

City Council Minutes
September 21, 2021

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Dr. Kalu Kalu, Mayor Pro Tem
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 September 7, 2021, City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to amend the agenda to add an item before Executive Session to discuss City Council be notified of occurrences of serious nature. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning South Carolina State University Hillcrest Golf Course Commission appointment of one unexpired term ending July 1, 2023. He stated, "South Carolina State University has appointed Mr. Michael P. Jarvis to fill the unexpired term ending July 1, 2023, of the late Mr. Leon E. Myers. There is no action to be taken by Council on this item."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning a Vaccination Incentive and Premium Pay Stipend for City and DPU employees. He stated, "This Resolution would authorize the City Administrator and the DPU Manager to provide a vaccination incentive in the net amount of \$500 for all City and DPU employees. Given the increase occurrence of the positive COVID tests and COVID related illnesses, we would like to incentivize all employees to be vaccinated. We are giving employees until November 15th to provide evidence that they have been fully vaccinated to be eligible for this incentive. We would also like to provide a premium pay stipend in the net amount of \$1,000 to all frontline City and DPU employees and the net amount of \$500 stipend to all non-frontline full time City and DPU employees. As you all know a lot of our employees have been in harm's way given the current state of the pandemic over the past two years. These funds would come out of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds that the City is designated to receive."

Councilmember Haire stated, "We should not have to pay individuals to get the vaccine. We should not have unvaccinated employees unless there are special circumstances such as health or religious. There have been too many deaths because of not taking the vaccine. We just need to buckle down and mandate either the employees will get the vaccine by a certain time, or they will be terminated. It is not fair for those that have been vaccinated to work around people who have not been vaccinated. President Biden has asked that employers with 100 or more employees mandate employees be vaccinated. If the employee does not get vaccinated, they should be terminated. It is time we get a handle on this virus in our city, state and country. I am not in favor of this incentive. These incentives will be coming from the \$6.3 million dollars from the federal government. I do not have a good handle on what these dollars can be spent on. Before we do anything with these dollars, I think Council needs to have a better understanding."

City Administrator Evering stated, "I emailed the guidelines to Council yesterday or this morning."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "City and DPU employees that are frontline have been working all of this time and we thank them. The incentive is not paying anyone, it is just an incentive. Employees that do not get vaccinated by November 15th will not get anything. I am for this incentive for our employees. They have done a fantastic job and I want to give thanks to all of you for what you have done during this pandemic."

Mayor Butler stated, "There are other agencies and institutions that are giving incentives to employees. It is a blessing that we have employees that are willing to work. They have shown their bravery to be on the frontline. The ARPA guidelines state that you can do this with the funds, so we are not in error in doing this. I am all for it."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "I am in favor of the resolution, but it is important for City Council to have knowledge of where the \$6.3 million is going."

Administrator Evering stated, "I will be providing a plan on how the \$6.3 million dollars is to be spent. It has not been allocated yet."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve a Resolution authorizing a Vaccination Incentive Bonus and Premium Pay Stipend. The motion was approved 6-0-1. Councilmember Haire abstained.

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning a Resolution for application for Hometown Economic Development Grant Funds to the Municipal Association of South Carolina. He stated, "This resolution allows us to apply for a grant through the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The grant is for up to \$25,000 with a \$3,750 local match. The last grant awarded to us helped with the plans for the DORA Market Pavilion. We are looking to work with DORA again on the next phase of building a commercial kitchen in a building next door to the Pavilion."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the Resolution for application for Hometown Economic Development Grant Funds to the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning the First Reading of an Ordinance separating the position of City Clerk and Treasurer and setting forth duties of the City Clerk and Treasurer. He stated, "This was brought to Council's attention back in August. It was recommended that we revisit this at the close of the fiscal year. This is an ordinance that would separate the position of City Clerk and Treasurer. It is my recommendation that we separate these two rolls which would allow our current Finance Director to concentrate more on the finance duties as well as the treasurer duties."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Hannah that Item #7 of the duties of the Treasurer of the Ordinance separating the Clerk and Treasurer positions be amended to add City Council to receive a copy of the monthly report. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Item 9 under City Clerk states in case of the unavoidable absence or sickness of the clerk, the Mayor shall appoint a clerk pro tempore, who during such appointment shall perform all duties of the clerk. It says this for the clerk but not the treasurer. I am trying to be consistent. Also, who takes care of the duties of the elections?"

City Attorney Walsh stated, "The reason the language is for the clerk is often we will have items that the clerk needs to sign under a time restraint and include the City Seal for example, a bond issue. In the case the clerk is absent because of a sickness, illness, or death in the family, it gives the Mayor the authority to appoint a clerk pro tem to perform that duty. This is not the normal case with the treasurer. That language has always been included, all we did was separate the clerk and treasurer duties. City elections are handled by the Clerk of the City Election Commission which is a different office which is appointed by the City Administrator."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Haire to approve First Reading of an Ordinance as amended separating the position of City Clerk and Treasurer and setting forth duties of the City Clerk and Treasurer. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve a Resolution appointing Linda Robinson McDaniel as City Clerk. The motion was unanimously approved.

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning an update on the Pine Top Subdivision Roadway Project. He stated, "In your packet you will find a collage of photos from the survey work that has been completed at Pinetop. Johnson, Laschober, and Associates, PC has finished the survey and are compiling the coring results. Our next steps will be receiving a draft document. After the draft is sent out to Council and the City Administrator, we will hold a community meeting in Stevenson Auditorium to update the residents in the community. The anticipated timeline is to complete the draft and meeting in October. We will then bid out for full remediation or a temporary fix to significantly improve drivability of the surface. The temporary improvement is defined as a "band aide" and is not the ideal situation. This system has far more issues than are seen on the surface"

Councilmember Hannah stated, "As a City Council member, I think it is important that we be aware of serious issues happening in our city. When there is a serious power outage, we are notified by email. When there is a flooded street in town, we should know when it's a danger and there is overflowing of water. Other examples are demonstrations in the City and the demonstration escalates, Councilmembers should be notified. When there is a large fire or road outage, we should be notified. Also, I think Council should be informed if there is a large arrest."

A motion was made Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to enter into Executive Session concerning a Contractual Matter a. Discussion of Fire Tax District Contractual Matters S.C. Code 30-4-70 (a) (2). The motion was unanimously approved.

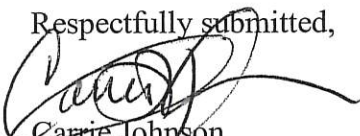
A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning an Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fire Service Agreement with Orangeburg County; authorizing the termination of individual Fire Contracts; and other matters related thereto. He stated, "With this Ordinance, the City will provide fire service within the City donut as it is referenced for a period of a three-year term with an option to get out of the agreement after two years. The County will pay the City in turn for our services in the amount of \$1.25 Million dollars and would eliminate the individual fire contracts we currently have now with businesses and residents within that donut."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to approve an Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fire Service Agreement with Orangeburg County; authorizing the termination of individual Fire Contracts; and other matters related thereto. The motion passed 6-0-1, Councilmember Stroman abstained.

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

Respectfully submitted,

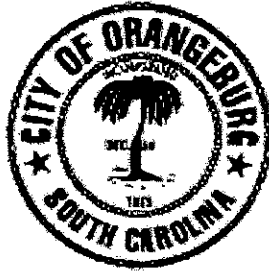

Carrie Johnson
City Clerk
/lrm



VOID

VOID

VOID



RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VACCINATION INCENTIVE IN THE NET AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$500.00) DOLLARS FOR VACCINATED FULL-TIME CITY AND DPU EMPLOYEES, A PREMIUM PAY STIPEND IN THE NET AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$1,000.00) DOLLARS FOR FRONTLINE FULL-TIME CITY AND DPU EMPLOYEES, A PREMIUM PAY STIPEND IN THE NET AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$500.00) DOLLARS FOR NON-FRONTLINE FULL-TIME CITY AND DPU EMPLOYEES, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is a national crisis which has stretched society outside of the normal limits of activity and behavior; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of international concern on January 30th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to face the challenges of providing services to its residents during the pandemic and at the same time managing the safety of its employees; and

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina and the City continue to experience increases in COVID-19 cases and deaths; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendations of the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), the City Council recognizes that vaccinations are an effective way to protect the workforce to continue providing essential services to City residents; and

WHEREAS, while some City and DPU employees have jobs that can be done from home, many employees have responsibilities that require them to work outside of their homes, and some have jobs that require them to be in public, outside of secure City and DPU buildings, potentially interacting with customers and residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Orangeburg duly assembled that because of the above, the City Administrator and DPU Manager are hereby authorized to provide a one-time, vaccine incentive stipend in the net amount of Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) Dollars to all full-time City and DPU employees who are fully vaccinated, and a one-time, vaccine incentive stipend in the net amount of Two Hundred Fifty and 00/100 (\$250.00) Dollars to all part-time City and DPU employees who are fully vaccinated. The Human Resources Departments of the City and DPU must have proof of an employee's vaccination on or before 5:00 p.m. on November 15th, 2021, for an employee to qualify for receipt of the vaccine incentive stipend.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that frontline City and DPU employees, not employed in an administrative capacity (as determined by the City Administrator and DPU Manager), shall receive a one-time, premium pay stipend in the net amount of One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars. All other City and DPU employees shall receive a one-time premium pay stipend in the net amount of Five Hundred (\$500) Dollars. Part-time City and DPU employees shall receive stipend payments, for which they are eligible, at a rate of 50% of full-time employees.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, on this 21st day September 2021.



Michael C. Bickle

Mayor

Brandon D. Knotts

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Attest: Carmel Johnson
City Clerk



RESOLUTION APPOINTING CITY CLERK

WHEREAS, the offices of City Clerk and City Treasurer are being separated by Ordinance with the consent of City Council, and

WHEREAS, because of said separation it is necessary to appoint a Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council duly assembled that Linda Robinson McDaniel is hereby appointed Municipal Clerk as required by South Carolina Code § 5-7-220 effective October 1, 2021.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, on this 21st day of September, 2021.



Michael C. Butch

Mayor

Benjamin Haire

Linda J. Krutts

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Members of Council

Attest: *Carmel Johnson*

City Clerk



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, this Resolution is made in regard to the submission of an application for Hometown Economic Development Grant funds to the Municipal Association of South Carolina on or before September 24, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Orangeburg hereby commits to provide a local cash/in-kind match of at least \$3,750; and,

WHEREAS, which is the minimum 15-percent local match required by the Municipal Association of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, to support the City of Orangeburg application for a \$25,000 Hometown Economic Development Grant; and,

WHEREAS, these grant and local matching funds will be used for a partnership with the Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association (DORA) to develop a Shared Kitchen and Commissary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, in Council assembled on this 21st day of September 2021 committing the City of Orangeburg to providing a local match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 21st day of September 2021.



Michael C. Ruth

MAYOR

James Hare

Daniel P. Kutt

L. J. Sommerman Kott

Richard A. Stone

Belmont

James

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Carmel Johnson

City Clerk