

City Council Minutes
February 18, 2020

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Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers with Mayor Butler presiding.

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 Stroman and seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the January 21, 2020 City Council Minutes as corrected. Councilmember Hannah requested one amendment concerning his vote on the matter of Mayor Pro Tem position. No one objected to the requested correction. The motion was unanimously approved as amended.

Mr. Adam Humphries, PE, SCDOT Program Manager presented SCDOT Project Update as follows:

Recently Completed Projects

US 601/S-1099 (Magnolia St./Zan St.) Intersection & Railroad Realignment at Claflin University

- Intersection realignment across Norfolk Southern Railway to improve the safety and operational capacity of the roadway/railway network, at multiple intersections and railroad crossings for vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- Construction letting/bid opening in November 2017 and awarded to Cherokee, Inc.
- Ribbon Cutting held Friday, January 24, 2020

Councilmember Haire asked about stopping on a line and waiting on a signal and not sure where to go and others are having the same issues.

Mr. Humphries replied, "We will look into that. There are some hatched lines we can add to make sure the traffic is flowing."

Councilmember Hannah also stated, "I have heard that has been an issue."

Mr. Humphries continued with the recently completed projects as follows:

City of Orangeburg TAP Projects

Pedestrian improvements along the following routes:

- Sunnyside Street (Complete)
- Resurface Sunnyside Street from Cemetery Street to Gibson Street as a part of a resurfacing project
- Drainage and sidewalk improvements in the area of the canal
- Scheduled Letting in October 2017
- Salley Street (Complete)
- Install Sidewalks along Salley Street from Glover St. to Fletcher St.
- Install sidewalks along Fletcher Street from Salley Street to Maple St.

Councilmember Knotts asked, "Is the entire Gibson Street going to be paved? I have had someone ask me?"

Mr. Humphries stated, "We will look into that and get back to you. Thank you for your input."

Mr. Humphries continued:

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US 301/SC 33 (John C. Calhoun Blvd/Russell Street) Intersection Improvement

-The project is currently in the Preliminary Engineering Phase of project development. SCDOT has secured the services of Parrish and Partners to do the bridge design and environmental documentation for the project.

-Proposed redesign will eliminate realignment of SC 33 and add a free-flow right turn movement onto US 301 as an acceleration lane extending across the bridge. Redesign will also include replacing the US 301 bridge over N. Edisto River and the overflow bridge. This project is currently in the preliminary engineering phase of development. The proposed redesign will eliminate the realignment of Highway 33 and eliminate the yield area and have a lane instead onto Highway 301.

-Current schedule:

Right-of-Way Phase Quarter 1, 2020

Construction Phase Quarter 1, 2021

City Administrator Yow stated, "I would like to commend SCDOT on the redesign of the bridge height which allows us to connect the two sides of the Gardens and the planned installation of decorative lighting on the bridge."

Mr. Humphries overviewed future projects being developed around Orangeburg to include:

US 21/US 178 Bypass (Chestnut St.) Corridor Project

From US 21 Business/US 601 (Magnolia St.) to SC 33 (Russell St.)

Pedestrian improvements to include:

-Installing/Rehabbing sidewalk along corridor from Magnolia St. to Goff Ave.

-Installation of a new shared use path from Goff Ave. to Russell St.

-Retrofitting stairs to the south-west column of the SC State pedestrian bridge

-Installing planted medians and decorative barrier fencing along the corridor in select locations

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Is there a penalty for taking another access such as jaywalking if you disregard the structure?"

City Administrator Yow stated, "That is not a question for SCDOT, that would be handled locally."

Mr. Humphries continued with future projects being developed around Orangeburg to include:

SC 4 (Stonewall Jackson Blvd.) Shared-Use Path

From S-824 (Murray Rd.) to S-507 (Glover St.)

Pedestrian improvements to include:

-Installation of a shared-use pathway along Stonewall Jackson Boulevard from S-824 (Murray Road) to S-507 (Glover Street)

-Current Schedule

-Right of Way – Quarter 4, 2020

-Construction – Quarter 3, 2021

Projects Under Development Around Orangeburg County to include:

-US 301 Northbound Bridge Replacement over Snake Swamp

-Schedule

-Right of Way – Quarter 2, 2020

-Construction – Quarter 2, 2021

-US 301 Southbound Bridge Replacement over South Edisto River

-Schedule

-Right of Way – Quarter 2, 2020

-Construction – Quarter 2, 2021

-Orangeburg County TAP Project at US 601 & Citadel Road

-Project to include mast arms and additional pedestrian accommodations at the intersection

-Schedule

-Right of Way – Quarter 4, 2020

-Construction – Quarter 2, 2021

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Councilmember Kalu asked, “Is there any way you can get this information to The Times and Democrat so the citizens will know.”

Mr. Humphries replied, “Yes, we have many contacts at the T&D, and we will get them involved as much as possible.”

Councilmember Haire stated, “Many years ago we were told that the bridge near the fairgrounds was going to be replaced and we quit having firework displays at the fairgrounds. Can you tell me is that project planned for the future?”

Mr. Humphries replied, “Since the gas tax was passed, a bridge may be fine one year and not the next, I will have to check to see. Bridges and roads are added all the time.”

Councilmember Haire stated, “I commend you for all the work that has been done.”

Councilmember Stroman asked, “Is Joe Jeffords Highway supposed to be widened?”

Mr. Humphries stated, “That is a Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) project, once approved the road should go from 2-5 lanes. That could be a project that will possibly be brought up next time, but it is in their hands.”

City Administrator Yow addressed Council, “At the prior City Council meeting there was a request for funding for Orangeburg Calhoun Free Medical Clinic and this was put back on the agenda for discussion.”

Mayor Butler stated, “The Free Medical Clinic provides medical services for those that cannot afford it. It is needed for our community and with the Samaritan House opening, we will be utilizing it for residents at the Samaritan House.”

City Administrator Yow asked Ms. Gue, “We ask this of all entities requesting funds. Can you get us a copy of your budget and audit?”

Ms. Jeanne Gue replied, “Yes we can.”

Councilmember Stroman made a motion to award Orangeburg Calhoun Medical Clinic \$5,000 for their operations. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu. The vote was 6-1, Councilmember Hannah opposed.

City Administrator Yow addressed Council regarding follow up materials on Ban the Box. He stated, “At two previous meetings, Mr. Lester Young appeared before Council and gave an overview of his request for the City to consider the Ban the Box program. In his explanation, he explained it removes from the job application the question ‘Have you been convicted of a prior crime?’ At that meeting, Council requested staff gather and furnish additional information to them which is what is in your packet. Again, you do not have to take action tonight, but we brought it up for Council to discuss and for you to give us as staff further direction.”

Mayor Butler stated, “I understand Ban the Box gives a person an interview, but I have reservations. If we did this, we would need to add language with this. If someone was a murderer or a molester that if we hire him/her and something happens, we don’t want to get sued.”

City Attorney Walsh stated, “They cannot come back and sue us if they are hired. I would recommend that you let the labor attorneys review what you are wanting before anything is done.”

Councilmember Haire stated, “This doesn’t mean we are hiring them; it just means they are granted an interview. I make a motion that we ask the Attorney to check with the Labor Attorneys.”

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City Administrator Yow stated, "If you read the attachments, this information goes into a lot more depth and at what point does human resources ask about the conviction history? It further goes into the business of any contractors and vendors you may hire and what practices they may have. There are still a lot of questions and unknowns at this time."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "I think Ban the Box gives a second chance. I think we need to put in what we would like for this to say as these others are just suggestions."

City Administrator Yow stated, "That is why we need direction from Council."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Can we just change our form?"

DPU Manager Warren Harley stated, "In the models you have an Ordinance and a Resolution, you need to decide which one you need as well. I would suggest also to run by the labor attorneys."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "If someone has the credentials and a great application and they go through the process and the box is there, they will never get the chance for an interview."

City Administrator Yow stated, "Let's see if we can get a draft in the upcoming meetings for you to review and for discussion."

Chief Michael Adams, DPS accepted the February 2020 Community of Character Trait Proclamation, Benevolence.

Mayor Butler presented to Ms. Ellen Zisholtz a Proclamation to support the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College and the Center for Creative Partnerships spring project – Community Cinema, a social justice film series.

Assistant City Administrator John Singh addressed Council regarding a resolution to renew our membership of the Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium FY 2019-21. Mr. Singh stated, "This organization was developed to help distribute HUD funding to counties and cities in a more efficient way. The City of Orangeburg is not an entitlement community which automatically receives annual funding. By being a member of the Consortium, we receive some funds to our community to authorized organizations, which in the City are Habitat for Humanity and New America. The Consortium serves the Lower Savannah Region (Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Orangeburg, and Calhoun Counties)."

Councilmember Haire made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the Resolution establishing and agreeing to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium FY 2019-21. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu and seconded by Councilmember Haire to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectively submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

/lrm





RESOLUTION

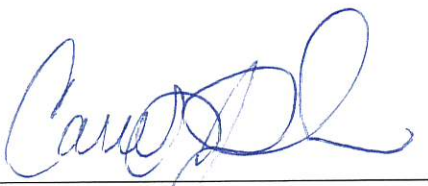
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOWER SAVANNAH REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM


- WHEREAS,** the Congress of the United States has enacted the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (hereinafter the "Act") which created the Home Investment Partnerships Program (hereinafter the "Home Program") to provide funds to states and local governments for affordable housing assistance with the flexibility to decide what kind of housing assistance or mix of housing assistance is most appropriate for local needs; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg has affordable housing needs; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg desires to increase affordable housing opportunities for its present and future residents, particularly for very low-income persons; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg desires to enter into affordable housing development activities which are directed toward the above general purposes, and for those reasons, wishes to seek such Federal funding as may be available to it pursuant to the Act; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg desires to enter into the affordable housing activities and has determined that joint action with other units of local governments that choose to participate in accordance with the "Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium" the terms of which are incorporated by reference and such relevant HUD regulations and requirements as may now or hereafter be in effect would benefit the City of Orangeburg.


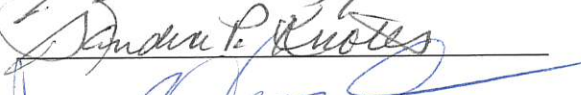
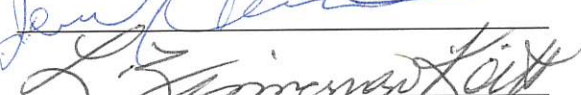
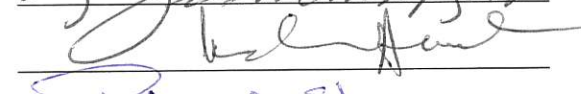

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council, in Council duly assembled, authorize John H. Yow, City Administrator of the City of Orangeburg to sign the "Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium FY 2019-2021" on behalf of the City of Orangeburg, as well as all other documents necessary to form the Consortium and to carry out and fulfill its purposes for FY 2019-2021.

ADOPTED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 18th day of February 2020.



ATTEST: 
City Clerk


Mayor






Members of Council