

**City Council Minutes**  
**January 17, 2023**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 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 December 20, 2022, City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized "Fairness" as the January 2023 Orangeburg County Community of Character trait.

Mayor Butler and Department of Public Utilities Manager Warren Harley recognized the following employees with Retiree Resolutions Henry G. Rutland for thirty-seven years, ten months and sixteen days with a retirement date of December 9, 2022, Billy L. Hickson, Jr. with thirty-one years, eleven months, and three days with a retirement date of January 3, 2023, and Lou M. Busby with twenty-five years, two months, and sixteen days with a retirement date of January 4, 2023.

Councilmember Haire addressed Council concerning an Ordinance to approve a Zoning District Map change from A-1 Residential to O-I Office-Institutional for properties located at 1090 St. Matthews Road, 1070 St. Matthews Road, and 1080 St. Matthews Road, also known as TMS# 0173-05-05-001.000, TMS# 0173-05-05-015.000, TMS #0173-05-05-016.000. He stated, "Members of Council, we have the desire to grow the City. I cannot vote in good conscience for this item as we are reducing citizens in this area of St. Matthews Road and in the City of Orangeburg for business. As you know, we have plans to make Russell Street, the Gateway to the City where we will have improvements to businesses that exist on the Russell Street Corridor. There are plenty of ample places wherein businesses can locate. We are defeating the purpose by changing the zoning of these three parcels. I will be voting against this, and I hope members of Council will do the same."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the third reading of an Ordinance to approve a Zoning District Map change from A-1 Residential to O-I Office-Institutional for properties located at 1090 St. Matthews Road, 1070 St. Matthews Road, and 1080 St. Matthews Road, also known as TMS# 0173-05-05-001.000, TMS# 0173-05-05-015.000, TMS #0173-05-05-016.000. The motion was approved 4-3. Councilmembers Haire, Hannah and Knotts opposed.

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning third reading of an Ordinance to approve an amendment to the City of Orangeburg Zoning Ordinance proposed to modify and expand the definition and requirements of Article 24-4.1a.6.: B-2, Central Business District. He stated, "This Ordinance is preparing the City for improvements to downtown in terms of being able to be more flexible for restaurants, bars, and residential space above retail shops."

Councilmember Haire asked, "Does this Ordinance only refer to the downtown area and not the entire Russell Street area?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "It refers to the current B-2 section of Russell Street. Later, we may look at rezoning areas of Russell Street that are not currently B-2 to change to B-2 Central Business District."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the third reading of an Ordinance to approve an amendment to the City of Orangeburg Zoning Ordinance proposed to modify and expand the definition and requirements of Article 24-4.1a.6: B-2, Central Business District. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Haire addressed Council concerning annexation of properties located at 100 University Village Drive and 400 University Village Drive, also known as TMS# 073-11-06-011.000 and TMS#0173-08-16-004.000. He stated, "I requested this item be placed on the agenda as Council received information that I learned was not exactly correct. There was a statement made that annexing these properties would cost over \$300,000. Currently, the City provides assistance to South Carolina State University (SCSU) security if needed. Not only the City, but also the Sheriff's Department if there is a need. There will be no cost difference as we are currently doing those things that we will continue under the annexation. Therefore, I see no reason not to bring this matter back to Council."

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to take from the table December 6, 2022, Agenda Item #3 Annexation of properties located at 100 University Village Drive and 400 University Village Drive, also known as TMS# 073-11-06-011.000 and TMS#0173-08-16-004.000. The motion was approved 5-2. Councilmembers Keitt and Stroman opposed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to approve the first reading of an Ordinance for annexation of properties located at 100 University Village Drive and 400 University Village Drive, also known as TMS# 073-11-06-011.000 and TMS#0173-08-16-004.000. The motion was approved 6-0-1. Councilmember Stroman abstained.

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "This will be approval of first reading of the Ordinance. Staff will advertise and schedule a public hearing and second reading for the February 21, 2023, Council meeting."

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning a Resolution to Support the Municipal Association 2023-2024 Legislative Advocacy Initiatives. He stated, "Each year Council approves a resolution supporting the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) legislative advocacy initiatives. This year's initiatives support the point of Home Rule and you as the legislative body closest to the people. A few of the initiatives in the resolution pertinent to the City are to expand local economic incentives, support traffic safety measures, support statewide hate crime legislation, allow cities and towns to close doughnut holes for annexation, require code enforcement liens to be billed and collected by cities, support stronger penalties for illegal fentanyl trafficking and possession, and clarify how state U.S. Census population estimates for cities and towns are determined and create an appeals process."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve a Resolution to Support the Municipal Association 2023-2024 Legislative Advocacy Initiatives. The motion was unanimously approved.

Finance Director Anthony Bolling addressed Council concerning the City of Orangeburg Financial Update. He stated, "I have a quick analysis for month ending December 31, 2022. Total revenues were approximately 14 percent of total budgeted revenues. Ideally, you would be at approximately 25 percent, however, the largest part of the City's revenue is property taxes that start to be received in January. Total expenditures for the General Fund were 27 percent which is in line."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "I have a question concerning staffing in your department. It seems it has totally changed?"

Director Bolling stated, "Six positions are budgeted in the Finance Department plus me. Currently, we have two employees. We are actively recruiting for two positions. Staff that was here one year ago has turned over. We do look forward to getting the staff back up."

Councilmember Stroman asked, "When are City taxes due, January 15<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> and does the County collect taxes?"

Director Bolling stated, "I am not sure if it is the 15<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> of January. Yes, the County collects taxes. We start to see them in January and February. We are focusing this year on revenues and aggressively collecting revenue. Currently, we are focusing on fire contracts and business licenses."

City Administrator Evening stated, "Mr. Hannah, I agree with you, Finance is the key to any business operation and certainly to ours. As you are aware, we have had challenges in our finance department that we have aggressively addressed and are continuing to address. We are recruiting and trying to fill those positions. Even though we are not fully staffed, the finances of the City are certainly being attended to. We have engaged consultants to help fill staffing shortages in the interim so that all City finances will continue to be addressed appropriately."

DPS Chief Austin addressed Council concerning appreciation to Orangeburg County School District for donation of activity bus to Orangeburg Department of Public Safety. He stated, "I wrote a letter to Orangeburg County School Superintendent, Dr. Shawn Foster, asking for consideration of the donation of a surplus activity bus to be retrofitted and used as a mobile command center for Department of Public Safety (DPS). In December, I received confirmation the School Board approved our request. They have delivered the bus to us, and we look forward to securing funds to have it retrofitted. I wanted to publicly acknowledge the generosity and assistance of Dr. Foster and the School Board members. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with them as we go forward to make the City of Orangeburg a safer and more viable community."

Mayor Butler asked, "How will the mobile bus be used?"

Chief Austin stated, "The mobile command will have several uses. The primary use will be to conduct community meetings. Instead of having residents come to DPS, we will be able to go into the community and conduct neighborhood meetings. Also, if we have emergency situations, we will deploy it for that purpose."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to appoint Mrs. Evelyn Brown to fill the Board of Zoning Appeals District Five unexpired term ending January 2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning discussion of Orangeburg County Elections Commission request to change the City of Orangeburg Municipal election date from second Tuesday in September to general elections date of first Tuesday in November. He stated, "A request was received from the Orangeburg County Elections Commission to change the election date from the second Tuesday in September to general elections date of first Tuesday in November. In the letter received from Director Aurora Smalls, she noted the desire to have uniformity and the cost considerations of having the City election be separate and apart from the general election. She has asked for your consideration to change the date of the Orangeburg City elections."

Orangeburg County Director of Voter Registration and Elections Aurora Smalls addressed Council, "Thank you for your consideration. We are trying to unify elections to make sure everyone knows when the elections are. Every year we have a lot of people come out in November to vote for the City of Orangeburg election which is held in September. Also we want to make sure we cut the cost for not just the City, but also for the citizens of Orangeburg County. When the City pays election costs, it does not include the salary of our staff. It would help to unify the election because then all municipal elections will be the same time, and everyone knows when the election is. Early voting is now mandated and is open for two weeks regardless of the election which includes special elections. Now, voters do not need an excuse to vote early. This means, there will be more of a cost for you now. If you change the election to November, the County will pay the workers and you will be billed for the election. The municipal election is non-partisan, so it will be the same as your current election."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "I think it is better for us to keep the election in September as to not confuse our City citizens as to the City election and the general election."

Councilmember Haire asked, "I noticed you provided data of previous elections. Has a study been completed as to how many people voted for Governor but did not vote for other lower elections such as school board? When the ballot gets too long, it confuses people."

Director Smalls stated, "No, we only do studies if someone asks, but we can. If you are concerned about the ballot, the only thing the citizens of Orangeburg will have on their ballot is for the City of Orangeburg."

Councilmember Haire asked, "So, it is not multiple ballots, but one ballot with all of these different things that apply to that particular precinct on that same ballot?"

Director Smalls stated, "That is correct. Every precinct has a ballot assigned to them."

Councilmember Haire stated, "I have heard a lot of comments that when you have amendments, a lot of people say, just forget it. I am afraid if we put that on there, we will have people who will not vote."

Director Smalls stated, "Amendments will not be on your ballot as they are on the ballot for even years which is the governor or presidential elections. The only thing that can be on your ballot is if the City decides you want a resolution on the municipal ballot."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Education is key. What can we do to get people to vote?"

Director Smalls stated, "We are under the command of the State Election Commission, which is requesting we unify all municipal elections. In your current municipal election, you do not get the results at the end of the night unless you come to our office, or you go to every precinct. During the general election, the results are online so you can see results in real time. The State Election Commission is wanting to do more promotions for elections. Every year we are trying to improve elections. Every year we are getting new equipment and training. If you have any other questions, please contact me or Mr. Chris Whitmire with the State Election Commission."

Council stated they will respond to the Election Commission request in writing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to go into Executive Session concerning a Personnel Matter a.) Performance Evaluation of Municipal Judge. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1). 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





**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION  
2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY INITIATIVES**

**WHEREAS,** cities and towns in South Carolina are the government closest to the people providing the core services residents and businesses demand for an exceptional quality of life; and,  
**WHEREAS,** local decisions affecting residents and local businesses should be made by local leaders; and,  
**WHEREAS,** cities and towns seek to make numerous small changes in current state law to support new and existing local industry and businesses, changes in public health and safety, and continuity of service delivery; and,  
**WHEREAS,** cities and towns seek to support legislation that adds more tools to the toolbox for local governments to expand and create programs to help residents and businesses; and,  
**WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg fully supports the 2023-2024 advocacy initiatives set forth by the Municipal Association of South Carolina Board of Directors for city and town councils to govern effectively and efficiently and listed below are the 2023-2024 initiatives:

- protecting the authority of cities and towns to regulate short-term rentals within municipal boundaries
- expanding local economic development incentives to cities and towns to allow municipal officials to increase the number of small businesses in downtowns
- supporting traffic safety measures including a ban on "squat trucks" and other local safety ordinances
- supporting statewide hate crimes legislation
- allowing cities and towns under a certain revenue threshold to complete a compilation of financial statements instead of a full audit
- allowing cities and towns to close doughnut holes, or enclaves, in their municipal limits through a local annexation process
- requiring code enforcement liens to be billed and collected by cities, towns and counties in a method similar to what is used for property taxes
- allowing cities and towns with no property tax millage to impose a millage with certain limitations
- creating an option for municipal residents to approve a Municipal Option Sales Tax penny tax for capital projects within the city limits
- supporting stronger penalties for illegal fentanyl trafficking and possession
- clarifying how state U.S. Census population estimates for cities and towns are determined, and creating an appeals process for resolving potential differences in the estimates between the state and municipalities

**BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Orangeburg affirms on this 17th day of January 2023, its support for the Municipal Association's 2023-2024 advocacy initiatives for the benefit of all of South Carolina's 271 cities and towns.

**DONE AND RATIFIED THIS 17th DAY OF JANUARY 2023.**



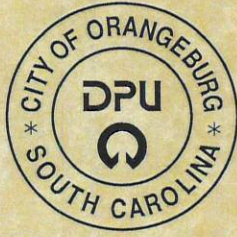
*Michael C. Butch*  
MAYOR

*Benjamin Haire*  
*Janet A. Quotts*

*Richard J. Stone*  
*Kelley*

*L. Jean Keith*  
*[Signature]*  
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:  
*Luinda McDaniel*  
City Clerk



**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Henry G. Rutland, III, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for thirty-seven years, ten months and sixteen days with a retirement date of December 9, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2023.

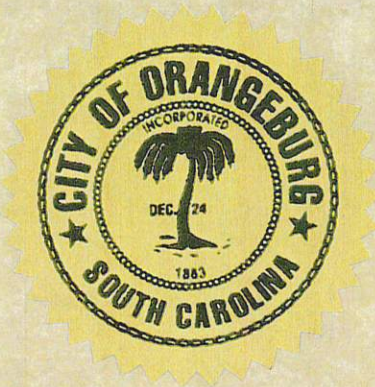
Michael C. Butts  
Mayor

[Signature]

Liz Zimmerman  
[Signature]

Richard J. Thomas  
[Signature]

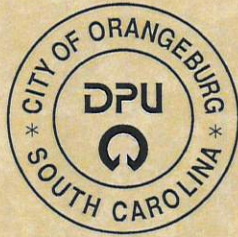
[Signature]  
Members of Council



ATTEST:

Linda McDaniel

City Clerk



## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Lou M. Busby, faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for twenty-five years, two months and sixteen days with a retirement date of January 4, 2023; 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.



Michael C. Butler  
Mayor

[Signature]

Liz Zimmerman Keitt

Wanda P. Knotts

Richard J. Stuma

[Signature]

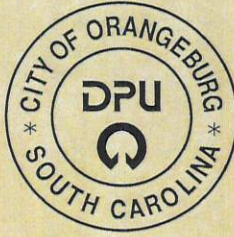
Benny Ham

Members of Council

ATTEST:

Ruila McDaniel

City Clerk



**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** Billy L. Hickson, Jr., faithfully served the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg for thirty-one years, eleven months and three days with a retirement date of January 3, 2023; 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.



*Michael C. Butler*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Liz Zimmerman*  
*Keith*  
*Daniel Andrews*  
*Richard A. Stearns*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Members of Council

**ATTEST:**  
  
*Ruida M. Duval*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk