

**City Council Minutes
December 19, 2023**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor

Annette D. Grevious

Jerry Hannah

Dr. Kalu Kalu

L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem

Sandra P. Knotts

Richard F. Stroman

The Public Hearing was opened for consideration of an ordinance amending the budget for the City of Orangeburg for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, and adopt Commercial Sanitation rates effective January 1, 2024. There was no one to speak at the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve the December 5, 2023, City Council minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Rachelle Jamerson-Holmes and members of EmpowerHer Chapter of American Business Women's Association (ABWA) updated Council on their local Chapter.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance amending the budget for the City of Orangeburg for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. He stated, "As a reminder in previous years the Airport budget because it is an enterprise fund was sometimes included in the budget figures and sometimes not included. It does not affect the General Fund, but we are amending the budget to include it and the Hospitality and Accommodations Tax in the overall budget. Also, the new commercial sanitation rates that were approved in budget sessions are outlined in an exhibit so the public will know the new rates beginning January 1, 2024."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve third reading of an ordinance amending the budget for the City of Orangeburg for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Works Director Singh addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 13, Building and Housing of the code of the City of Orangeburg and to amend the International Property Maintenance Code. He stated, "As you all know cleaning up the City has been a major project for the City and City Administration. We have begun a new initiative in the way we provide code violation notices to individuals. We have started this process and are getting results. The intent of this ordinance is to work with individuals to clean up the City."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve third reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 13, Building and Housing of the code of the City of Orangeburg and to amend the International Property Maintenance Code. The motion was unanimously approved.

Interim Assistant City Administrator Williams addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance to approve a change to the Zoning District Map from B-1 General Business District to B-2 Central Business District for properties located at 122 Treadwell Street, 118 Treadwell Street, 110 Treadwell Street, 1701 Russell Street, 1705 Russell Street, 1711 Russell Street, 1715/1719 Russell Street, 1721 Russell Street, 111/117 Boulevard Street, and 135 Boulevard Street. She stated, "The Planning Commission recommended approval for the District Map change. B-2 is an expansion of B-1 which accommodates more of mixed-use properties. Since this is regarding Railroad Corner where the properties will be commercial as well as residential, B-2 is more appropriate."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to approve third reading of an ordinance to approve a change to the Zoning District Map from B-1 General Business District to B-2 Central Business District for Properties located at 122 Treadwell Street, 118 Treadwell Street, 110 Treadwell Street, 1701 Russell Street, 1705 Russell Street, 1711 Russell Street, 1715/1719 Russell Street, 1721 Russell Street, 111/117 Boulevard Street and 135 Boulevard Street, also known as TMP# 0173-14-04-014.000, 0173-14-04-013.000, 0173-14-04-026.000, 0173-14-04-012.000, 0173-14-04-027.000, 0173-14-04-011.000, 0173-14-04-010.000, 0173-14-04-009.000, 0173-14-04-008.000, and 0173-14-04-007.000. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to cancel the February 6, 2024, City Council meeting due to MASC Hometown Legislative Action Day. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kalu, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve second reading of an ordinance amending the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities Operating Budget Ordinance 2023-15 for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024 (DPU Project House 2). The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning first reading of an ordinance making provision for the Terms and Conditions of a \$21,000,000 Combined Public Utility System Revenue Bond of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, authorized by a Bond Ordinance of the City of Orangeburg enacted January 2004, as amended (2024 Series Ordinance). He stated, "Mr. Theodore DeBose of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd is on Zoom to answer questions. As we discussed in our budget workshop, there are several upgrades and infrastructure projects specifically in our electric division that are needed. This bond will allow us to pay for the substations and the subsequent lines and power facilities needed to continue to serve the citizens of Orangeburg. Over the last five or six years, we have been investing in all four of our utilities in a significant way. We have made a focused effort to improve our infrastructure and appreciate your support. Also, we met with Chief Austin and his staff this week concerning areas of the City that may need additional lighting. Please let me know if you have areas in your district or the City that you would like for us to look at."

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the first reading of an ordinance making provision for the Terms and Conditions of a \$21,000,000 Combined Public Utility System Revenue Bond of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, authorized by a Bond Ordinance of the City of Orangeburg enacted January 2004, as amended (2024 Series Ordinance). The motion was unanimously approved.

Administrative Director Nexsen addressed Council concerning Project Good Neighbor. He stated, "Project Good Neighbor was started by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) in coordination with Cooperative Church Ministries of Orangeburg (CCMO) in 1989. They saw the need of those less fortunate within our community and partnered with DPU customers to help. One hundred percent of funds collected by DPU from its customers are donated back to CCMO to help folks in need. Everyone that works at CCMO is a volunteer. CCMO is in the County building next to the YMCA on St. Matthews Road and are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Since 1989, DPU customers have contributed over \$1,250,000 to assist others. About half the money that CCMO receives comes from DPU. They also receive direct contributions from churches who are member organizations. Over the past five years or so DPU customer contributions have been going down. We are here tonight to help get the word out. If you want to donate, you can call DPU Customer Service 803-268-4050 for go online, download the form and email, or return it to the DPU office."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McDaniel

Linda McDaniel
City Clerk

