

**City Council Minutes
August 2, 2022**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

- Bernard Haire**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the July 19, 2022, Special City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized Cheerfulness as the August Community of Character Trait.

Council recognized the retirement of Harold M. Hughes, III for his service to the Department of Public Utilities for thirty-eight years, ten months and twenty-seven days with a retirement date of July 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to approve the re-appointments of Mr. Larry Jackson, Mr. Willie Hubbard, Mr. Spencer Anderson, and Louis Boone to the Building Board of Appeals for four-year terms expiring on 07-01-2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the Budget of the City of Orangeburg, SC for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. The motion was approved 5-1, Councilmember Hannah opposed.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning First Reading of an Ordinance to Raise Revenue and Adopt a Budget for the City of Orangeburg, SC for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. He stated, "I wanted to go through some highlights of the budget. We are projecting a budget for next year for \$22,354,969. As we discussed in our budget workshop inflation has had a tremendous impact on all of us as the cost of goods and services have risen significantly. It has not only impacted the City but also our employees on an individual basis. We are recommending a three percent cost of living adjustment for all City employees as a part of this budget. We are not recommending a millage increase at this time however we may need to revisit that next year. The City has not raised millage in quite a few years, but costs have continued to rise so to provide the basic services that our citizens expect and deserve, we may have to revisit this next year. We are recommending the following fee increases: residential sanitation increase \$3 to \$17 monthly, commercial sanitation increase \$5, Hillcrest cart rental fees increase to \$10 for 9 holes and \$20 for 18 holes, and Hillcrest green fees increase of \$2 to \$26 weekdays and \$30 weekends."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "I am in favor of the three percent cost of living increase for employees, but I am not in favor of raising the sanitation rates. I do not think at this time we should raise rates on everything."

City Administrator Evering stated, "Other highlights in the budget include \$45,000 to replace playground equipment and \$150,000 for maintenance improvement. We are recommending the restructuring of Hillcrest Golf Course to be a division under the Parks and Recreation Department. This was also recommended by our auditor. There is a Department of Public Safety (DPS) restructuring recommendation that we did not discuss in the workshop. Approximately a year ago, I asked DPS to look into the possibility of some restructuring to make us more competitive in recruiting. We had potential recruits who did not want to be duly certified for police and fire."

Chief Austin and his team came back with recommendations. 1) creation of a battalion chief that would be a captain of the fire division, 2) dual certifications not to be required but incentivize those who are duly certified, and 3) creation of a lieutenant responsible for the forensics lab. These recommendations would maintain the agency model and would not separate fire from police and would be revenue neutral or close to it for the next three years. Chief Charles Austin is available if you have any questions.”

Councilmember Stroman stated, “I think it is a good idea to separate them. You will get better police officers and better fire fighters.”

Mayor Butler stated, “Please elaborate on the battalion position.”

Chief Austin stated, “During my meetings with staff over the past year, one thing that became clear to me was our firefighters felt that there was no one at the command level that represented or understood nuances of professional firefighters. From that, we submitted the recommendation to establish the battalion chief of the fire service. This gives the fire service representation on the command staff and that individual’s rank would be equivalent to a police captain.”

Councilmember Hannah asked, “You stated it would not be any increases in cost. Are we looking for someone who is presently employed at DPS or are we going outside to look for someone?”

Chief Austin stated, “We will post the position and conduct interviews to find the best available person to fill the position.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “It is revenue neutral. There is a cost to it, but it is not expected to increase the DPS budget for the first three years.”

Mayor Butler asked, “At the forensics lab, the person must be a lieutenant?”

Chief Austin stated, “Professionally, across the law enforcement profession, the person who provides management for forensic labs is at the rank of lieutenant which is at the mid-level management role. It is in keeping with the state law enforcement division and other agencies that have forensic labs.”

Mayor Pro Tem asked, “Will the battalion chief answer directly to the Director of Public Safety?”

Chief Austin stated, “The battalion chief reports directly to me as do all of the command staff.”

City Administrator Evening stated, “A few other highlights include \$50,000 for cameras in the Edisto Gardens and for additional bandwidth there, and downtown façade grant \$250,000 from ARPA funds plus \$50,000 from our regular façade grant program.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance to Raise Revenue and Adopt a Budget for the City of Orangeburg SC for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. The motion was approved 4-2, Councilmembers Hannah and Stroman opposed.

DPU Electric Division Director Wade Holmes addressed Council concerning a Resolution ratifying authorization for the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities to enter into a Membership with Electricities of North Carolina, Inc. a Joint Municipal Assistance Agency. He stated, “Electricities provide training programs, aid, and assistance to municipalities. Line workers and technicians enrolled in this program will be trained on installing, repairing, and maintaining electric distribution systems, electric metering systems, substations, and transmission systems. This agreement was reviewed by the City Attorney. The estimated fee for this membership agreement is \$16,500.”

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the Resolution ratifying authorization for the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities to enter into a Membership with Electricities of North Carolina, Inc. a Joint Municipal Assistance Agency.” The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Budget for the Operation of the Department of Public Utilities for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Warren Harley addressed Council concerning the First Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt a Budget for the Operation of the Department of Public Utilities for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, (2) Adopt Amended Water Rates effective October 1, 2022, and (3) Adopt Amended Wastewater Rates effective October 1, 2022. He stated, "I will go over some highlights on the Fiscal 2022-23 Budget as a reminder from our budget workshop. This budget is focusing on maintaining our current operational service levels. It also seeks to absorb some cost increases associated with the inflation and the cost of goods and services that we are experiencing. It maintains employee programs, performance programs and the three percent cost of living increase. Also, it continues our capital improvement plan as we try to continue to improve the infrastructure of our system in all four services. It is imperative that we continue to upgrade, replace, and maintain each division and the services they provide. From an operating standpoint, the total revenues are budgeted to increase approximately \$13 million. We are seeing increases in our power supply contracts for gas and electric power supply. Also, a part of that increase is \$2 million associated with the proposed rate increase for water and wastewater. As we discussed in our budget workshop, we presented three options for Council and this budget is option number two which spreads the rate increase out over time with a portion in this budget and subsequent budget. There will be recommendations for other increases in the future. This rate increase would generate \$2 million for the water and wastewater divisions. Keep in mind that it does not get us to where we need to be at this point, but it does close the gap. Total expenses are projected to increase just under \$10 million. Some of the drivers again are the cost of gas and electricity, inflation and the cost of other goods and services that we purchase. A retirement contribution increase is included in that number. We have included one full time operator position for the gas division. This is to move us closer to the national standard of having four people per crew. We have three crews in that division. Our goal is to have the appropriate staffing levels to meet the needs of our system as it stands today. Included in this budget is the yearly transfer to the City of \$6.1 million. Our capital spending is estimated to be \$19.6 million. We are planning to draw down just under \$15 million in cash to help supplement paying for some of those projects. The DPU projects are generally multi-year projects through multiple budgets. There is no new debt incurred. As you recall, Council created the economic development revolving fund that is currently \$1.5 million. We will not add anything to it this year."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "I am in favor of the three percent cost of living for employees, but I am not in favor of increasing the water and wastewater rates. I cannot see increases at this time when people are having a hard time paying bills and making ends meet. The Department of Public Utilities is owned by the City of Orangeburg, and they are supposed to have the lowest rates."

DPU Manager Harley stated, "We still maintain some of the lowest rates in the communities surrounding us with other utilities. We provided this information to Council during the workshop."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt a Budget for the Operation of the Department of Public Utilities for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, (2) Adopt Amended Water Rates effective October 1, 2022, and (3) Adopt Amended Wastewater Rates effective October 1, 2022. The motion was approved 5-1, Councilmember Stroman opposed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McDaniel
Linda McDaniel
City Clerk

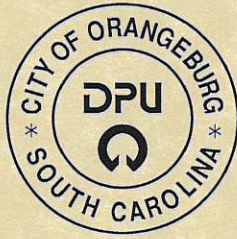


VOID

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Harold M. Hughes, III, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for thirty-eight years, ten months and twenty-seven days with a retirement date of July 18, 2022; 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 2nd day of August 2022.



Michael C. Butch

Mayor

Barbara Haire

R. Jameson Keith

Dandra P. Knott

Richard A. Hanna

Kelley W.

Members of Council

ATTEST:

Linda McDaniel

City Clerk



A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A MEMBERSHIP WITH ELECTRICITIES OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC. A JOINT MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, as the governing body of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, that the Mayor of the City Council ("Mayor") and the Manager of the Department of Public Utilities ("Manager"), each acting individually or jointly, on behalf of and for the benefit of the City, is authorized to arrange for and execute an application or other similar agreement, as appropriate, as provided below.

Section 1. Findings

(a) ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc. ("ElectriCities") is a joint municipal assistance agency ("JMAA") organized under Article 3, Chapter 159B of the General Statutes of North Carolina ("NC General Statutes").

(b) ElectriCities is authorized by § 159B-44 of the NC General Statutes to, among other things, provide aid and assistance to any one or more municipalities, and to act for and on behalf of any one or more municipalities, in any activity related to, among other things, the operation and maintenance of an electric system.

(c) Representatives of ElectriCities have averred to representatives of the City that membership in the JMAA is available to municipalities outside of the State of North Carolina and that ElectriCities is allowed to provide such services to municipalities located in the State of South Carolina.

(d) The City desires that ElectriCities provide certain services to City, as will be more particularly described in a ElectriCities Services Agreement, the substantially final form of which is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A ("Agreement").

(e) The City is required by § 159B-43 of the NC General Statutes to resolve that economies, efficiencies, and other benefits might be achieved from participation in this joint municipal assistance agency.

(f) Based on representations from the Manager, it is in the best interest of the City to enter into a membership in this JMAA ("Membership") and enter into the Agreement subject to the limitations described in this Resolution.

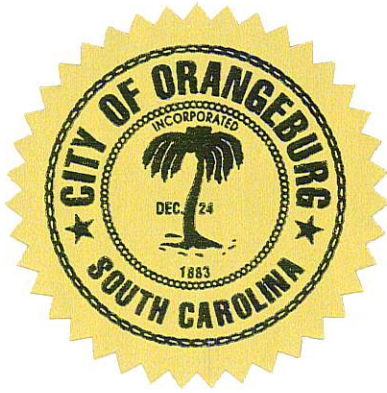
Section 2. Approval of Membership; Delegation of Authority.

The City resolves that economies, efficiencies, and other benefits might be achieved from participation in this JMAA and authorizes the Membership and the Mayor and the Manager, each acting individually or jointly, to determine all items related to the Membership and the Agreement, for example (if and when applicable), any applicable notices, the form of all documents, the services and delivery dates, any early termination provisions. Each document related to the Membership, the Agreement, or both, shall be executed in the name of the City by and through its Department of Public Utilities with the manual or facsimile signature of the Mayor and the Manager, individually or jointly, with such changes to Exhibit A as are not materially adverse to the City.

Section 3. Authorization to Execute. The City Council authorizes the Mayor and the Manager, each acting individually or jointly, and City Clerk to execute whatever documents and instruments as may be necessary to effect the creation of the Membership and Agreement.

Section 4. General Repealer. All resolutions, orders, and parts thereof in conflict herewith are to the extent of that conflict hereby repealed. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force upon adoption by the Council.

ADOPTED BY the City Council on August 2, 2022.



Michael C. Butler
Mayor

Jandra G. Hottel
John P. ...

Richard A. Stone

Walter ...

L. Zimmerman

Members of Council

Attest: Ruida McDaniel
City Clerk