

**City Council Minutes**  
**June 7, 2022**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 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 Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the May 17, 2022, City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized Determination as the June Community of Character Trait.

Councilmember Haire stated, "The Boulevard Street Citizens that asked to be put on the agenda have seen the improvements Norfolk Southern has made in the removal of the boxcars and the railroad ties. They wanted to give the Administrator an opportunity to continue working on getting that area cleared so they are not appearing before Council tonight."

City Administrator Evering stated, "We received several telephone calls from citizens regarding the boxcars and crossties located on the Boulevard Street section of the railroad. I expressed these concerns with Norfolk Southern and they moved the boxcars. They notified me that the crossties have been sold to a salvage company. The salvage company is responsible for removing the crossties. We are working with Norfolk Southern to contact the salvage company to expedite the process."

Councilmember Haire stated, "There are crossties that have been along the tracks across from the Clafin President's home for three years or more. I hope these would be included in the removal."

Parks and Recreation Director Shaniqua Simmons addressed Council concerning Accommodations Tax Update. She stated, "We have not had disbursements of Accommodations Tax in the last two years due to COVID. I am the City representative for the Accommodations Tax Committee. The City Accommodations Tax process will open in mid-August. It will be advertised in the Times and Democrat newspaper and the application will be on the City website. The committee will meet, and the meeting is open to the public. The entities requesting Accommodations Tax can also be present at the meeting if they choose. The committee will then make recommendations that will be presented to Council. The Accommodations Tax is 'heads in beds' which is bringing people into the City of Orangeburg. This is events, etc. that bring people into Orangeburg to spend money in restaurants and hotels."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "Typically there is a lead agency in the Accommodations Tax which is a formula of funding. The lead agency is currently the Chamber of Commerce."

City Administrator Evering and DPU Manager Warren Harley addressed Council concerning COVID Updates.

City Administrator Evering stated, "We wanted to provide you an update on current COVID numbers. Currently we have at least six City employees that have tested positive which is a 3% rate. We still have a vaccination rate of 76.88%. Last week, we had several DPS employees test positive for COVID that subsequently led to the closing of the DPS facility to the public until we could deep clean which we did. We will continue to monitor numbers for our employees. If positive numbers continue to rise, then we will take additional measures as far as requiring face coverings in facilities."

DPU Manager Harley stated, "DPU had five employees test positive organization wide. It has not been concentrated in one area. We will continue to monitor, and we will put into place any necessary precautions."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "COVID came on slowly not only in Orangeburg but across the world. It has been devastating here in Orangeburg. Mask wearing does help. We need to prepare before we see the worst. If we care about our people, we will ask our citizens to wear masks."

No action was taken by Council on this matter.

City Administrator Evering and DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning a Resolution recognizing Juneteenth as an official City holiday for calendar year 2022. City Administrator Evering stated, "Juneteenth is a Federal holiday. We are proposing, for your consideration, a resolution that would allow the City of Orangeburg to recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday this year."

Councilmember Haire asked, "This was tabled at a previous meeting because you wanted to research the cost. Do you have those figures?"

City Administrator Evening stated, "The cost for the City is approximately \$30,000."

DPU Manager Harley stated, "The cost for the Department of Public Utilities is approximately \$45,000."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve a Resolution recognizing Juneteenth as an official City Holiday for Calendar Year 2022. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022 (DPU AMI Water Project). He stated, "We are requesting a budget amendment for the DPU AMI Water Project. This project deploys automated meters throughout the entire system so we can better serve our customers and better regulate water usage in real time throughout our system. This will also give customers the ability to monitor their own usage. There were significant increases in the bids that were received due to the increase of fuel, equipment, etc. There is a contingency of \$415,000 built in. We are hopeful this will cover everything and possibly complete it for less than this. We are requesting you approve the budget increase request of \$1.1 million."

Councilmember Haire asked, "What is the estimated completion date of this project?"

DPU Manager Harley stated, "We have not started yet. Projections are a year to complete and receiving materials in a timely matter is a factor."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022 (DPU AMI Water Project). The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022 (DPU Hampton Street Sewer Project). He stated, "The bids came in for the Hampton Street Sewer Project approximately \$235,000 more than previously budgeted. I need to amend that request. Instead of \$235,000, we need \$275,000 because we failed to include the corresponding engineering cost of \$40,000 in the last budget number. We are requesting permission to spend the \$500,000 grant that we received as well as the \$275,000 we are short."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022 (DPU Hampton Street Sewer Project). The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to go into Executive Session concerning Contractual Matters a. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, and/or the receipt of legal advice regarding matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – Hillcrest Lease Agreement. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2), b. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and/or the receipt of legal advice regarding matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – Fire Tax District. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2), c. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and/or the receipt of legal advice regarding matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – ARPA Grant Funding. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2), d. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, and/or the receipt of legal advice regarding matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – Property Management Agreement. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) and e. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim – Northwood Estates Sewer System. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) Personnel Matter a. Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body – Director of Department of Public Safety. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was unanimously approved.

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

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning an update on ARPA Grant Funding Guidelines for Nonprofits. He stated. “Council approved \$275,000 of ARPA Grant Funding for Nonprofits. Councilmember Haire requested the amount be increased by \$25,000, and there are provisions in the original resolution to re-allocate up to 25% more or less to cover this request. The City will be offering grant awards of a maximum amount of up to \$50,000. Awards will be anywhere between \$1 and \$50,000. These grants are available for 501C and other charitable organizations to assist our community. There will be an application process. Grants are discretionary. They will be determined at the grant committee level. The organizations will be vetted prior to the application being fully considered. The applications will be provided on the City website on June 15<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> will be the application deadline. Estimated date of announcement of awards is September 16<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to expend all funds by December 31, 2025. It will be on a first come, first serve basis.”

There was no action taken by Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda McDaniel*

Linda McDaniel  
City Clerk



VOID

VOID

VOID





**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH  
AS AN OFFICIAL CITY HOLIDAY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022.**

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") of the City of Orangeburg ("City") finds:

- (a) the Council is authorized and empowered to provide for its internal governance according to South Carolina Constitution Article VIII, section 17, the Home Rule Act of 1975, and the Code of Ordinances of the City; and
- (b) the Council desires to recognize an additional, official City holiday for calendar year 2022:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council resolves that Juneteenth, also known as the Juneteenth National Independence Day, be and hereby is recognized as an official City holiday for June 19, 2022, and the City's holiday calendar be and hereby is amended to reflect the same.

**Severability.** If any part of this Resolution is unenforceable for any reason, then the remainder of this Resolution remains in full force and effect.

**General Repealer.** All orders, resolutions, and parts thereof in conflict with this Resolution, are to the extent of that conflict, repealed. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force upon adoption by the Council.

ADOPTED BY the City Council on June 7, 2022.

Mayor

Michael C. Beth

Members of Council

Jeanne Haine  
Sandra P. Knott  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
Richard P. Brown  
[Signature]



Attest:

Linda McDaniel

City Clerk