

City Council Minutes
June 15, 2021

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

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

PRESENT VITUALLY:

Bernard Haire

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the June 1, 2021, City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized the service of the late Donald E. Stephens, Department of Public Utilities with a resolution for twenty-six years, eight months and twenty-six days. Mr. Stephens passed away on May 10, 2021. He stated, "On behalf of City Council we send our condolences to the family of Mr. Stephens." DPU Manager Harley stated, "It was a great loss for the Water Division of DPU and I stand before you with a heavy heart. I speak for all the employee of DPU that we will greatly miss him."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the second 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.

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning a resolution establishing and agreeing to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium. He stated, "This is a program that we have been part of for a number of years and part of the requirement is you must renew your membership. Our renewal will be from 2021 to 2024. This consortium has been very important for the City in the sense that we are not an entitlement community. Cities with a larger population, most over 20,000, automatically receive HUD funds from the Federal government. Anything below that does not receive automatic HUD funds so we have relied on grants and other ways to try to get money for affordable housing projects and other such things. With the Consortium being formed, we are now eligible through the Lower Savannah Council of Governments to receive a pool of money from HUD that comes down through the Consortium. Those members consist mainly of the counties in our region, Allendale, Barnwell, Aiken, Orangeburg, and Calhoun County and there are also cities and towns. We joined the Consortium from the beginning, and we have two groups in the City of Orangeburg, New America and Edisto Habitat for Humanity, that have received funds and have contributed to affordable housing in our communities. I will be glad to answer any questions."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "How is the distribution done? Is it by need or percentage?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "It is an application process. The groups will apply and there is a certain pool of money. It is a combination of need and what money is available."

Councilmember Keitt asked, "Is money available for education?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "With HUD funding, there may be an area for grant funding for education. HUD covers multiple areas, as the streetscapes, CDBG program, is a HUD funded program. This Consortium deals with housing only, but that is not to say that there might not be something out there. We can talk to our Grants Specialist and individuals at Lower Savannah and ask those questions."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Mr. Singh, when you say housing, are you talking about start-ups or existing homes?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "The Consortium provides funding for affordable new housing, new starts. There has been in the past, and I think there is some funding for weatherization programs. That would be something that goes in and out."

Councilmember Haire asked, "The homes being built by Habitat and New America, does any of the revenue generated from the homeowner go back to Lower Savannah?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "No. The Home Consortium's objective is to get funds to those organizations to help build homes in the communities and they increase our tax base and quality of housing. Those funds are almost a direct flow through so there is no money coming back once they have given funds. There may be an administrative charge, like a grant administrative charge to run the Consortium, but there is nothing going back to Lower Savannah once the home is built."

Councilmember Haire asked, "I noticed there is a home on Treadwell Street that was condemned but now is being rehabbed. I have noticed a lot of vacancies have occurred in the City of dilapidated properties and people cannot live in them. Are there any grants that people can get to rehab their homes?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "I think maybe two cycles ago, the Consortium may have had some funding for that, but I am not aware of it now. But as a member of the Consortium, we can bring that up when we meet, and we can talk to staff at Lower Savannah ahead of time to get an answer to that question to see what can be done. We will have to look at that for you."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Mr. Singh, is this new housing based on income level?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "New America will build a new duplex and how they receive the tenant, I cannot answer that question. Typically, it is more of a rental, but new property for housing. Habitat is a program where an individual applies, they go through finance classes and help with the process of building the home. If you speak to anyone that has received a Habitat home, they are very into it. It is a mortgage at a very reduced rate, so it is ownership."

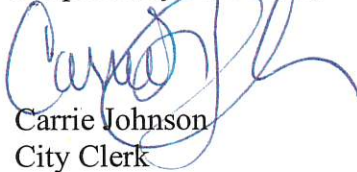
A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve a resolution establishing and agreeing to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to change the time of the August 3, 2021, Council meeting to 10:00AM to allow Councilmembers to attend and support National Night Out at Centennial Park 6:00 – 8:00PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to go into Executive Session for Legal Matter (a.) Department of Public Utilities monetary transfers to City General Fund and budget and bond limitations S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a) (2). The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

/lrm





RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOWER SAVANNAH REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM

- WHEREAS,** the Congress of the United States has enacted the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (hereinafter the "Act") which created the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (hereinafter the "HOME Program") to provide funds to states and local governments for affordable housing assistance with the flexibility to decide what kind of housing assistance or mix of housing assistance is most appropriate for local needs; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg has affordable housing needs; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg desires to increase affordable housing opportunities for its present and future residents, particularly for very low-income persons; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg desires to enter into affordable housing development activities which are directed toward the above general purposes, and for those reasons, wishes to seek such Federal funding as may be available to it pursuant to the Act; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg desires to enter into the affordable housing activities and has determined that joint action with other units of local governments that choose to participate in accordance with the "Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing the Lower Savannah Regional HOME Consortium" the terms of which are incorporated by reference and such relevant HUD regulations and requirements as may now or hereafter be in effect would benefit the City of Orangeburg.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council, in Council duly assembled, authorize Sidney Evering, II, City Administrator of the City of Orangeburg to sign the "Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing the Lower Savannah Regional HOME Consortium FY 2021-2024" on behalf of the City of Orangeburg, as well as all other documents necessary to form the Consortium and to carry out and fulfill its purposes for FY 2021-2024.

ADOPTED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 15th day of June 2021.



Michael C. Bull

Mayor

Sancho P. Cross

Paul ...

Lois ...

Richard A. Stema

James ...

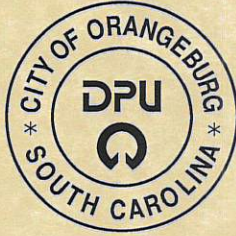
Benjamin ...

Members of Council

ATTEST:

Carrie ...

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 and passed away on May 10, 2021; and

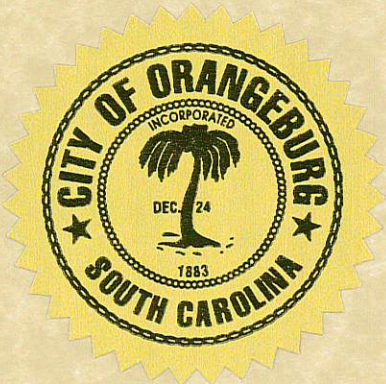
WHEREAS, he, through his long and faithful service contributed greatly to the successful operation of the City of Orangeburg; and

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 acknowledging 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 15th day of June 2021.



Mahab C. Budd

Mayor
Sandra D. Kuster

[Signature]

[Signature]

Richard A. Stone

[Signature]

[Signature]

Members of Council

ATTEST:
[Signature]

City Clerk