

City Council Minutes
May 2, 2023

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 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 Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to approve the April 18, 2023, City Council minutes. The motion was approved 6-0-1. Councilmember Haire abstained.

Mayor Butler recognized "Respect" as the May 2023 Orangeburg County Community of Character trait.

Mr. Marc Wood, Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP, CPAs addressed Council concerning financial update for March 2023. He stated, "The revenues for the General Fund were 45% of the budgeted amount. The ideal percentage collections compared to budget should be 50%, so revenue is a little behind budget. Expenditures for the General Fund were 54% of the budgeted amount. The ideal percentage collections compared to budget should be 50%, so expenditures are in line with the budget."

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning second reading of an ordinance amending the City Code to provide for the adoption of the 2021 Building Codes. He stated, "As quick recap, this is the international code approved at the state of South Carolina's Building Codes Division which then comes down to the municipalities and counties to be adopted."

Councilmember Haire asked, "Have there been substantial changes versus the last adopted codes? Is it possible for you to highlight some of the changes?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "This code updates every three years. The changes are usually minor. I have a cheat sheet I can send you."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve second reading of an ordinance amending the City Code to provide for the adoption of the 2021 Building Codes. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance authorizing the lease of 351 Langston Street TMP# 0173-17-31-006-000 and delivery of a lease agreement. He stated, "As you may recall, United Infrastructure Group is a contractor that South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will be using on their US Highway 301 Bridge Project, and they have approached us about using our property at 351 Langston Street as a laydown yard. The lease will require them to pay the City \$500 per month. They have agreed to maintain and return the property as found, and they will indemnify the City for any damages or anything of that nature."

Councilmember Knotts asked, "What type of security measures will they have at this site?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "A fence will be installed, and they will lay down a driveway to make sure the property is not damaged. They will maintain it throughout the entirety of the lease. As a reminder, the lease is until May 2026."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the third reading of an ordinance authorizing the lease of 351 Langston Street TMP# 0173-17-31-006-000 and delivery of a lease agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the third reading of an ordinance to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement relating to South Carolina Local Revenue Services; to participate in one or more Local Revenue Service Programs; to execute and deliver one or more participant program supplements. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance amending the City's Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, and the City's Organizational Chart to provide for the creation of three positions. He stated, "Before you for your consideration was originally an ordinance to amend the City's budget to create two new positions, Special Projects Manager and Risk Coordinator, but I subsequently request you amend this ordinance to include a third position, a Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation. The reason being is we have a lot of projects coming up. Obviously, the Dixie Youth Ball World Series and we have a lot going on in that department. I think a Deputy Director would be beneficial and so we are asking that you consider amending this ordinance to include that third position. Also, it should be noted that we are changing from bands to grades as we notate the pay scale at the suggestion of our City Attorney. It will require unanimous consent for the amendment for third reading and so I respectfully ask for a motion for it."

Mayor Butler asked, "Does this require two motions?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "Yes, a motion for the amendment to this ordinance to add the third position and then a motion to approve the third reading."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Last meeting you presented two positions and now this is the third position that you are presenting to Council. Anything you do requires expenses. Can you afford to pay for these three positions? If so, how are you going to get the money? Will you increase the tax on the population?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "No sir, we have the money in this current year's budget. We are in the middle of this budget year, so it would only be for the remainder of this fiscal year. Then we can budget for the positions moving forward into next fiscal year starting October 1st."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "I know some time ago you presented information that you may have to readjust the salaries of City employees to retain them. That is an added expense to what you are trying to propose. Do you have the money to pay for this? Even if you made the adjustment, is that in the new budget that you will present?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "We have not gotten into the new budget yet. After the workshop, we will be getting into those budget numbers. I have proposals for you to consider in terms of how we can increase revenue, and hopefully, not increase millage."

Councilmember Knotts asked, "What are the duties and functions of this third individual?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "The Deputy Director position would support and assist the current Director of the department. We have a lot going on in that department."

Mayor Butler stated, "Also be mindful that we placed Hillcrest under the Parks and Recreation Division. They are responsible to ensure Hillcrest is cut, groomed, and kept."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Will this bring up the efficiency level with another person there or will it just be a person waiting for directions from the supervisor?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "No sir. The intent is to bring up the efficiency level. Obviously, someone at this position should have the ability and experience to adequately assist our department head to act in a capacity to help with the efficiencies."

Councilmember Haire asked, "I had a discussion with you, Mr. Evering, concerning adding this new position. Last Council meeting, I was unable to attend and asked that an item be carried over for this meeting tonight. Is Mrs. Williams present tonight?"

Mayor Butler stated, "She will Zoom in for Executive Session."

Councilmember Haire stated, "There are questions I have relating to information she provided me that I need answers to an employment situation. I am not satisfied with what has taken place in that area. I would hope I could get these questions answered before Executive Session."

Mayor Butler stated, "You are on the agenda in Executive Session. She is prepared to answer them tonight."

Councilmember Haire asked, "That does not allow me the opportunity to have the answers before voting."

City Administrator Evering asked, "Is it anything I can answer?"

Councilmember Haire responded, "No. For that reason, I am not prepared to vote on this."

City Administrator Evering stated, "Council can either vote to table it or vote as is with the two positions that does not include the amendment of the third position."

Mayor Butler stated, "To amend this ordinance, we need a unanimous vote, and we will not have that. Council needs to tell me if you want to move on it or table it."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "I agree with Mr. Haire because the problem has not been resolved based on what he is stating. I say we table it to the next meeting. I wish Mrs. Williams were here to clarify for the entire Council so we can vote our conscience."

City Administrator Evering asked, "I am wondering, is it related to one of these three positions?"

Councilmember Haire responded, "It has ramifications for me as it relates to the new position and my concern."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Haire to table to the next meeting, Item #6, third reading of an ordinance amending the City's budget beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, and the City's Organizational Chart to provide for the creation of three positions. Discussion continued before Council voted.

Councilmember Knotts asked, "I am confused. You are saying because the motion has been made to table Item #6 altogether? If we voted on this, we are just voting on the initial two and not the third one?"

City Administrator Evering asked, "Mayor, I am wondering if we could carry this item over until after Executive Session?"

Councilmember Keitt made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to move Item #6 to after Executive Session and then Return to Open Session for consideration. The motion was unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the cancellation of the July 4 and July 18, 2023, City Council meetings due to Budget Meetings. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to go into Executive Session concerning a.) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and/or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – Project Middletown – SC Code 30-4-70(a)(2), b.) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and/or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – Commercial Sanitation Enterprise Fund – SC Code 30-4-70(a)(2), c.) discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee – Department of Public Safety SC Code 30-4-70(a)(1) and d.) discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee – Department of Administration SC Code 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to Return to Open Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance amending the City's budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, and the City's Organizational Chart to provide for the creation of three positions. He stated, "I respectfully ask for a motion for unanimous consent to amend the ordinance that would amend the budget to create two new positions so as to add a third position, a Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation to assist our Parks and Recreation endeavors."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to amend the ordinance amending the City's budget to change from two new positions to three new positions. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve third reading of an ordinance amending the City's budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, and the City's Organizational Chart to provide for the creation of three positions. The motion was approved 6-1. 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,



Linda McDaniel
City Clerk

