

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL**

March 16, 2015

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.
Janie Cooper-Smith, Vice Chairman
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Clyde Livingston**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Harold M. Young, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Angel Howell, Interim Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 17, 2015

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Owens made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion carried. (7-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Dr. Helen Frasier congratulated Councilwoman Cooper-Smith on an award she received from Lower Savannah Council on Governments. She stated that she was asked to assist the Edisto Drive Community Senior Citizens Project, noting that she writes grants. She continued to state the importance of building this center, and stated that she has written a letter to Chairman Wright.

1. PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO VICE CHAIRWOMAN JANIE COOPER-SMITH BY LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Linda Bashmen introduced herself as she stood before County Council. She read the nomination that won the award for Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. After a round of applause, Councilwoman Cooper-Smith thanked Mrs. Bashman and Mrs. Connie Shade for the award. She also recognized Councilmen Clyde Livingston, Harry Wimberly, and Johnny Ravenell as members of the Board for Lower Savannah Council of Governments. She expressed her gratitude once again for the award. Chairman Wright congratulated Councilwoman Cooper-Smith before recognizing Lower Savannah Council of Governments and Hospital Board members. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith's children and grandchildren were asked to stand and be recognized. Councilman Owens announced the retirement of Connie Shade and council members thanked her for her service.

2. ORDINANCE THIRD READING

THE LOWER SANVANNAH LOCAL WORKFORCE AREA DESIGNATION ORDINANCE

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for a brief summary. Mr. Young stated that on July 22, 2014, the new federal workforce legislation was signed into law superseding all rules. Mr. Young stated that this new legislation, known as the workforce innovation and opportunity act, mandates that a local area designation process be implemented in accordance with the new legislation. This local area workforce designation confirms the geographic boundaries of a given workforce area that's designated by political subgroups in that area as confirmed by the government.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith made a motion to pass the ordinance for third and final reading, seconded by Councilman Wimberly. Motion Carried. (7-0)

3. ORDINANCES SECOND READING

ORDINANCES ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

A) CORDOVA

B) ELLOREE

C) EUTAWVILLE

D) NORTH

E) ROWESVILLE

F) SPRINGFIELD

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for a brief summary. Mr. Young stated that South Carolina Code 5-15-145, provides that governing bodies of municipalities and counties must agree to the terms of transfer of ordinances that embodies the towns of voting, posting, and handling elections, noting that these municipalities have agreed to transfer their authority from the towns to the county to handle their elections. Chairman Wright asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilman Heyward Livingston to pass second reading of the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried. (7-0)

4. ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A RATE SCHEDULE FOR USERS LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY WATER SYSTEM: (1) COUNTY PHASE I AND (2) TOWN OF VANCE

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young to give a brief summary. Mr. Young stated this is an ordinance to help the County, in conjunction with USDA, follow the terms of the agreement in which was used to get the funding to provide water. This agreement calls for a rate schedule that has to be approved by USDA for the Town of Vance and the County Phase One portion of the water projects that were enacted this past year. Chairman Wright opened the floor for public hearing. No comments were made.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilman Ravenell to approve second reading of the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Owens Motion carried. (7-0)

5. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY FROM THE COUNTY OF ORANGEBURG TO THE TOWN OF BOWMAN

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for a brief explanation. Mr. Young stated that this is a process where Orangeburg County was awarded a grant in loan combination on behalf of the Town of Bowman to upgrade and extend their public water system. As a part of that, and a condition of the loan grant agreement, the managing utility of the Town of Bowman must have ownership of the real property where the elevated

storage tank is located causing Orangeburg County to deed the property over to the Town of Bowman where the water tank is standing.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilman Ravenell to pass second reading on the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston. Motion carried. (7-0)

6. ORDINANCE FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO TAKE ANY AND ALL APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION TO OBTAIN REAL PROPERTY RIGHTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE MEYERS ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for a brief summary. Mr. Young stated that the Myers sidewalk project is on the Capital Project Sales Tax and has been worked on for some time, noting that outstanding easements are the barrier to completion. Mr. Young stated that the only way this project can move forward is if the County exercises the right to get the easements necessary to complete the project. Mr. Young stated that the community association requested that the project moves forward. Councilman Wimberly asked for a physical location of Myers Road, and Mr. Young advised him.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilman Owens to pass first reading by title only for the Myers Road Sidewalk Project, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Motion carried. (7-0)

7. ORDINANCE FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY

AN ORDINANCE SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY TO ORANGEBURG COUNTY SECURING A SPECULATIVE BUILDING LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 75,000 SQUARE FOOT SPECULATIVE BUILDING; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY OR RELATED TO THE SECURING AND CLOSING OF THE LOAN

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young to give a brief summary. Mr. Young stated that the County of Orangeburg has agreed to build a spec building in the Matthews Industrial Park. Part of this process is receiving funds from the public service authority.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilman Owens to pass first reading by title only, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion carried. (7-0)

8. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT BBU PROPERTY PROVIDING FOR A PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES, THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young to give a brief summary. Mr. Young stated that this a fee in lieu agreement that is allowed by statue for a business location. Mr. Young yielded the floor to the attorney for economic development, Jarred Anderson. Mr. Anderson stated that this fee in lieu is straight forward and within the boundaries of the city. Councilman Clyde Livingston asked if the County would approve the ordinance before the City does and Mr. Anderson answered that the County will approve the ordinance first, and the City will follow suit.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilman Heyward Livingston to pass first reading, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried. (7-0)

9. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EXISTING AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ENLARGE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARK TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE HEREAFTER OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT BBU, LOCATED IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Chairman Wright stated that this relates to item #8 and yielded the floor to the attorney for economic development, Mr. Jarred Anderson. Mr. Anderson stated that in order for the County to have distribution authority, this amendment must be made.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith to pass first reading, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion carried. (7-0)

Councilman Wimberly informed citizens of Orangeburg County that March 18, 2015 is National Agricultural Day. Councilman Ravenell asked about the SigmaTex building and asked Gregg Robinson of the Orangeburg County Development Commission to make a statement regarding that project. Mr. Robinson stated that mobilization of the site and construction is on site, noting that it is moving forward. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith stated that council members have received alert letters from the South Carolina Association of Counties concerning local government funding. She stated that Orangeburg County is responsible for housing many state offices inside the County, adding that the

County was originally given money to supplement this responsibility, but funds have been significantly cut and if this continues, taxes will continue to increase. She encouraged citizens to speak with representatives and voice their opinions so that taxes do not have to increase, Councilman Owens asked the citizens of Orangeburg County to make the County a litter free county, noting the atrocity of Myers Road. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith stated that litter is monitored, noting the efforts of litter control and the law that combats litter. She stated that the amount of litter can be reduced and those who litter, will spend time picking up litter. Councilman Owens stated that if every community is litter free, this improves the County. County Administrator recognized his former teacher Mrs. Haley and stated that public education is valuable.

10. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion moved by Councilman Owens to go into executive session for employment matter discussion, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Motion Carried.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION


(1) EMPLOYMENT MATTER

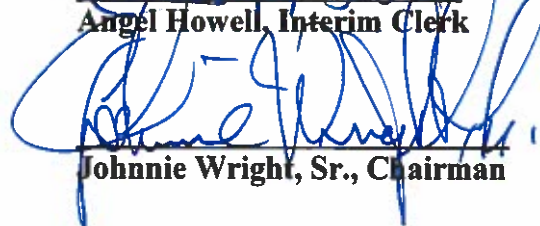
12. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Motion moved by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith and seconded by Councilman Ravenell to adjourn.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.


Angel Howell, Interim Clerk


Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman