

**City Council Minutes
January 7, 2025**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday January 7, 2025, at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, 933 Middleton Street with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Annette Dees Grevious
Jerry Hannah
L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard Stroman

ABSENT:

Dr. Kalu Kalu

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve December 17, 2024, minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized Patience as the January Orangeburg County Community of Character Trait.

Dr. Fabien McGill addressed Council concerning the Willie Jeffries School of Excellence. He stated, "We are located on Five Chop Road and are currently in our first phase of building. We will start the second phase soon and we plan to be in our building by the end of 2025. I think what makes us different is our culture and climate. When you walk through our hallways, you hear laughter, learning and joy. I want to encourage you to visit, and I welcome feedback as there are always areas of improvement. I think we have the best staff in the state, and we are building our students for success in the future. We make sure we hire teachers that love children. We have personalized learning plans which means we will focus on every individual student to make sure that we identify what each student needs to succeed. Then we can find their loves and passions to succeed in their goals. We focus on student engagement and are currently creating clubs, activities, and sports. We have pledge cards here tonight as funding is required to accomplish our goals."

Mayor Butler presented a proclamation to Coach Willie Jeffries.

Mayor Butler presented a proclamation to Ms. Olivia Glover.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance authorizing the transfer of approximately 0.03 acres of real property with improvements, if any, located at the corner of Russell Street and Middleton Street (1192 Middleton Street, formerly known as 1198 Russell Street), with County TMS #0173-13-35-002.000. He stated, "This is the green building on the corner of Russell and Middleton Streets. There is a local buyer and investor that would like to purchase the building for \$75,000 to put condominiums and retail space in the building. This ordinance would authorize the sale of that property for those purposes."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to approve third reading of an ordinance authorizing the transfer of approximately 0.03 acres of real property with improvements, if any, located at the corner of Russell Street and Middleton Street (1192 Middleton Street, formerly known as 1198 Russell Street), with County TMS #0173-13-35-002.000. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning a resolution to support the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) 2025-2026 Legislative Advocacy Initiatives. He stated, "Each year the Municipal Association asks each municipality to pass a resolution in support of their initiatives for the upcoming legislative year. I would like to highlight a few of the legislative advocacy initiatives to include protecting the authority of cities and towns to regulate short-term rentals within municipal boundaries, allow cities and towns with no property tax millage to impose a millage within certain limitations, allow cities to place a Municipal Project Sales Tax penny on a referendum for city residents to vote on additional revenue for capital projects in their city,

support funding for police equipment and infrastructure and support legislature that allows retirees to return to work with no earning cap placed on their retirement benefits.”.

A motion was made by Councilmember Grevious, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the resolution to support the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) 2025-2026 Legislative Advocacy Initiatives. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to go into Executive Session concerning discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and/or the receipt of legal advice S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) a) Vape Ordinance, b) Hillcrest Lease Agreement, and discussion of employment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee – Personnel Matter SC Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was unanimously approved.

Council did not return from Executive Session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McDaniel

Linda McDaniel
City Clerk





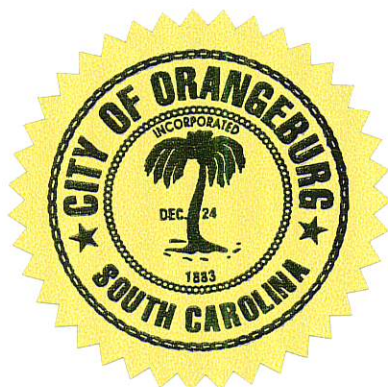
**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY INITIATIVES**

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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 initiatives:

- Protect the authority of cities and towns to regulate short-term rentals within municipal boundaries
- Allow cities and towns with no property tax millage to impose a millage within certain limitations
- Support additional funding in the state budget and other resources for mental health services
- Allow cities and towns to close doughnut holes, or enclaves, in their municipal limits through a local annexation process while preserving current annexation powers
- Support efforts to help solve the liquor liability insurance burden on small businesses
- Allow cities and to place a Municipal Project Sales Tax penny on a referendum for city residents to vote on additional revenue for capital projects in their city
- Increase flexibility for cities and towns for local accommodations tax revenue
- Support legislation that clarifies terms of office for local elected officials
- Protect the local election process
- Support funding for police equipment and infrastructure
- Support legislation that allows retirees to return to work with no earning cap placed on their retirement benefits

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Orangeburg affirms on this 7th day of January 2025, its support for the Municipal Association’s 2025-2026 advocacy initiatives for the benefit of all of South Carolina’s 271 cities and towns.

DONE AND RATIFIED THIS 7th DAY OF JANUARY 2025.



Michael C. Butch
MAYOR

[Handwritten signatures of council members]

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Rinda McDaniel
City Clerk