

**City Council Minutes**  
**May 21, 2024**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

**PRESENT:**

**Michael C. Butler, Mayor**  
**Annette Dees Grevious**  
**Jerry Hannah**  
**Dr. Kalu Kalu**  
**L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Richard F. Stroman**

**ABSENT:**

**Sandra P. Knotts**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to approve the May 7, 2024, minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Kathy Booker, MUSC Health – Orangeburg appeared before Council concerning a partnership for DYB. She stated, “I am happy to say that MUSC will be the official health care provider for the entire DYB event. By having a new healthcare provider in our community, it is our duty to our community and our citizens to be a part of this. I want to introduce two individuals that will be supporting this event, which will cover everyone in attendance including the athletics and spectators, Mr. Charles Reeves, Director of EMS Services, and Ms. Brittany Miller, Sports Medicine Coordinator. Ms. Miller stated, ‘We will have certified athletic training staff present at all the games to take care of the athletes from knee scrapes to an ankle tape, to concussion or heat illness. We are excited and looking forward to it.’ Mr. Reeves stated, ‘I will coordinate the emergency response. There will be a staff of six nurses from the emergency department. We have also partnered with the Orangeburg County EMS as well as Orangeburg County Emergency Management to allocate resources of dedicated ambulances, and a staff of paramedics from MUSC there for the entire event. We have also coordinated with our air assets if we need to fly someone out from the site.’”

Mr. Joe Barkovich, WK Dickson presented Council airport updates. He stated, “If you recall, we were here last March with a similar presentation. You have a package with information on each project as well as the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Six years are shown because the next closest year that the FAA funds is listed for reference at the top starting with fiscal year 2024. The projects listed are focused on a strategic plan that we formulated with a terminal area plan outlined of what you have coming up next. We are in the process of designing a rehabilitation for your primary runway. You have two runways, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will fund 90%, the state 5%, leaving only 5% locally which is at the top of the list. We also want to do an airport layout plan which is a master plan that looks at 20 years of development, figures it all out for you and fine tunes things. You will notice different funding sources and different line items there. We are fortunate as a National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems; you get 90% funding for most of your projects from the FAA and 5% from the state, leaving 5% locally. You can also work with the state and get projects that range from 60% from them and 40% for you all the way up to 90% and 10%. It just depends on the projects. One of the things that you will notice here is that you have a lot of development that works towards not only enhancing your airfield but also your terminal area. That terminal area and your airfield work together to give you a lot of economic generation. You have folks flying in, you have the Golden Knights here this week which is a lot of people visiting this community which is an asset. You will see a few things we have highlighted. There is hangar development down the road. Part of this terminal plan is that we outlined a place where you can put the different types of hangars from small to large hangars, but we have to make sure you have the infrastructure to get to them from both the air side and the land side such as autos and parking as well as the aircraft being able to get to the hangars that generates rent for you. Most times you must find local funding based on the market. The bottom line is you have \$18 million of development that would occur over five years if everything were to come into full fruition for funding, but your local investment is only \$2 million and about half of that would be hangars that are outlined to be funded locally. There are a lot of combinations of different things

you can do but the important part is to prove to the FAA that you are focused on your airport, constantly investing in it and they return the favor with funding back to you.”

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning DYB updates. He stated, “Sixty-four days until the Diamond Youth Baseball World Series. We will be hosting tens of thousands of visitors from eleven states. We have this opportunity to display the best of Orangeburg. We have been working diligently to accomplish this and put on the best event possible. We have extraordinary partnerships to include MUSC, South Carolina State University, the Orangeburg County Chamber, the County of Orangeburg, and the state of South Carolina. Parks and Recreation Director Shawn Taylor is here to give you an update.”

Parks and Recreation Director Taylor addressed Council concerning DYB updates. He stated, “We are excited and grateful for the partnership with MUSC. Our marketing has increased; we have banners everywhere and media and marketing on I-26, I-95, and I-77 and throughout the City of Orangeburg. We have information in all the welcome centers throughout the state of South Carolina. We have worked on our complex and the landscape design has been improved and updated. We have added shades to all bleachers. Safety has been improved by installing the Thor Guard. We are working diligently to get the wayfinding signs up as a guide around the complex. The opening ceremony will be held on South Carolina State University campus and games will begin the next morning at 10 am. We will have entertainment nightly at the complex for the community as well as visitors. We will have a kid zone area for children to play. We have about twenty sponsors, from field sponsors to ad sponsors. We have a lot of volunteer opportunities. We have distributed marketing materials to local businesses. The host teams will be Neeses representing Division Two and Orangeburg representing Division One. We want the community to know it is a community event and there will be something for everyone to enjoy.”

Councilmember Kalu asked, “With the expectation of 30 – 50,000 people coming to Orangeburg, what efforts have we made with lodging/hotel accommodations?”

Parks and Recreation Director Taylor stated, “Hotels are aware of the event. We have talked with all the hotels on 601 and in Santee. We have also reached out to some hotels in Columbia. The organization also has a travel group that collaborates with teams and families from other states for hotels.”

Councilmember Hannah asked, “Will the players and their families get a tour of Orangeburg? We want to invite them back to live.”

Parks and Recreation Director Taylor stated, “They will receive information in each team welcome package that highlights major attractions and things to do while in Orangeburg.”

Councilmember Kalu asked, “Do you have an update on the Gateway Project?”

City Administrator Evering stated, “The Gateway Project broke ground last week. We expect it will be completed by July 25. I want to thank all our sponsors and partners who have stepped forward to assist. The internal committee, Shawn Taylor, Jennifer Van Cleave, Theresa Williams, John Singh, Meredith Garris, Marty Kinard, and the Blue Avenue consultants, have worked hard and have done an excellent job on this project. We are making sure we host and represent Orangeburg in the best way.”

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning an appointment to the Building Board of Appeals for an unexpired term ending 07-01-2026. He stated, “We requested nominations from Council for this vacancy. For your consideration, Councilmember Stroman nominated Mr. Brian Duncan to fill the unexpired vacancy ending 07-01-2024.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to approve the nomination of Mr. Brian Duncan to the Building Board of Appeals term ending 07-01-2026, The motion was unanimously approved.

Assistant City Administrator Williams addressed Council concerning first reading of an ordinance to consider a Zoning District Map change from A-1, Residential, Single-Unit District to O-I, Office-Institutional-Residential District for 1132 Boulevard Street NE, TMS # 0173-05-06-002.000. She stated, “In your packet is a summary memo from the May 16 Planning Commission

Meeting and Public Hearing. Approximately nineteen members of the public were present, which included one member of the press. Approximately seven people spoke at the Public Hearing. Some spoke in support of the ordinance change. Most spoke against the ordinance change. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to deny the request. The minutes from the meeting will be distributed to you next week. An ambulance service signed a lease agreement with the property owner to put an ambulance service in that area. The area was not zoned for that so they had to move out or relocate until we could complete this process. Nothing is currently located there."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "There is a house there currently?"

Assistant City Administrator Williams stated, "This is a residential area. The house in question sits on the road next to a commercial building."

A motion was by Councilmember Stroman made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to deny the Zoning District Map change from A-1, Residential, Single-Unit District to O-I, Office-Institutional-Residential District for the 1132 Boulevard Street NE TMS #0173-05-06-002.000. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning a resolution authorizing the Department of Public Utilities Manager to apply for a Drinking Water Revolving Loan for approximately \$11,500,000. He stated, "Included in your packet budget is information from our budget process last year and this is our current budget. If you recall during the budget process, DPU staff presented Project #5 where we proposed to make improvements to our water treatment plant and to our Alum Sludge Lagoon to give us more capacity and expand the life of that lagoon fifty years or more. Projected cost was \$12.1 million total as the project moves along. We also reminded you for us to accomplish this, we would be coming back to you to borrow money through the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). We are asking that Council allow us to move forward as outlined in the budget to borrow from the SRF to be able to do this project. The Water Division Director, Mr. Eric Odom is here to answer questions. As you know, we plan our projects in five-year increments when we consider our capital budget process."

Mayor Butler asked, "When we talk about borrowing money, I want to know the benefits of this improvement. Is there a particular area you are targeting or is it overall?"

DPU Water Director Odom stated, "The project is a complete overhaul of the water treatment plant residuals handling process. This would be an upgrade of the water treatment plant residuals which is all the waste from the treatment process and washing filters. The wash water pumps we are upgrading were installed 1981 and the water tank that serves the pumps in 1937. Many of the lines through the plant are still the originals and we have increased treatment capacity of the plant by twenty million gallons a day without upgrading the ability to assist in the residuals handling process. One is making clean water go out the front and the other is making dirty water go out the back. While we have added twenty million gallons of capacity to our plant since 1991, we have not done any upgrades to the ability to get rid of the waste the process creates. One of the biggest issues is a three-inch discharge line for all the residuals leaving the plant. Therefore, we are heavily restricted on that end. This will give us the ability to split waste streams and increase the ability to wash filters going forward so as our demands increase, we can leverage the 30-million-gallon capacity. This will be a more efficient process to be able to backwash filters and get filters back online so they can be treated correctly. In addition, we are making improvements to a wastewater line that we discharge to. It is a critical line for Orangeburg as a lot of capacity goes through it.

Councilmember Kalu asked, "How many years is this loan and at what percent?"

DPU Water Director Odom stated, "It is for twenty years at 2.1%."

Councilmember Stroman asked, "Did we just remodel this plant?"

DPU Water Director Odom stated, "The last upgrade was a plant expansion where we added ten million gallons of capacity to our treatment plant. We have not touched the residual portion in over 25 years. We added treatment capacity but not the ability to improve the way we get rid of our solids. We still can treat thirty million gallons a day. The faster you run that plant, the more frequently you must backwash filters. More frequently you must get rid of the backwash water and wastewater. We are currently treating eight million gallons a day, but this project will have

the ability to treat thirty million gallons a day. As more demand comes online from development, we will creep toward the thirty million gallons per day.”

DPU Manager Harley stated, “This is the best rate you will find currently. At some point this will have to be done even if we do not do it now, it will have to be done with the potential growth that we are seeing heading our way, it would put us at running eighteen million gallons a day through the current plant. If you get to that point, it could complicate things.”

Mayor Butler stated, “DPU always operates in an advanced state to keep us from breaking down. We want to stay efficient and effective to our customers.”

DPU Manger Harley stated, “This is a part of our strategic plan to identify and improve our infrastructure needs. Each division identified areas in the five-year capital improvement plan. In the utility business, you try to stay ahead, because if you get behind, it costs more and it causes more issues.”

Councilmember Grevious asked, “Do we anticipate any additional financial burden on our citizens as a result of taking on this loan?”

DPU Manager Harley stated, “In our budget process, we put together a projected plan of not only borrowing but also each year we come back with where we think we need to be in terms of rate increases. I continuously remind Council that our water and wastewater, whether we do this project or not needs to have a rate increase because we are not covering the cost of the system. At some point we must make sure we can cover the cost. We have projected going forward some rate increases in the water and wastewater division. But not necessarily because of this project.”

Councilmember Hannah stated, “I recently toured the water plant and asked a lot of questions about the equipment and when it was last updated. Let us look out for the welfare of our citizens.”

Mayor Butler asked, “Can you still do this project if Council does not pass the rate increase in the new budget?”

DPS Manager Harley stated, “Yes, we can do this project. Even if we do not do this project, we are likely to ask for another rate increase because we projected the rate increase to be split over a three-year period alternating. We did that because Council did not want to raise the rate all at once. Of course, if Council decides not to do that, we can adjust.”

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to approve a resolution authorizing the Department of Public Utilities Manager to apply for a Drinking Water Revolving Loan for Approximately \$11,500,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to go into Executive Session concerning 1) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2), 2) discussion of personnel policies, including personnel handbook, and receipt of legal advice and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1)-(2), 3) performance evaluation discussion -proposed contractual arrangement – City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities Manager S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was unanimously approved.

Council did not return to open session.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda McDaniel*

Linda McDaniel  
City Clerk







**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ORANGEBURG, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MANAGER TO APPLY  
FOR A DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FOR APPROXIMATELY \$11,500,000**

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (the "State Authority") provides low-interest loan financing for the construction of public drinking water facilities from the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (the "Fund") pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Title 48, Chapter 5, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities is a legally constituted municipal corporation in the State of South Carolina and is authorized to incur debt pursuant to Title 6, Chapter 21, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities has determined that it is in the best interests of the City to apply to the State Authority for a loan from the Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina (the "Council"), in a meeting duly assembled:

1. That the Council hereby authorizes the Department of Public Utilities Manager to complete, and the Mayor to execute and submit an application to the State Authority for a loan from the Fund in the amount of approximately \$11,500,000 to finance the costs of upgrading the residuals handling process and chemical feed improvements to the City's John F. Pearson Water Treatment Plant. The Department of Public Utilities Manager is authorized to take such actions as may be necessary or convenient to complete the application process.
2. That the City will grant to the State Authority a pledge of, and lien on, all revenues of the City's combined water and sewer system for repayment of the loan.
3. That the final terms and conditions of the loan and the loan documents shall be subject to the approval of this Council.

ADOPTED BY the City Council on May 21, 2024.

Mayor

Michael C. Keith

Members of Council

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]



Attest: Linda McDaniel  
City Clerk

WATER DIVISION  
PROJECT COST ESTIMATE  
2023 - 2024

Project #	Description	FY23 Approved Project Budget	New / Reprogram \$	FY24 Project Budget as Amended	Cost Inception-to date June 2023	Remaining Project Total	2023 - 2024 Estimated Cost
A	1954 High Service Pump - continuation project	2,880,000	-	\$ 2,880,000	\$ 2,728,498	\$ 151,502	\$ -
B	Misc. Water Plant Equipment - continuation project	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	1,806,577	193,423	-
1	Hwy. 301 Bridge Replacement - continuation project	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2,001,443	(1,443)	-
2	Water Main Replacement Project - continuation project	3,915,000	2,085,000	6,000,000	193,519	5,806,481	5,806,481
3	Water Meter AMI Deployment - continuation project	7,600,000	-	7,600,000	3,410,036	4,189,964	4,189,964
4	Refurbish Washwater tank - continuation project	500,000	-	500,000	2,324	497,676	497,676
5	Alum Sludge Lagoon Cleanout - continuation project	4,000,000	8,145,000	12,145,000	80,125	12,064,875	12,064,875
6	Dantzer Tank Refurbishment - new project	-	500,000	500,000	6,644	493,356	493,356
7	North Road Booster Pump Station - new project	-	4,012,000	4,012,000	69	4,011,931	4,011,931
8	Bull Swamp Rural Water Acquisition - new project	-	12,855,000	12,855,000	4,325	12,850,675	5,000,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>		<b>22,895,000</b>	<b>27,597,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,492,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,233,560</b>	<b>\$40,258,440</b>	<b>\$32,064,283</b>

## Water Division - Project #5

### Alum Sludge Lagoon Cleanout/Water Treatment Plant Residuals Process Upgrades

#### Continuation Project (additional \$8.1m)

- I. Purpose – The purpose of this project is to improve the John F Pearson Water Treatment Plants residuals and solids handling process for the foreseeable future. There will be two main components of this project The first is to clean out and restore the useful life of the alum sludge lagoon to provide additional storage capacity for periodic solids removal and storage and second is to split the solids waste process inside the water treatment plant.
  
- II. Rationale – Since January 1990, the alum sludge lagoon has been utilized for the purpose of storing all solids generated from the removal of natural organic material during the water treatment process. The lagoon has now reached its maximum storage capacity and solids need to be removed to restore its usefulness. Solids are generated by the formation of aluminum hydroxide combined with natural organic material in the North Fork Edisto River as a by-product of the coagulation process. These solids settle and accumulate on the bottom of the sedimentation basins and on the top of the filters. The solids are removed by means of mechanical track mounted solids collection units installed on the bottom of the sedimentation basins. Solids are also removed during the filter washing and filter-to-waste processes. These solids are currently transferred to a solid's equalization and separation basin. The thickened solids are then transferred at a controlled rate into the sanitary sewer system to be

processed and disposed of by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The lagoon allows for high volumes of water and concentrated solids to be transferred within several hours during the day to facilitate the manual cleaning and restoring of a sedimentation basin into service within twenty-four hours. The lagoon also allows the flexibility to store additional solids during periods of increased solids production due to increased treatment chemical usage because of poor raw water quality conditions. With increased periods of unusual rainfall amounts, solids production increases significantly as well as hydraulic loading to the Wastewater Plant. The current solids disposal process is not equipped to handle such increases. The lagoon is equipped to manage and store large volumes of water and high concentrations of solids on a periodic basis. The restoration of the lagoon would provide efficient management of water treatment residuals and minimize the hydraulic loading and solids loading to the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Plant during these periods.

III. Plan – The first phase of this project is to maximize the usage and extend the storage capability of the lagoon. The lagoon will be mechanically dewatered, and the solids will be disposed of in an approved landfill facility, and a new liner will be installed. Over the life of the lagoon an estimated 3,300 tons of solids have been stored. Second, we intend to split the waste streams inside the plant. By doing this, DPU operators will be able to send the higher concentration solids collected through the mechanical vacuum system to the wastewater treatment plant via a new solids handling pump station and force main with the water used to wash filters and water used to place filters back online (filter to waste) being diverted to the restored lagoon offering much improved



operational efficiency and flexibility to the water treatment plant. These improvements will prepare the DPU WTP to handle additional demand on the water system in anticipation of additional economic and residential growth in the area.

**IV. Cost**

Original Project Cost Estimate	\$ 4,000,000
Change to cost estimate	<u>8,145,000</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST AS AMENDED	12,145,000
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE	<u>\$ 80,125</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST REMAINING	\$12,064,875
ESTIMATED FISCAL YEAR COST	\$12,064,875