
Bernard Haire
Jerry Hannah
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard F. Stroman

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the May 18, 2021 City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized "Initiative" as the June 2021 Orangeburg County Community of Character trait. Initiative is the energy shown in taking the first steps to getting action started; drive; passion.

Mayor Butler and Council presented a Resolution to the Tourville Family recognizing the service and philanthropy Mr. Frank Tourville, Sr. rendered to the City of Orangeburg.

Mayor Butler recognized Gale H. Riley for thirty-two years, eight months and seven days of service to DPU with a retirement date of May 21, 2021. Mayor Butler recognized Donald E. Stephens for twenty-six years, eight months and twenty-six days with a retirement date of May 10, 2021.

Ms. Brenda Jamerson of the Samaritan House addressed Council. She stated, "I would like to thank you for your support in getting the facility open as well as the Community's support. The 40-bed facility has been renovated and has housed men, women, and children since we opened. We have never closed since September 2020. We have a five-year strategic plan in place and have hired an Executive Director, Mr. Henry Miller. We have relationships with over thirty entities. We have increased our technology and have added a website. We serve three meals a day and offer case management services as well as counseling. We have housed 100 people ages 2-68 since opening. Most are male and African American. Most have mental or physical impairments and have other substance abuse problems. Some are referred by law enforcement. We have had much success. We have employed 25 people. We offer help when residents move out and assist with rent and utilities. We have a home there for them; it is a home. Our building is old and drafty, and the utilities are high. The roof has had issues and we have had some plumbing problems. We need help with our operating expenses. I have given information to the City Administrator to see if the City would help us with \$75,000."

Councilmember Keitt asked, "Do you have a grant writer?"

Ms. Jamerson replied, "We do not. One of our board members and myself is seeking a grant for renovations. The actual cost of the renovations was \$180,000. We recouped \$50,000 with grants for shelters. Most grants want money up front for sustainability. We are trying to get funds on hand so if we can get a grant; we have our portion."

Mayor thanked Ms. Jamerson.

Ms. Barbara Beach of the Orangeburg County Arts Center addressed Council. She stated, "I am turning this over to our current Board Chairman, Ms. Annette Grievous. Ms. Grievous stated, "There are positive things going on at the Arts Center. We have an updated website for our events. (This was shown to Council). There are classes being offered as well as several summer camps. We have hosted Art Exhibits and other community engagement events. We have hired a new Executive Director. We were closed for renovations from December 2017 and reopened in September 2019. We currently receive \$12,000 from the City; however, \$4,000 is for insurance

costs. We need additional funding. We have also added new signage, updated our social media presence and have a newly renovated lobby.”

Councilmember Hannah asked, “What is going on in June and July?”

Ms. Grievous stated, “We have summer camps in drama, fitness, arts and crafts and pen and pencil drawing classes. We also have an exhibit scheduled for July.”

Councilmember Knotts asked, “Are you asking for an increase in the amount from the City? What are you asking for?”

Ms. Grievous replied, “We would like to request \$20,000. We cannot offer benefits to our employees which has been a problem. We do offer paid vacation and holidays.”

The Mayor thanked the Arts Center for coming and for their presentation.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning the nomination for the Employee Grievance Committee. He stated, “As you know, we have a Grievance Committee, appointments are nominated by Department Managers. Mr. Harry Holman’s term is ending. We are asking for your consideration of the new Public Works Department nomination, Mr. Richard Polite, to serve on this Grievance Committee.”

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the appointment of Mr. Richard Polite to the Grievance Committee term ending 6-4-2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

Parks and Recreation Director Simmons addressed Council concerning the nominations for the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. She stated, “The terms of all seven members of this committee expired on June 6th. They have all been contacted and are willing to serve again on this committee for the next four years. I am excited to have a full committee. We have a diverse group of individuals serving. We are presenting James McQuilla, Shaniqua Simmons, Barbara Beach, Parimal Patel, Rachele Jamerson Holmes, Roger Ideozu and Fred Broughton for reappointment with terms ending June 6, 2025.”

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the reappointment of the seven committee members to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee with terms ending June 6, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council. He stated, “I come before you to present the First Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 19, titled, “Flood Damage Prevention” of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Orangeburg to adopt the required State Flood Damage Prevention Model Ordinance in compliance with State and Federal Program requirements, and other related matters. In your packet, we provided a copy of the ordinance and highlighted the change the State of South Carolina is requesting. The last time we did a major overhaul of the ordinance was January of 2014. This item is a state mandated item in that when they make proposals, they ask that we accept them to keep our Flood Ordinance maintained. We use the Flood Ordinance to base where our flood plains are located. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt and seconded by Councilmember Stroman to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 19, titled, “Flood Damage Prevention” of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Orangeburg to adopt the required State Flood Damage Prevention Model Ordinance in compliance with State and Federal Program requirements, and other related matters. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to go into Executive Session concerning Legal Matter, Condemnation of real property. S. C. Code Sec. 30-7-70 (a) (2) and Personnel Matter, Department of Public Utilities – Administrative Division - Employee Grievance Appeal. S. C. Code Sec. 30-4-70 (a) (1). The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Attorney Walsh addressed Council. He stated, "You have before you a Resolution finding the two-block area on Railroad Corner as a blighted area and also it allows the City staff, if necessary, to bring action against blighted properties."


A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the Resolution declaring blighted areas in the City of Orangeburg and authorizing the elimination of blighted properties. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Attorney Walsh addressed Council. He stated, "The next item is an Employee Grievance Appeal for an employee in the Department of Public Utilities Administrative Division. Council can either accept or reject the recommendation of the Grievance Committee."

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to accept the recommendation of the Employee Grievance Committee. The motion was approved by 6-0-1 vote. Councilmember Stroman abstained.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

/lrm





RESOLUTION DECLARING BLIGHTED AREAS IN THE CITY OF ORANGEBURG AND AUTHORIZING THE ELIMINATION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, by Resolution dated February 2, 2010, the City of Orangeburg declared a five (5) block area on or near Russell Street from Doyle to Magnolia Street as a slum and blighted area, and

WHEREAS, in said Resolution City Council found that the buildings within said area had physically deteriorated, properties had been abandoned, there were high vacancy rates within the area and there was known or suspected environmental contamination, and

WHEREAS, during the month of May 2021 the Building Official for the City of Orangeburg inspected various properties and buildings within a portion of the area and found that the buildings in the area have further deteriorated, had outdated electrical services, were unsanitary, had roof leaks and water damage, were dilapidated, obsolete, were below minimum code standards, had excessive vacancies, lacked ventilation and light, were unsanitary and had inadequate utilities, and

WHEREAS, the City finds that based upon the May 2021 inspections the below described area because of blight constitutes a danger to the safety and health of the community because of the absence of sanitary facilities, dilapidation, and deleterious land use, and

WHEREAS, the City finds that the below described area is a "blighted area" as defined in South Carolina Code Section 31-10-20.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council duly assembled that the following area is hereby designated a slum and blighted area because of the above described characteristics and conditions.

Description of area:

Located in downtown City of Orangeburg in a two (2) block area bounded by Lowman Street, Amelia Street, Magnolia Street and Russell Street, including the area known as "Railroad Corner".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City staff is hereby authorized and directed to take whatever actions may be necessary to remedy and eliminate the above blight conditions, including the authority to condemn any property within the area by use of the authority and power of eminent domain.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, on this 1st day of June 2021.



Attest:

City Clerk

[Signature]

Michael C. Butler

Mayor
James Hare

James P. Knotts

James Hare

Liz Stromer

Richard A. Stone

Members of Council



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Frank P. Tourville, Sr. was born September 1, 1933, grew up on a Vermont dairy farm, and as one of nine children, working on his family's farm instilled in him a solid work ethic. He joined the military serving in Germany during the Korean War. Upon honorable discharge in 1956, he took his first civilian job as an extruder operator. On June 22, 1957, he married the love of his life, Pearl Grace Adams; and,

WHEREAS, in 1966, Mr. Tourville launched Zeus Industrial Products, Inc. Soon, Zeus would become one of the first polymer solutions providers to support minimally invasive techniques for revolutionary catheterization procedures. In the 1980s, Zeus expanded by purchasing an old cotton mill in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Zeus has evolved into a global leader and currently operates 11 facilities. Over the years the Tourvilles invested in the region's economic and community development which resulted in over 1,200 new jobs across the state of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Tourville was a selfless man, devoted husband, father, and "Poppy" to 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He was also a faithful member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Orangeburg; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Tourville was passionate about developing Orangeburg County as an attractive destination. He purchased and completely redeveloped the Orangeburg Country Club in 2009; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Mr. and Mrs. Tourville shared their time and resources, including financial support at the Medical University of South Carolina, the Frank P. Tourville, Sr. Arrhythmia Treatment Center, and the Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion at the Medical University of South Carolina's Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Tourville received many awards, one being The Order of the Palmetto in 2010, the state's highest civilian honor awarded to South Carolina citizens for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance; and,

WHEREAS, Frank P. Tourville, Sr. created a worthy legacy that will live on for many generations. He will be remembered for his commitment to the community, his business acumen, his philanthropic endeavors, and countless contributions to the City of Orangeburg and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Members of City Council, do hereby officially recognize the service and philanthropy of Mr. Frank P. Tourville, Sr. rendered to the Orangeburg community.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this first day of June 2021.



Michael C. Butler

Mayor

Sandra P. Justice

L. Zimmerman

Benjamin Haire

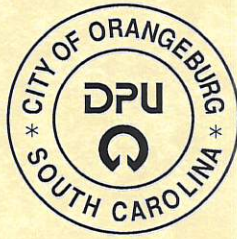
[Signature]

Richard A. Stone

Members of Council

Attest: *[Signature]*

City Clerk



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Donald E. Stephens, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for twenty-six years, eight months and twenty-six days with a retirement date of May 10, 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 1st day of June 2021.



Michael C. Butler

Mayor

Glenn Haire

Jayda P. Knotts

Zimmerman Keith

Richard F. Stram

[Signature]

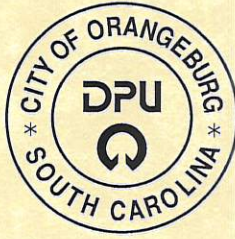
[Signature]

Members of Council

ATTEST:

[Signature]

City Clerk



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Gale H. Riley, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for thirty-two years, eight months and seven days with a retirement date of May 21, 2021; and

WHEREAS, she, through her 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.

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Michael C. Butler
Mayor

Barbara Haire
Andrea P. Knott
Zimmerman Kite
Richard L. Starn
Kelvin H. ...
...
Members of Council

ATTEST:
Carrie ...
City Clerk