

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 21, 2011
5:30 P.M.**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman
Janie Cooper, Vice Chairman
Clyde B. Livingston
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Bill Clark, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper, to approve minutes of March 7, 2011 with corrections, if any. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NO COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Wright spoke, stating, "We get the message." He explained the County will hold a public hearing on the blue laws issue; details are being worked on and developed. Council is working on what they have to do as a county, but at the end of the day, Council will vote for what's best for the county. He cautioned those preparing to speak to be brief in their remarks so all points of view can be heard.

Mr. Robert Etheridge spoke outlining a list of communication problems he has with the Sheriff's office, their lack of positive response to his attempts to speak with the Sheriff or provide relief from the crime issues in his Cattle Creek neighborhood.

The speakers who followed, with the exception of one, were all persons who had spoken on the blue laws issue previously, espousing their same points of view, either for or against the blue laws. Following the last speaker, Chairman Wright thanked those who spoke.

1. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO LEASE PROPERTY TO BRANCHVILLE YOUTH SPORTS, LLC

Chairman Wright opened the Public Hearing. No comments made by those in attendance. Public Hearing closed.

Motion by Councilman Wimberly, seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston, approving second reading of the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wright stated the second item on the agenda and the five following agenda items are all related ordinances for first reading. He is asking Council to lump them together, to vote once.

1. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF ORANGEBURG FROM THE CITY OF ORANGEBURG MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

2. ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF HOLLY HILL FROM THE TOWN OF HOLLY HILL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

3. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF NEESES FROM THE TOWN OF NEESES MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

4. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF VANCE FROM THE TOWN OF VANCE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

5. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF BOWMAN FROM THE BOWMAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

6. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF WOODFORD FROM THE TOWN OF WOODFORD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND TO PRESCRIBE THE TERMS OF SUCH TRANSFER

Chairman Wright asked the Attorney to summarize the ordinances, and then for Council to vote. County Attorney LaKesha Jeffries explained she and Howard Jackson, Director of Voter Registration and Election Commission Board, have begun the process of reviewing the ordinances dealing with the Board. Part of the process involves looking at the ordinances transferring authority to the Board of Voter Registration and an ordinance accepting the transfer. To prevent the

process being duplicated the process has been streamlined so all ordinances mirror each other. The exception is the City of Orangeburg; they have retained certain of their authority the other municipalities have not retained. The process is part of what is required. Council is not being asked to take any action other than reviewing the ordinance and seeing that the transfers are proper.

Chairman Wright called for questions of the Attorney, if any. Councilman Owens asked if all elections would take place on a certain date? Ms. Jeffries stated the ordinances do not address the time, only what authority the County Board would take over, i.e., training the poll workers, posting notices, etc. The ordinances do not deal with time as much as it deals authority. The towns would still conduct their own elections, counting votes and certifying election results. Most municipalities will retain their municipal election commission as well. All of the authority will not be transferred to the County in most instances.

Councilman Wimberly asked if there would be additional charges on the County. Ms. Jeffries stated there would be no additional charges. Chairman Wright stated the ordinances state the towns will pay. Ms. Jeffries stated the towns will reimburse the County for publishing costs, notices cost; all of this will come back from the municipalities to the County. It is set out in most of the municipalities ordinances and also in the County's ordinance that would accept the transfer.

Councilman Ravenell stated in the past towns have been using mostly local people. Will the County send out people from Voter Registration to conduct the election or will the towns do this? Ms. Jeffries stated this is along the lines of an administrative process that Mr. Jackson's group will address with each municipality; this is not something that is spoken directly to in the ordinances because it is a little more specific, and gets into the administrative day to day processes.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked about the towns that will come aboard later. Ms. Jeffries stated the intent of the process is not to bombard County with the entire 17 municipalities, but to take it in blocks and groups as they review the process. Ms. Jeffries stated the Town of Branchville will continue to conduct it's own elections and the City of Orangeburg will continue more specific authority than other municipalities.

Councilwoman Cooper sought clarification regarding the City of Orangeburg. Ms. Jeffries stated the City of Orangeburg is transferring some authority; they have retained the authority to conduct bond referendums and certain other referendums; they have been more specific in the authority they wish to retain as a municipality.

Motion made by Councilman Clyde Livingston that Council approve by first reading the ordinances for the towns of Bowman, Holly Hill, Neeses, Vance, City of Orangeburg and Woodford. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.

8. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE REPORT – CHAIRMAN WRIGHT

Chairman Wright reported the Committee met and started reviewing the Personnel Handbook and will continue the process as a Committee meeting at the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – COUNCILMAN RAVENELL, CHAIRMAN

Councilman Ravenell stated the Committee met to discuss the request to abandon maintenance on Blaze Road, and it is their recommendation to approve the request.

Motion by Councilman Ravenell, seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston, to recommend the County, at the request of Mr. Wayne Axson, abandon maintenance on Blaze Road(OC2287). Motion passed unanimously.

9. PERSONAL APPEARANCES –

LOVELL BROTHERS, ORANGEBURG COUNTY COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER 4th QUARTERLY RECIPIENTS 2010: OCTOBER/PATRIOTISM; HOWARD JACKSON, NOVEMBER/COURAGE; LYNNE JONES; DECEMBER/FAIRNESS: JACQUELINE P. TURNER

Ms. Brothers recognized the three employees who were being honored for the 4th quarter of 2010, requesting Chairman Wright and Vice Chairman Cooper assist in bestowing the medallions and certificates.

GLENDAL LEWIS – ORANGEBURG COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION


Ms. Hughes explained the District wanted to share the award with Council and the citizens of Orangeburg because of their support in helping the District offer the

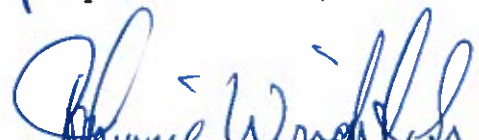
educational programs, distribute helpful information to the community and encourage everyone to preserve our natural resources. The award, a water pump, is a symbol of the most important natural resource, and will remain on display in the District office for one year, after which they will receive a permanent plaque demonstrating the cooperation of government in Orangeburg County.

10. Motion to adjourn for an executive session by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Owens to meet with Probate Judge Glover on a personnel issue, receive a legal briefing on a potential claim against the Law Enforcement Commission, and review an audit of the Sheriff's Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for adjournment made by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.


Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk


Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman