

City Council Minutes
August 24, 2021

Orangeburg City Council held a special meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding. This meeting replaced the regularly scheduled meeting that was canceled due to weather.

PRESENT:

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

PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Jerry Hannah

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the June 10, 2021, DPU Budget Workshop minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the August 3, 2021, City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. DeBorah Jamison with RMC Tri-County Health Network addressed Council concerning an introduction of a pilot program to the community for better health for our citizens. She stated, "Food Policy Councils (FPC) serves Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun counties, and brings together diverse stakeholders to offer recommendations for changing policy, systems, and environments to make food systems more equitable and accessible for low-income people. We need a food policy council in the tri-county area to identify food deserts. We will identify and propose solutions that improve local food systems and spark economic growth, promote healthy food education for the reduction of diabetes, hypertension and obesity. Food assessments are used to increase collaborations and partnerships between five main sectors of the food system (production, consumption, processing, distribution and waste recycling). We wanted to involve City Council to make you aware to help people in your district."

Councilmember Keitt asked, "How can we get in touch with you?"

Ms. Jamison stated, "Information is in your packet with my contact information."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "We appreciate your efforts. Are you advocating for additional stores?"

Ms. Jamison stated, "We are looking at getting smaller stores with healthier products. For example, Dollar General stores are getting more produce."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Budget for the City of Orangeburg of SC for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning the second reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the Budget for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. He stated, "Hopefully, we will come out of COVID soon and look for an increase in revenue. We are still looking at a 1% Cost of Living and ways to provide relief to our employees due to ongoing fiscal constraints."

A motion was made by Councilmember Knotts, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the Budget for the City of Orangeburg of SC for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to reappoint Francis Faulling to the Hillcrest Golf Course Commission for a three-year term ending July 1, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to reappoint Joseph L. Keitt to the Hillcrest Golf Course Commission for a three-year term ending July 1, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Hannah asked, "When I look at these Commissions, I look at other factors such as gender, age, and race. Can we increase the number of commissioners on this Board to reflect more of the population and to get more energy into Hillcrest? We want to do more out there, and we need to have a Commission that is more involved and with more energy."

Mayor Butler replied, "We need to get more direction on that, and we can take it under consideration."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning entering a contract for Apron Expansion Phase I project and acceptance of FAA Grant. He stated. We have been notified by the FAA that we will receive a grant for the construction phase for the Apron Expansion Phase I Project at a cost of \$1,196,648. This additional apron expansion will provide specific parking for larger aircrafts that visit the airport and will provide a platform for the currently expanding terminal area development. FAA AIP Funding is \$666,666, State \$317,989 (Assuming 60% state participation), Local \$211,993 (Assuming 40% local participation) totaling \$1,196,648. City Administration recommends that Council accept the Federal AIP Grant and authorize the City Administrator to sign all appropriate documentation to move this project forward."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "I spoke with Dean Felkel today concerning the Grant. If we assume we do not get the state share, we have to come up with the other 40% in order to expand the Airport?"

Mayor Butler stated, "This is a calculated risk to expand the airport. It makes good sense."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to authorize the City Administrator to sign all appropriate documentation to enter a contract for Apron Expansion Phase I project and acceptance of FAA Grant No. 3-45-0045-024-2021 for construction. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Knotts, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the amended budget for the Operation of DPU for Fiscal Year October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning the second reading of an Ordinance to Adopt a Budget for the Operation of DPU for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. He stated, "We want to share with you one amendment we want to discuss with you and I have placed in on your desks where you will see a copy of the sheet of an updated version. We are going to ask to amend our proposed budget for next year to add one position in the gas division for an Assistant Superintendent. We are in the middle of evaluating the next few years and as people prepare for retirement this will put us in a better position. I would ask that you amend this proposed budget to add this one position and then you would be asked to approve the budget as amended."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to amend the proposed Budget Ordinance for the Operation of DPU for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 to add a position of Assistant Superintendent of the Gas Division. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley stated, "If there are no questions, I would ask that you adopt the second reading of the budget as amended."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "On this list which is part of the new fiscal year, you have Assistant Superintendents for Water and Gas and also in Electric, this position to approve is \$75,000 and then on the right is \$105,000. Can you explain that amount?"

DPU Manager Harley stated, "That is not the actual salary that is the range, that is not necessarily the salary."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "What is the new range?"

DPU Manager Harley stated, "That is the range with benefits."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Who is the Director and what does he do?"

DPU Manager Harley stated, "The Director manages the Department and designs what is the work to be done. Superintendents do the scope of work and make sure the crews have what they need."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to Adopt a Budget for the Operation of DPU for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to enter Executive Session concerning Economic Development Project Shamrock, S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70 (a)(5), Purchase of Property discussion of purchase of property of Willcreek Enterprises, LLC located at 1192 Middleton Street, Orangeburg, SC S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2), Personnel Matters a. Six-Month End of Probation Performance Evaluation of City Administrator S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1), b. discussion of personnel matter – Director of Public Safety S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1) and Legal Matter of requirements of mask and face coverings S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was unanimously approved.

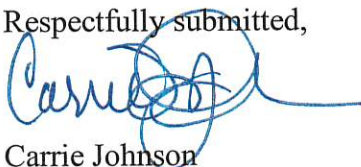
A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to authorize the purchase of property owned by Willcreek Enterprises, LLC located at 1192 Middleton Street, Orangeburg, SC, Tax Map #0173-13-35-002.000. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve an Emergency Ordinance requiring Mask and Face Coverings in establishments and at gatherings. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

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