

**City Council Minutes**  
**January 21, 2020**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers with Mayor Butler presiding. 2875

**PRESENT:**

Michael Butler, Mayor  
Bernard Haire  
Jerry Hannah  
Dr. Kalu Kalu  
L. Zimmerman Keitt  
Sandra Knotts  
Richard F. Stroman

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt and seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve the January 7, 2020 City Council Minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler presented a birthday proclamation to Mrs. Shirley Baxter Caldwell wishing her a happy birthday and declaring November 23, 2019 Mrs. Shirley Baxter Caldwell Day in the City of Orangeburg.

Mr. William Green came before Council and expressed his concern with demolishing all the existing buildings at Railroad Corner. He indicated that this is all we have as a race of people and reminded them of the importance of this area during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950's and 1960's. He asked for them to reconsider this issue.

Mayor Butler thanked Mr. Green for his comments and indicated that Council would take the issue under advisement.

Ms. Jeanne Gue came before Council asking for financial support for the Orangeburg Calhoun Free Medical Clinic. Ms. Gue introduced all the Board Members in attendance at the meeting including Executive Director Cindy Goodroe as well as Nurse Practitioner Lynn Glenn. She mentioned that the Clinic celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2019, and during 2019 treated 340 patients to include 90 new patients. Currently financial support comes from the community with a few small grants to supplement these funds.

Mayor Butler thanked Ms. Gue for coming to speak with Council this evening and indicated Council would also take this under advisement and get back with her as soon as possible.

Mr. Lester Young previously appeared before Council at the August 6, 2019 meeting and was reappearing to provide an update on the Ban the Box initiative. This initiative's mission is focused on having communities and municipalities remove the conviction box from employment applications. They have found the box is a barrier to employment as most employers do not even interview applicants that indicate their prior conviction record. His program is asking employers to remove this box from applications and allow all qualified applicants the opportunity of an interview. If the applicant successfully completes the interview process, the employer can find out at the time with the typical running of a criminal check of their background and discuss with the applicant.

Mayor Butler inquired as to what cities in South Carolina have adopted this measure, and Mr. Young cited the City of Columbia and Irmo.

Councilmember Haire stated, "I can appreciate what Mr. Young is saying", and further asked if Mr. Young could provide a copy to Council.

Mayor Butler interjected and indicated that the City of Orangeburg had been studying this issue with the Human Resources area since his last appearance and is still compiling data. He also said that the City wanted to hear from state agencies.

**2876**  
Mr. Young replied that his efforts have not focused at that level yet and that he would be happy to provide a copy of the Columbia ordinance to Councilmembers.

Mr. Yow asked that Mr. Young send the Columbia information to him, and he will ensure that all Councilmembers receive it.

Councilmember Keitt asked, "Have you been speaking to any legislators?"

Mr. Young replied that he had spoken with State Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter.

Councilmember Keitt suggested that Mr. Young speak with the Columbia Legislative Delegation and indicated that she thought this was a great idea. "Too many young people are being banned."

Councilmember Hannah stated that we need documentation so we can put this on the agenda and vote on it.

Mayor Butler indicated that they will bring this issue back to body.

Ms. Ellen Zisholt came before the group to ask for support for her project for the Social Justice Cinema by declaring that we are a community supporter of the program. The project dedicated to John Hope Franklin will consist of three events each including a movie and several speakers as follows:

- February 27<sup>th</sup> Movie Selection-Freedom Summer with speakers David Dennis and Millicent Brown
- March 27<sup>th</sup> Movie Selection-Burning Bed with speakers Rosalyn Goldberg and State Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> Movie Selection-From Swastika to Jim Crowe with speaker John Whittington Franklin

Mayor Butler asked how she wanted us to give support.

City Administrator Yow indicated that we could draft a proclamation, and all agreed.

City Administrator Yow wanted to provide additional public notice that the February 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting had been cancelled due to the conflict with the Hometown Legislation Day as voted on at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. An advertisement will also been run in the newspaper, and if business dictates a special meeting will be scheduled.

Councilmember Haire nominated Councilmember Kalu to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. No additional nominations were made, and Councilmember Haire made a motion to close the nominations and accept Councilmember Kalu to that position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keitt. The vote was 6-1 with Councilmember Hannah opposed.

City Administrator Yow reviewed the listing of additional nominations to the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee made at the request of Councilmember Hannah as follows:

- District #1 Mr. John Wren Best  
Ms. Annette Disher (replacement of Tom Bonnette)
- District #2 Dr. Florence Anoruo
- District #3 Dr. Carol Apt
- District #4 Not applicable
- District #5 Ms. Harriet Young
- District #6 Mr. Charles Dowling
- At Large Ms. Yogini Parikh

Councilmember Haire made a motion to accept the additional nominations to the committee, and the motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Kalu. It was unanimously approved. **2877**

City Administrator Yow added that he received an email from the South Carolina Department of Transportation that afternoon inviting Council and members of the public to the ribbon cutting of the US601/Zan Street Intersection Improvement Project in front of Claflin University on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

Assistant City Administrator Singh shared a 2020 Census video and progress of the efforts. He outlined the April 1st date or Census Day in which Census workers will be coming out to visit homes if their information is not received. Citizens can complete their information in three ways- by mail, on-line, and by phone. The Complete Count Committee is set to help bring awareness and help the community recognize the importance of the Census. Currently they are working with the United Way to provide education to the members and have reached out to Orangeburg County to set up a committee as well to allow for coordination between the two groups.

Mayor Butler read the resolution for the Committee, and a motion was made by Councilmember Haire and seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the resolution. It was unanimously approved. The group then had a photo opportunity with all Councilmembers.

Assistant City Administrator Singh discussed this year's efforts by the Municipal Association in relation to changes to the Hospitality Tax eligible expenditures. Currently storm water runoff and drainage are not an approved category for which to spend these funds and based upon needs of a variety of communities this needs to be changed. The South Carolina Senate has passed a bill to make this change, and currently the bill is to be taken up in the State House of Representatives.

Mayor Butler read the resolution that provided for Council's support of the 2020 Legislative Advocacy Initiative by the Municipal Association, and a motion was made by Councilmember Haire with a second from Councilmember Knotts to approve the resolution. It was unanimously approved.

Assistant City Administrator Singh along with Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Chairman, Mr. Fred Broughton, reviewed the three recommendations for approval by the Committee as follows:

Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association (DORA) \$20,000  
Garden City Elite \$4,500  
Orangeburg Fine Arts Center \$10,500

Mayor Butler inquired as to whether any of these funds were eligible or considered for the Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce.

Assistant City Administrator Singh indicated the committee voted the Chamber of Commerce as the lead agency of these funds and this designation provides for 30% of the funding or \$8,313.31.

Councilmember Haire asked if any thought was given to the Universities in town that bring folks in for various events.

Chairman Broughton replied that historically some have received funding from Orangeburg County but keep in mind that they must apply.

Councilmember Hannah asked if the three groups received what they requested in their applications.

Chairman Broughton replied that all did apart from Garden City Elite. They requested \$8,000.

Assistant City Administrator Singh added that applicants must complete a write up for the Committee and afterward must provide receipts that document their results and achievement of their established goals. 2878

A motion was made to accept the Committee's recommendation by Councilmember Stroman and seconded by Councilmember Haire. It was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Kalu to adjourn to Executive Session concerning a Legal Matter, Demetrius Jamison vs. City of Orangeburg. It was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,



Patricia Phillips  
Interim Deputy City Clerk

/lrm





**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION  
2020 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY INITIATIVE**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** 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,** hundreds of municipal officials from across the state collaborated to identify challenges at the municipal level; and,

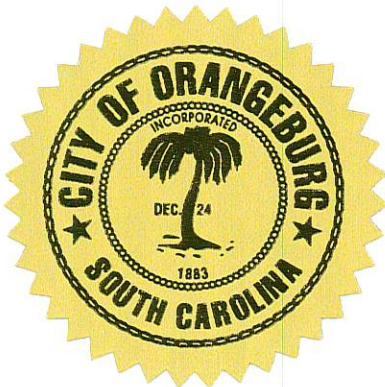
**WHEREAS,** solutions to these challenges can be addressed through changes to state law; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Association's board of directors approved continuing the remaining 2019 Advocacy Initiative into the 2020 legislative session. The remaining advocacy initiative to accomplish in 2020 is passage of S217, a bill that expands flexibility for using accommodations and hospitality taxes to allow expenditures for flooding and drainage infrastructure in tourist-related areas.

**WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg fully supports the initiative set forth by the Municipal Association of South Carolina Board of Directors for city and town councils to govern effectively and efficiently; and,

**BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Orangeburg affirms on this 21st day of January 2020, its support for the Municipal Association's 2020 advocacy initiative for the state's 271 cities and towns.

**DONE AND RATIFIED THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY 2020.**



*Michael C. Butler*  
MAYOR

*James Haire*

*Dwanda P. Kyles*

*Jennifer*

*Walter*

*Richard Estom*

*L. Zimmerman*

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

*Vanessa Harris*  
City Clerk



**A RESOLUTION FOR 2020 CENSUS PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT**

- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a count of the population and help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy;
- WHEREAS,** census data helps determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and is necessary for the accurate and fair redistricting of state legislative seats, county and city councils and voting districts;
- WHEREAS,** information from the 2020 Census is vital for economic development and increased employment;
- WHEREAS,** the information collected by the census is confidential and protected by law;
- WHEREAS,** a united voice from business, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and others will enable the 2020 Census message to reach more of our citizens;
- WHEREAS,** the Census count requires extensive work, and the Census Bureau requires partners at the state and local level to insure a complete and accurate count;
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg Complete Count Committee will bring together a cross section of community members who will utilize their local knowledge and expertise to reach out to all persons of our community;
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg Complete Count Committee will work with the Census Bureau and the State of South Carolina to strive for an accurate count.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Orangeburg is committed to partnering with and supporting the U.S. Census Bureau and the State of South Carolina and will:

1. Support the goals and ideals for the 2020 Census and will disseminate 2020 Census information.
2. Encourage all City residents to participate in events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the 2020 Census and increase participation through the efforts of our 2020 Census Complete Count Committee.
3. Strive to achieve a complete an accurate count of all persons within our borders.

**DONE AND RATIFIED THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY 2020.**



*Michael C. Butler*  
MAYOR

*Benjamin Haine*

*Danica P. Ruston*

*Jeffrey*

*John*

*Richard J. Hunt*

*...*

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:  
*Helen...*  
City Clerk