

**City Council Minutes**  
**October 18, 2022**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 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 Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the October 18, 2022, City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Council recognized the 2022 City of Orangeburg Dixie Youth Ozone (12U) Baseball Allstars.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning a request from Claflin University for partial closure of Goff Avenue. He stated, "As an overview Claflin is requesting Council to consider a portion of Goff Avenue from Clark to Magnolia Streets. Claflin would then install gates that can be closed at certain times based on the needs of the University. Dr. Warmack will detail why he is making this request and some of the public safety issues of the congregating individuals, parked vehicles and traffic issues related to speeding and such. In order to close that portion of the road because it is a state road, the City of Orangeburg would have to apply to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) making the City responsible for the maintenance of that portion of the road. Claflin is willing to take on the responsibility of maintaining the road."

Dr. Dwaun Warmack stated, "Claflin University has been working diligently and is excited about what we are bringing to the community. Today our Board approved an Innovation Center/Biotechnology Center on the corner of Goff Avenue and Clark Street and a multi-million-dollar renovation of the Claflin Welcome Center to complement the great work that is happening on Railroad Corner. We will have close to \$100 million in construction happening. Claflin has been here 153 years and is committed to Orangeburg. We feel, as an anchor, we must invest if we expect others to invest. The challenges are difficult with the issues on Goff Avenue with cars zooming around. While walking my eleven-year-old daughter across the street, we were almost hit head on, and the guys kept going with music playing loud. We have had multiple parents complain. Our Claflin Chief was out last Saturday night until 3:00 AM dealing with this. We do not own the street; therefore, most of the local folks will tell us, we are not your students, you cannot tell us to move from here and they just stay. These pictures were pulled from our cameras. This is not a sanctioned event; these are a bunch of people partying uncontrollably in the middle of the street all night. Our Chief approached three folks carrying weapons and they ran across the street. We have no control over that space. Local cars come out with loud booming music, park and it is a party. Remember there is no parking on Goff Avenue. Last week, I caught a group of guys smoking marijuana on the porch of the white house. I want to thank Department of Public Safety (DPS) Chief Austin and his team for always being responsive to help move this traffic. These are people dancing on cars, cars stopped in the middle of the street on Goff Avenue at 11:30 at night. This is not a one-time incident; it happens on a regular basis. We have body cam videos that show some of the actions and behaviors. There is nothing we can do to move them because it is not our facility. DPS comes and does a sweep. An hour later, they are back again and again. If we find our students out there, they go through the student code of conduct, but the critical mass are not our students. Anything we can do to work in collaboration with Council to block off from Magnolia Street at least to Clark Street. We can control security; our public safety team is ready and poised. I wanted to present this to Council before it becomes something that we cannot rebound from."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Are you planning to install a high or a low gate?"

Dr. Warmack responded, "It will be a low gate for more of a collaborative approach. We can temporarily open and close it as needed but can still use it as a road that drives through. But at 10:00 PM when all the activity begins to happen, we close it. We will do it in collaboration with the City as you have the Forensics Lab there."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Can they jump over that fence?"

Dr. Warmack responded, "If they jump the fence, we will hold them accountable. If you come on campus, this will not happen on our campus because we have the right to adjudicate them."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "From the pictures the area looks well lit. With the additional structures that you listed, there will be more people. Will there be more lighting? Your number one issue is not only the safety of your students, but the safety of mankind."

Dr. Warmack responded, "Yes, there will be more lighting coming into that space."

Councilmember Haire asked, "I know your pain as I had a similar incident on my street where both sides of the street were blocked with cars, students up and down the street. The City of Orangeburg has a noise ordinance. Is the ordinance being enforced?"

Dr. Warmack responded, "We have a phenomenal relationship with DPS. When Clafin Chief Rick Williams calls, DPS disperses the crowd. Twenty-five minutes later, they are back again."

Councilmember Haire asked, "If an individual has broken the law as it relates to the noise ordinance, there needs to be measures taken such as tickets written or if needed arrests made. If we close off to Clark Street, are we moving that traffic further down the block where other residents will have this kind of discomfort of people parking? Are we solving the problem? We must do several things. There is one resident that lives close to this residence hall. Has there been any discussions with them?"

Dr. Warmack responded, "I do not think the traffic will move down that way. Freshman students are very impressionable. When local guys find folks that are impressed by the cars and music, that is where they will go. They know the students are in both of those residence halls. It is a prime spot for them to park. They cannot pull on campus because we have control. We want to be supportive and make sure the community is safe."

Councilmember Haire asked, "Will the two houses have access to Magnolia Street?"

Dr. Warmack responded, "Everyone will still have access. South Carolina State University (SCSU) public safety and the 1890 Building are located there. Students will still have to access the parking lot so it will not be completely blocked off. We will be able to mandate an officer there twenty-four seven to monitor."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "There is too much going on. We need to curtail it so our students and people who live near the area are safe."

Mayor Butler stated, "We want to accommodate the people that live there to be able to get in and out, but we also want safety for the students and residents."

City Administrator Evening stated, "I have had conversations with the Department of Transportation (SCDOT). This is a state road; therefore, the City must apply to own the road. I need Council's authorization to make the application to SCDOT. We previously discussed applying for the road from Goff Avenue to Buckley Street however for now only closing it at Clark Street. If the need to close all the way to Buckley Street arises, Clafin will have the ability."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to authorize the City Administrator to complete an application with the South Carolina Department of Transportation for partial closure of Goff Avenue. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. James McQuilla, President, Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce addressed Council concerning Chamber updates. He stated, "The Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce has established events and programs focused on Orangeburg tourism namely, the Rose Festival, the Grand

American Hunt, and the Christmas Parade. We have built a website with an eye towards tourism campaigns. We are launching a large digital marketing campaign this year built around the Edisto Gardens and the Lake Edisto Park. We served over 173,000 folks with the Rose Festival ads and 59,200 were individual ads that went to Aiken, Richland, Lexington, Barnwell, Bamberg, Clarendon, Calhoun, and other parts of Orangeburg County. This is how you bring folks in to visit Orangeburg. Tourists can visit the Chamber and ask questions about Orangeburg. We also receive emails and phone calls from those traveling. The Quality-of-Life magazine is finished and will be printed soon. During the ten-year period from January 2010 to June 2020, there were 57 new chamber business memberships. From July 2020 to current, we have had 92 new chamber business memberships.”

City Council and Department of Public Utilities Manager Warren Harley presented a Retiree Resolution to Mr. Bryson Matt Lovern for twenty-five years, nine months and three days with a retirement date of October 17, 2022.

City Council and Department of Public Utilities Manager Warren Harley presented a Retiree Resolution to Mrs. Annette H. Williams for thirty-two years, six months and six days with a retirement date of October 14, 2022.

Mr. Marc Wood, Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP, CPAs addressed Council concerning a Financial Update. He stated, “You received the September 2022 financials in your packet. We received 91% of revenues compared to budget. We have spent roughly 99% of expenditures. The shortfall is \$662,939. The main reason for this is a substantial portion of state and Municipal Association revenue is received in September. There are multiple adjustments that must be made for year end. It takes a few months to finalize September numbers. We will distribute the final year end numbers when completed.”

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning nominations for the Building Board of Appeals unexpired term ending 07-01-2026. He stated, “As a reminder any Councilmember can nominate a person to fill this vacancy. We currently have two alternates on the Building Board of Appeals, Mr. Linton Davis and Mr. Michael Stroman. You are welcome to consider them for the vacancy as well. Note if you do nominate either one of them, you will have to nominate an alternate to replace them.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Knotts, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to nominate Mr. Linton Davis to the Building Board of Appeals. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to nominate Reverend Albert Shuler as an alternate to the Building Board of Appeals. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering stated, “We also have a vacancy on the Hillcrest Golf Commission term ending 07-01-2023. We have received two nominations. Councilmember Stroman has nominated Mr. Randy Shuler and Councilmember Hannah has nominated Mr. Kerchia Calloway.”

Mr. Randy Shuler received six Council votes and Mr. Kerchia Calloway received one Council vote. A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to nominate Mr. Randy Shuler to the Hillcrest Golf Commission. The motion was approved 6-1. Councilmember Hannah opposed.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning Façade Grant Guidelines. He stated, “As a review, Council authorized an additional \$250,000 to be allocated from the ARPA funds toward the Façade Grant Program making \$300,000 the total amount available to grant applicants. We are scheduled to implement the Façade Grant Program on November 1 to include owners of commercial properties and owners, or managers of businesses located in the historic downtown Orangeburg District within the City of Orangeburg. Eligible grant expenditures include signs, awnings, lighting, storefront, windows, historic details, and fabric. The funding levels are separated into three tiers. Tier I addresses one design element with grant total not to exceed \$5,000 with no match requirement. Tier II addresses two or more design elements with grant total from \$5,000 to \$15,000 with a 15% match requirement and Tier III addresses three or more design elements with grant total from \$15,000 to \$25,000 with a 25% match requirement. For your review, the Façade Grant Program booklet that outlines guidelines is in your packet. If you have

any questions or suggestions, please let me know. The guidelines will be available on our website, and hardcopies will be available.”

Grants Administrator Angela Terry addressed Council concerning a Grant Award received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Rural Health Care Grant. She stated, “This is an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant designed to access healthcare services in rural areas. The City received \$857,075. This grant will reimburse the City 35% for purchases of three fire trucks, and we will be partially reimbursed for future purchases of defibrillators that will be placed in City facilities and upgraded technology for our fire stations.”

DPS Chief Austin stated, “This grant award will be used primarily for our fire service. We have purchased trucks and now we have other equipment, particularly technology equipment that is needed. This will go a long way in stations three and four connecting them with the other two stations.”

DPU Gas Director, Dave Durgin addressed Council concerning the First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Amended Natural Gas Rates for the Department of Public Utilities effective on December 1, 2022. He stated, “For Council’s consideration, we have three new gas rates that affect only industrial customers that we are trying to extend service to. This would not affect any current customers. It would not increase rates and it has the potential to lower rates.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Amended Natural Gas Rates for the Department of Public Utilities effective on December 1, 2022. The motion was unanimously approved.

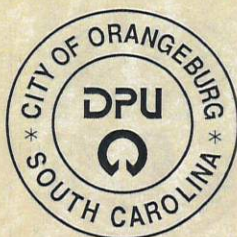
A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to go into Executive Session concerning Personnel Matters – Performance Evaluation Discussion SC Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1) a.) City of Orangeburg Administrator and b.) Department of Public Utilities Manager. Contractual Matter a.) DPU Gas Division SC Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was unanimously approved.

Council did not return to open session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda McDaniel  
City Clerk



**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Bryson Matt Lovern, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for twenty-five years, nine months and three days with a retirement date of October 17, 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.



*Michael C. Butler*  
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Mayor

*Danda P. Foster*  
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*Richard F. Stone*  
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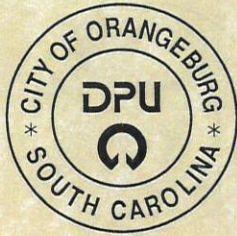
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Members of Council

ATTEST:

*Luida McDaniel*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Annette H. Williams, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for thirty-two years, six months and six days with a retirement date of October 14, 2022; and

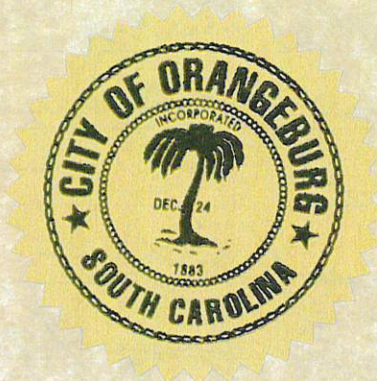
WHEREAS, she, through her long and faithful service contributed greatly to the successful operation of the City of Orangeburg; and

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 she served and we take pride in commending her for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, in appreciation for her devotion of duty to the City of Orangeburg, be placed in the Minute Book of the City in recognition of her services.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.



Michael C. Butler  
Mayor

Sandra P. Smith

Richard F. Stroma

Walter J. ...

J. ...

L. Zimmerman

Keith ...  
Members of Council

ATTEST:

Pinda M. Daniel  
City Clerk