

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 20, 2019

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Orangeburg City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., in Council Chambers with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding. The purpose of the Public Hearing was for the following:

Public Hearing #1: Consideration of an Ordinance to raise revenue and adopt a budget for the City of Orangeburg, SC for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

There were no comments. Public Hearing #1 was closed.

Public Hearing #2: Consideration of an Ordinance to adopt a budget for the operation of the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg, State of SC for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, (2) adopt amended electric rates effective October 1, 2019 and (3) adopt amended gas rates effective October 1, 2019.

There were no comments. Public Hearing #2 was closed.

Council entered into the regular meeting agenda.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor

Jerry Hannah

Charles W. Jernigan

L. Zimmerman Keitt

Sandra P. Knotts

Richard F. Stroman

ABSENT:

Bernard Haire

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve the June 13, 2019 Department of Public Utilities Budget Workshop minutes as distributed. This motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the August 6, 2019 City Council minutes. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jenny Boulware, Main Street South Carolina addressed Council. She stated, "I am here tonight to present the Outstanding Promotion Award to the Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association for their Taste of the Market and their Four Course Farm to Table Dinner. This not only spotlighted the Edisto Memorial Gardens, Downtown Orangeburg and your local farmers; but also, area cheerleaders served the guests at the event." A plaque was presented to Candice Roberson, DORA Executive Director and Council.

City of Orangeburg Allstar Majors, Minors and Machine Pitch teams were recognized. The coaches were honored and those in attendance from the teams were honored as well. Winning banners were presented, and pictures were taken of all players and coaches.

Aniah Whaley and Turner Owens from the High School for Health Professions addressed Council and updated them on their National Competition in San Antonio, Texas. Ms. Whaley stated, "Nine out of 19 students went to compete in Texas at the State Competition for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)." Mr. Owens stated, "Jaquan Williams won second place out of 200 people and was awarded a \$500 prize and Ms. Jamison won Advisor of the year." She was also recognized.

Mr. Earl Dukes, Jr. addressed Council concerning a proposed pavilion in Edisto Memorial Gardens. He stated, "In 1922, the Gardens started as a playground. In 1928, the first flowers were planted. There was a swimming pool was located where the parking lot is now. When I was in first grade, we went to an Easter egg hunt in the gardens. There was a two-story structure that was used for events. In 1950, the playground moved to the Albergotti area. Mr. Dukes provided

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pictures to Council and larger pictures were shown of a building similar to what was there in the past. Mr. Duker stated, "I wanted to give this to you to see if there could be a possibility to have something like this in the Gardens. Something with ceiling fans where people could sit when it is hot for those to get out of the heat. From the people I have shown this to, no one has had a negative reaction to it. Now, when someone is tired, they have to go to a bench in the sun or to their car. Wouldn't this be nicer so they could continue to view the Gardens from an upper view and did not have to leave and maybe stay longer. I think this would be wonderful in the Gardens and wanted to bring this to you as a possibility."

Councilmember Jernigan asked, "Do you have a location in mind for this?"

Mr. Duker replied, "The former building was on the corner by the fountain. It doesn't matter where it goes as long as the view would be great. This would not be for renting purposes just a place to enjoy the Gardens."

Mayor Butler stated that Council would take under advisement.

Mr. Akeem Brown; former citizen of Orangeburg with Blue Duck Scooters addressed Council. He stated, "Our business is located in Texas and we have scooters for the public to use. I have spent time working with City Government in the past. You can use a mobile app and a credit card to obtain a battery-operated scooter. A lot of people use it for have fun or to get in and out of the neighborhood. There are a lot of buses here and that is good, but this is for the in and out people. Our average ride is \$2.32, and it gets you about a mile and a half. We charge and maintain these devices. What you see at other places are not made for streets. Ours are made for commercial use. Once a rider downloads an app, they receive a helmet from us for free. They receive it on their first ride. In the state of SC, there is no law to hold anyone accountable for wearing helmets. We encourage helmet use and the app asks if you have a helmet. We engage in the community; we want people to run these is safe lanes. We are willing to pay the City for usage of the streets and hope that those funds are used for infrastructure purposes. We want to make Orangeburg safe. The scooters are equipped with GPS, so we know where they are going at all times. We will share with the City what patterns these scooters are taking. We have lights on them at all times for safety so individuals can see them. We are building a new product where the scooters will have lights on the bottom. These go 16 mph. What we do differently? We hire people as we are committed to local leadership and making a lasting investment in your City. The more foot traffic you have, the more students you bring to downtown, the more scooters you may need, and this will increase sales in the area. We put out our scooters at 6:30 AM and they are picked up at 9:00 PM. If the scooter hits the ground, someone knows immediately, and it will be picked up. We have geofencing where there may be areas you do not want scooters in. As a rider, the scooter will begin to slowly approach the geofenced area where the scooter will not move. There will be safety workshops where individuals can be taught how and where to drive them. We have landing zones where you may want them in some areas and not others. We have 24/7 customer support at a call center in Texas. Blue Duck maintains the industry standard insurance requirement with a two-million-dollar aggregate. We indemnify wholly the City of Orangeburg. The FTA stated that if transportation companies work with us, they can start to count ridership with us. Data is shared for grant purposes. I am seeking approval from City Council to do a thirty-day trial program. We will create regulations that you want us to follow, provide safety practices and putting these on the streets. I have engaged campuses and Claflin is waiting for fifty scooters as we speak. We want our students moving and embracing the community. We are working with SCSU now and although they may be operating on the campuses, they are also going to be on the streets. That is why we are seeking approval from the City and keep you involved in the process."

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt asked, "Who is paying the insurance?"

Mr. Brown stated, "We do, we do not ask you to pay anything. We cover all insurance."

Mayor Butler stated, "Thank you for coming and we need to be certain we have all our logistics in order and check with Public Safety to be sure we are ready. We will take this under advisement."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve the second reading of Ordinance for a zoning district map change to O-I Office-Institutional-Residential District for property belonging to Gressette Investments Limited located at 1807 Columbia Road TMP #0174-17-08-006.000

Councilmember Knotts made a motion to appoint Larry Jackson to the Building Board of Appeals, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt. Councilmember Jernigan asked about his background. Councilmember Knotts explained that he was a builder and contractor. The Vote was unanimous.

City Administrator Yow stated, "There are still vacancies on this Board and if you have any others, please let me know to put this back on the agenda."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve second reading of Ordinance amending the Budget for the City of Orangeburg, SC for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019. The vote was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Knotts, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve second reading of Ordinance to raise revenue and adopt a budget for the City of Orangeburg, SC for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020. The vote was unanimously approved.

Mr. Jerry Hannah addressed Council on the Community Embracing Higher Learning. He stated, "We have three institutions here in Orangeburg of higher learning: Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Claflin University and South Carolina State University. When we look at embracing the institutions, there are five to six thousand students there at some time this will make up about 20-25% of our population. That is an amazing number for expanding our City. Education produces success. 1.) Start the year with community engagement in the Gardens or the Square to show them we appreciate them here. 2.) Culture reinvestment fund: DPU and the City need to engage in culture reinvestment fund. Add college emblems to mailouts and engage in homecoming activities. 3.) Provide safer environments and speak to students. 4.) Develop a higher education commission to draw and attract more students input. We should have a committee with 50% students and 50% from the City. 5.) Establish year-round internships for students who are from Orangeburg. 6.) Develop a direct link to all school career development departments; as well-trained students may be better employees. 7.) Design a grant award scholarship for all students who live in the City and attend one of our colleges. Award them to stay here. 8.) The three schools must agree to a prom date. 9.) The Goldstein's/Jerry Hannah annual scholarships for each of three schools to keep students in City."

Council stated they will take under advisement.

Councilmember Hannah stated, "We have waited too long for action."

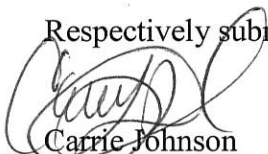
A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve second reading of Ordinance to adopt an amended budget for the Operation of the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg, State of SC for the fiscal year October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The vote was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve Ordinance to adopt a budget for the operation of the Department of Public Utilities of the City of Orangeburg, State of SC for the fiscal year October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 (2) adopt amended electric rates effective October 1, 2019 and (3) adopt amended gas rates effective October 1, 2019. The vote was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to enter into Executive Session concerning Economic Development Updates by Gregg Robinson, OCDC of Project Development of 1. Project Storage, 2. Project Furman, 3. Project Gnotec and 4. Project Valagro and Product Development of 1. Orangeburg County City Industrial Park and 2. Orangeburg County Industrial Park US 21 (East Annex)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

