

City Council Minutes
December 3, 2019

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 12 noon in Council Chambers with Mayor Butler presiding. 2865

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Bernard Haire
Dr. Kalu Kalu
Richard F. Stroman

ABSENT:

Jerry Hannah
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P Knotts

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman and seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve the November 19, 2019 City Council Minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Evelyn Disher, Executive Director of the Community of Character accepted the December 2019 Character Trait Proclamation, Caring.

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council regarding the approval of the 2019-20 Façade Grant Awards. He stated, "There were three applicants in this round of grants with work to be completed by the third quarter of 2020. 1151 Russell Street, the former SMS Building, will replace the awning which currently houses a barber shop and beauty salon. 1520 Russell Street will make improvements to the exterior of the building and improved signage. This building will provide professional office space and a real estate office. The third applicant at 1361 Russell Street was not recommended for funding by the committee. We will be working with the owners of this property to review their application."

Mayor Butler asked, "Where is 1520 Russell?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "It is located next to Dairy 0 and it should bring some life to that area. It was a former bank."

Councilmember Haire asked, "Was there an oversight in the amounts that were not included?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "Yes, I am sorry about that. The SMS Building is between five and seven thousand dollars and 1520 Russell Street is the full amount of the grant at ten thousand dollars. The total project at 1520 Russell Street is between fifty and sixty thousand dollars."

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve the 2019-20 Façade Grant Awards. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Joshua Nexsen of the Department of Public Utilities addressed Council regarding the approval of a bid for the construction of the DPU Operations Project located at 350 Sprinkle Avenue. He stated, "City Council approved a plan to construct a new crew quarters building and other improvements at the Operations Center. We have worked with an outside architect and engineers to design and plan this project over the last two years. Request for Proposals were issued on October 4, 2019, and four general contractors submitted proposals on November 4, 2019. Of these proposals, the lowest was from THS Construction in the amount of \$12,487,000 who recently finished the Health Center at Claflin University. I would recommend that you authorize the DPU Director to enter into a contract with THS Construction."

Councilmember Kalu asked, "Are there any grants or other monies for this project or was any local contractors asked to bid and was any preference given to minorities?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh replied, "We are looking at changing our Ordinances to reflect that and address that further for local and minority owned businesses. It is in there now."

City Administrator Yow replied, "However, our Purchasing Ordinance is a different ordinance than **2866**

Director Harley stated, "There are no grants or other monies designated for this project, it was budgeted."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Haire to authorize the DPU Director to enter into a contract with THS Construction in the amount of \$12,487,000 for the construction of the DPU Operations Project located at 350 Sprinkle Avenue. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Josh Nexsen of DPU addressed Council regarding the funding of the Operations Center and the Bond Issuance of a Combined Public Utility System Revenue Bond in the amount of \$15,000,000 in 2020 to be awarded to BB&T Company as authorized by Bond Ordinance of the City dated January 20, 2004. He stated, "During the 2019-2020 Budget, City Council approved the issuance of debt to fund the Operations Center Project. The proposals came in and BB&T offered the term of 15 years at a rate of 2.59%."

Councilmember Haire asked, "In the RFP, the bids were asked for 20 years, why are we going with 15 years?"

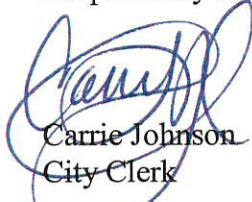
Mr. Nexsen replied, "We asked for proposals on 20-year terms and gave them the option of giving us other rates. Based on the proposals and comparing the rates and the amount of interest expense, we would recommend BB&T for the 15 years at 2.59% which is lower than budgeted."

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve first reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of a Combined Public Utility System Revenue Bond in the amount of \$15,000,000 (2020 Bond) to be awarded to BB&T as authorized by Bond Ordinance of the City dated January 20, 2004. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman and seconded by Councilmember Haire to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session concerning Legal Matter, Demetrius Jamison vs. City of Orangeburg. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

/lrm

