

City Council Minutes
December 1, 2020

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Orangeburg City Council held a Council Meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 9:00 AM with Mayor Butler presiding.

PRESENT IN PERSON:

Mayor Michael Butler
Dr. Kalu Kalu

PRESENT BY TELEPHONE:

Bernard Haire
Jerry Hannah
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard F. Stroman

Mayor Butler called the meeting to order with a roll call of Councilmembers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the November 5, 2020 Joint City/County Special meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the second reading of an Ordinance authorizing a ten (10) year lease of a lot located on the premises of the City of Orangeburg Airport measuring 150 feet on all sides for the construction of a shop building for the consideration of annual lease payments in the amount of \$3,000. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve second reading of Ordinance amending and restating the Business License Ordinance of the City of Orangeburg; and other matters related thereto. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Interim Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning update on Planning Commission Study that was given as information. He stated, "This was information based on the study on St. Matthews Road per Council's request. There is quite a bit of reading material that came from that study. I wanted to bring it to your attention today and will bring it back to you on the next meeting for any action."

Mayor Butler asked, "The Planning Commission made recommendations to Council?"

Interim City Administrator Singh replied, "We held a meeting in Stevenson Auditorium and had about thirty people in attendance. The purpose was for us to hear public input. John Ford with Robert and Company made a presentation and answered questions. That area led to Office Institutional and now it is up to Council to see if you want it to go back to the Planning Commission or are you satisfied with the Zoning as Residential."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "My feeling was that the Planning Commission and the public input was there and now the Planning Commission should make a recommendation to us from all this information. Mr. Ford has done his job and we have had public input."

Interim City Administrator Singh replied, "As a legal standpoint, we have to provide the study to Council since they requested the study. It is not in order because it is not an agenda item today. By law, you have to come back to the Planning Commission."

Councilmember Haire asked, "Did we get names and addresses of those that attended the meeting in Stevenson? If so, can I get that information?"

Interim City Administrator Singh replied, "We did have a sign in sheet, and they were supposed to sign in. We will get that information to you." 2979

Interim Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning discussion of meeting time for future Council Meetings. He stated, "Every year as required by law, we post in the newspaper Council meeting dates and times. With COVID, this has been a moving target. Since we are at the end of the year, the question for Council is how you would like to schedule your meetings for next year so we can publish it."

Mayor Butler stated, "We have a lot of people that work and do not get a chance to listen and/or participate in the meetings when they are scheduled in the mornings. I think we need to look at this and maybe adjust it to go back to an evening time so we can accommodate the public. I would like to get each Councilmember's opinion on this."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "I have had several people say that they are not able to currently listen to the meetings as they are at work. I agree to going back to the evening."

Councilmember Haire asked, "If things improve with the Coronavirus, we would go back to our regular time at 7:00PM or are you saying we will go to 7:00PM with the virtual meeting?"

Mayor Butler stated, "We need to make a decision on the time so we can publish it. I think even with the virtual, we need to accommodate the public. Also, when we open back up, they will be able to attend. If with the virtual, the public can go back and look at the video, but if they wanted to make an appearance, they could not during working hours."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "If we go back to evening meetings, 5:00PM or 6:00PM would accommodate my work schedule."

Attorney Walsh stated, "Council needs to determine a time for Council meetings. All meetings will be at that time. On the bottom of the ad we will note subject to change based upon COVID-19 conditions. Then if it changes, we will put a special ad in the paper for the new time."

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Councilmember Keitt that City Council meetings beginning in January 2021 will be at 6:00PM on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mr. Dave Durgin, DPU Gas Director addressed Council concerning consideration of American Public Gas Mutual Aid Agreements. He stated, "DPU is seeking approval for the DPU Natural Gas Division to join two mutual aid programs. We are not currently in any mutual aid programs for natural gas if a disaster occurs. The Carolinas Public Gas Association (CPGA) and the American Public Gas Association (APGA) are two mutual aid programs that are well suited to work with us. There are no fees to join or maintain the membership in the program, but we gain access to thousands of qualified and skilled gas operators should we need it to protect the citizens of Orangeburg. Natural gas is a dangerous utility and if the need arises, we can have help."

Councilmember Haire asked, "What is the possibilities of requesting aid for gas?"

Mr. Durgin of DPU stated, "In case of earthquakes or tornados where we lock off all services immediately and then have to go back in and relight those houses. We have over 9,000 services and 500 miles of lines."

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the mutual aid agreement with American Public Gas. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to enter into Executive Session for Economic Development matter, Proposed Contract Negotiations-Project House Gas Line Extension-S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)&(5) and Negotiations of proposed contractual arrangements-Health Insurance-S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Butler stated, "I want to recognize the Community of Character trait for December is Generosity. Generosity is the quality of being kind, generous, unselfish and being liberal in giving. We want the community to remember to exhibit this quality. This is a great quality especially in the Christmas season."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu seconded by Councilmember Haire to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

/lrm

