

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
August 17th, 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.
Harry Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Janie Cooper-Smith
Clyde Livingston**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Harold Young, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Faith E Carter, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr. Chairman

On the 17th day of August, 2015, Chairman Wright called to order a regular session of the Orangeburg County Council at 5:34 pm.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 6, 2015

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council held on the 6th day of July, 2015 as written. Councilman Owens motioned to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:**OTHER MATTERS**

Jeanette Jefferies was recognized by Chairman Wright. Ms. Jefferies took the podium and thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Jefferies advised that she is a concerned citizen who formerly resided on Edisto Drive and she utilizes the Senior Center located there. Ms. Jefferies advised that a young man formerly addressed Council about the Pit Shop Pub and the problems which occur there. Ms. Jefferies advised that this young man was afraid for his children. Ms. Jefferies advised that she believes a meeting occurred between the County Administrator, Harold Young and the Orangeburg County Sheriff, Leroy Ravenell. Ms. Jefferies advised that the violence is continuing to occur. Ms. Jefferies asked the Council to review the Sheriff's Department records on the Pit Shop Pub. Ms. Jefferies implored the Council to act before another tragedy occurs. Ms. Jefferies advised that she has previously shut down two other bars without assistance. Ms. Jefferies advised that she would like the community to think about where bars are opening. Ms. Jefferies stated she is not saying that bars cannot do business only that they should do it in a place where violence is not affecting the citizens of the county. Ms. Jefferies advised that the community needs to protect its children. Ms. Jefferies thanked the Council for listening to her.

Chairman Wright thanked Ms. Jefferies for her comments.

Mr. Jonathan Gore was recognized by Chairman Wright. Mr. Gore advised that he was before Council to speak about the Pit Stop Pub. Mr. Gore advised that he previously visited the Council to discuss this issue. Mr. Gore advised that the violence at the Pit Stop Pub usually occurs between 2:00 am and 4:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Gore advised that County Administrator, Harold Young did an excellent job being a liaison between himself and Sheriff Ravenell. Mr. Gore advised that five separate incidents of multiple gunfire have occurred between the June meeting of the Council and this weekend when a young man was killed. Mr. Gore advised that he understands that there are logistical issues with the Sheriff's Department and how they are dispersed throughout a very large county. Mr. Gore advised that since the June meeting the response times from the Sheriff's Office have been better and the empathy from the officers themselves have improved but the bottom line is that there are just not enough officers to cover that area. Mr. Gore advised that by the time the Sheriff's Office responds evidence has been collected from the scene. Mr. Gore advised that on Thursday, August 13th, 2015 Mr. Gore had a meeting with Sheriff Ravenell where he shared some steps that the Office was taking to get the club shutdown. Mr. Gore advised that there is a mathematical certainty that someone will die if we do not do something about what is occurring at the pub and less than 16 hours later a young man was dead. Mr. Gore advised that Public Safety was the first law enforcement agency on scene and that was not due to apathy on the part of the Sheriff's Office; the deputies were just further away on Hwy 301. Mr. Gore advised that the Sheriff's Office response times are not adequate to respond to the violence that is quickly breaking out. Mr. Gore advised that his young son, on his way to his back to school, haircut had to walk outside to a dead body lying in the parking lot. Mr. Gore advised that the pub

was open for business the day after a young man died in their parking lot the night before. Mr. Gore advised that the staff and owners say that they are going to close at 2:00 am but when the young man died at 4:30 am the music was on, the pub was open, and there was a food truck in the parking lot. Mr. Gore advised that the ability of the government and the police force to protect its citizens is a direct reflection of how well that government is being run. Mr. Gore advised that if the Council and the Sheriff all agree that the establishment should be closed he does not understand why the establishment is still open. Mr. Gore advised that we should all look within ourselves as to why are we allowing this violence to occur in an area, a part of Edisto Dr. that is not known or prone to this behavior, --- during these specific times, on these specific days of the week that we cannot logistically protect the citizens of that neighborhood. Mr. Gore advised that this is a sad state of affairs. Mr. Gore advised that he believes in the community of Orangeburg County and that as a community we can certainly do better.

Chairman Wright asked what the legal process for closing the pub would entail. County Administrator, Harold Young advised that the pub does have certain due process rights but the Sheriff has been actively working to resolve that situation. Administrator Young advised that the licenses that allow the business to operate come from the state and not the county.

Mr. Gore advised that he does respect the businesses due process rights but he advised that it sounds like the business has more of a right as a haven for havoc in our neighborhood than we have a right to live there in peace.

Chairman Wright advised that the Council will do what they can do but the Council cannot just revoke a business license. Chairman Wright advised that people are rightfully frustrated with the situation.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly asked that the County Administrator and the Chairman meet with Sheriff Ravenell to discuss what options the Council has in order to remedy this situation whether the Council could pass specific ordinances, etc.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that there was another problem on the North Road where a group of citizens had the same complaint except no one had been killed. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that it was the noise from the crowds and parking that the citizens were tedious with along with it being in the vicinity of some churches.

Administrator Young advised that the County utilized building and zoning codes in order to close those clubs down. Administrator Young advised that they were not closed because of violence or crime. Administrator Young advised that the County is working on

additional ordinances that would give the Sheriff's Office more teeth in dealing with these issues.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked if it was possible to put language in the zoning codes that business establishments who are deemed to be a nuisance could be closed by the County. Administrator Young advised that he would need to conduct further research to be able to answer that specific question, however the County is working on updating the language in the ordinances at this time. Councilman Owens advised that he contacted the Sheriff's Office this date in an attempt to speak with Sheriff Ravenell on this issue. Councilman Owens advised that he was unable to reach him today.

Mr. Gore advised that as the politics and legalities of the situation are confronted the community needs relief. Councilman Owens advised that politics is not what is keeping this issue open.

Mr. Gore asked about expediency and safety for the community in that area. The citizens need assurances from the governing body of the County that the community could be assigned a police officer stationed at that location. Mr. Gore advised that the Sheriff was very detailed about how thin they are stretched. Mr. Gore advised that they are a small community but the community is primarily composed of young children and elderly citizens. Mr. Gore advised that it is surreal to feel like you live in a war zone on Friday and Saturday night. Mr. Gore advised that they are getting a lot of lip service from a lot of politicians because you do not have to live there or live with that fear. Mr. Gore advised that if some of the Council did have to experience that fear then the issue would be moving forward a whole lot faster. Mr. Gore advised that he does not intend to sound curt or obtuse but he is asking for understanding about the level of frustration that the citizens are experiencing at this point since they have been asking for assistance and the worst "I told you so", happens. Mr. Gore thanked the Council for their time and assistance in this matter.

Chairman Wright recognized Vice-Chairman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked Administrator Harold Young if additional patrol could be added to the neighborhood. Administrator Young advised that one thing the Sheriff's Office has done is to initiate mutual aid protocols with the City of Orangeburg in order to improve response times. Administrator Young advised that this situation is a priority.

Andrew Rutland was recognized by Chairman Wright. Mr. Rutland took the podium and advised that his mother has been a resident in the area of the Pit Stop Pub for 54 years and she is 83 years old. Mr. Rutland advised that two weeks ago his mother contact him to advise that someone who appeared to be intoxicated had passed out on her porch. Mr. Rutland advised that last week there was stabbing and the telephone line had been shot through. Mr. Rutland advised that the telephone company told him that the line was served in proximity to the Pit Stop Pub. Mr. Rutland advised that the Council should take responsibility and shutdown the Pub. Mr. Rutland advised that his mother has lived with

gun shots, drunks in her yard, and last week on August 1, 2015 when the Sheriff's Office was contacted it took them thirty minutes to respond at 8:30 am. Mr. Rutland advised that something needs to be done before someone else is killed.

Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Rutland for his comments. Chairman Wright asked for any additional public comment. No additional comments.

Chairman Wright thanked the group for their comments and the Council would take their information under advisement. Chairman Wright advised that Orangeburg County is a very large rural county with unique challenges.

Chairman Wright closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

1. PRESENTATION FROM THE COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER PACK

Chairman Wright recognized Ms. Lovell Brothers, Chairman of the Community of Character Pack. Ms. Brothers advised that on behalf of the Community of Character Pack that their thoughts and prayers are with the Edisto Drive Community and their families. Ms. Brothers advised that it touched her heart listening to the previous stories and that prayer is something that can heal. Ms. Brothers advised that she is certain that the Council feels the same way.

Ms. Brothers advised that the PACK has not been to Council since last year. Ms. Brothers advised that the PACK has had a wonderful year. Ms. Brother acknowledged Chairman Wright, the Council, County Administrator Harold Young, other elected officials, and the citizens of Orangeburg County.

Ms. Brothers presented folders to the County Council that included the history of the Community of Character, a nomination form, and information about the recent Back to School Bash. Ms. Brothers advised that the PACK has sixteen active members and two of their newest members are Ms. Ruby Sanders (Administration) and Ms. Tonya Tyler (Detention Center). Ms. Brothers advised that the PACK has received 88 nominations and 23 of those were from the County.

Ms. Brother recognized the committee that put together the Community of Character Board in the Administration Center. The Chairperson of that committee is Ms. Deloris Wilson and committee members include Angel Howell and Stephanie McKune-Grant. Ms. Brothers thanked Mr. Richard Hall for his involvement in that project. Ms. Brothers advised that Mr. Hall is not a PACK member but a dedicated county employee.

Ms. Brothers advised that the PACK began in the Prince of Orange Mall with the Community Board. Ms. Brothers advised that she would like to give credit to Odell Waddell, Earline Robinson, and Aurora Smalls. They were the first committee to work on the board.

Ms. Brothers asked Chairman Wright and Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith to come to the front to present the certificates and medallions to the winners.

Ms. Brothers and Ms. Aurora Smalls presented the following individuals with their Community of Character – Character Employee Certificates:

- A) January 2015 – Trustworthy – Barbara Weaver, Holly Hill Library**
- B) February 2015 – Honor – Delphine Woodridge, Voter Registration and Election Commission, Ms. Woodridge also won the countywide Citizen of the Month Award**
- C) March 2015 – Respect – Freddie Byrd and Timothy Seagrave, Buildings and Grounds, Public Works Department**
- D) April 2015 – Obedience – Joyce Davis, Delinquent Tax Office. Ms. Davis also won the Citizen of the Month Award**
- E) May 2015 – Fairness – Sherry Grubbs and Marie Williams, Finance Department**
- F) June 2015 – Caring – Ophelia Ketcherside, Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department**

Ms. Brothers thanked the PACK Back to School Committee (applause). Ms. Brothers advised that the attendance was excellence and the Committee did an excellent job. Ms. Brothers thanked County Administrator, Harold Young for his support of the Back to School.

Chairman Wright congratulated all the winners and thanked the Community of Character PACK for all their hard work and effort.

2. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM DR. TOBIN OF ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Chairman Wright recognized Dr. Tobin. Dr. Tobin took the podium and congratulated the winners of the Community of Character PACK. Dr. Tobin advised that he brings the Council good news from the college. Dr. Tobin thanked Chairman Wright for his support of the college. Dr. Tobin advised that GKN and Sigmatex began training on the OC Tech Campus today. Sigmatex has begun training for the first ten new hires. GKN started their class last week with approximately 130 employees participating. The college held graduations in May and July with a 91% placement rate. Dr. Tobin advised 9 out of 10 graduates place in their area of study upon graduation. Dr. Tobin advised that the college has recently been certified by the American College of Welding which is a program that allows the students to be tested and certified through AWS but it also allows local industries to test and certify their employees. Dr. Tobin advised that OC Tech is one of three technical colleges in South Carolina to earn that accreditation. Dr. Tobin advised that Health Science and Nursing programs have maintained a perfect pass rate for some time. Dr. Tobin advised that a review committee approved the Health Science and Nursing

building. They have been approved the securing of an architect and the production of drawings for that project. Dr. Tobin advised that the Capital Penny Sales Tax has supported this project through the County and the institution hopes to begin construction in 2016. Dr. Tobin advised that OC Tech has entered into an agreement with Orangeburg County District 5 to allow North Middle High School to become an early college high school which allows students to fast track through High School. Dr. Tobin advised that once students reach 24 credits they can begin college level work. Dr. Tobin advised that the purpose of the program is to allow students to walk away with some form of college credential that would transfer to a four-year institution.

Dr. Tobin advised that the Council should have received an invitation from the college for the Apprenticeship Summit this coming Friday. Dr. Tobin advised that as job are advised people are making decisions about whether to go to school or to work. Dr. Tobin advised that 9 times out of 10 people are going to work. Dr. Tobin advised that the college's job is to figure out a way that allows students to do both at the same time. Dr. Tobin advised that the adult apprenticeship program is focused on adults and the youth apprenticeship program is focused on sixteen year old students who are enrolled in school. Dr. Tobin advised that there is a wage progression as they learn. Dr. Tobin advised that the purpose of the summit is to create awareness about apprenticeships.

Dr. Tobin advised that the college is involved in the accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Tobin advised that the Association is scheduled to visit on October 21st and 22nd. Dr. Tobin advised that the college is required to have a Quality Improvement Plan which is an initiative that is designed to improve outcomes for student. The focus for the college is workforce readiness skills or soft skills; the character traits that were discussed earlier. Dr. Tobin advised that the goal is to provide the students with those character traits that prepare them for the workforce.

Dr. Tobin advised that class will begin next Monday and the faculty started today. Dr. Tobin advised that they are excited to begin the academic year. Dr. Tobin asked the Council for any questions.

Chairman Wright asked for questions. No questions. Chairman Wright thanked Dr. Tobin for attending the meeting and sharing with the Council. Chairman Wright advised that it is important for the community to understand how important the work of the college is to the community.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that she was happy to hear that the college has instituted the new welding certification program. Dr. Tobin advised that welding is one of the fastest growing

occupations in the country with good wages. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith commended Dr. Tobin for the work he is doing at the college.

Chairman Wright closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF COPE FROM THE COPE 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 County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that the Town of Cope adopted a resolution to transfer their authority to conduct elections to the county Voter Registration and Elections Commissions in conjunction with town's elections commission. This ordinance brings the Town of Cope in line with most of the other towns in the county.

Chairman Wright advised that the Council has heard the explanation of the ordinance. Councilman Harry Wimberly motioned that agenda items three and four (3 & 4) be included in the same vote and that both agenda items three and four (3 & 4) be approved. Motion was seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

4. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

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

Chairman Wright advised that the Council has heard the explanation of the ordinance. Councilman Harry Wimberly motioned that agenda items three and four (3 & 4) be included in the same vote and that both agenda items three and four (3 & 4) be approved. Motion was seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

5. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF UNINCORPORATED ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION FOR THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS TMS # 0199-00-03-011.000 FROM FA (FOREST AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT) TO RC (RURAL COMMUNITY DISTRICT); AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that the property in question is located off of Classic Road. Administrator Young advised that the Planning Commission met on June 17th, 2015 and approved a zoning change on TMS# 0199-00-03-011.000 from FA to RC.

Chairman advised that the Council has heard the explanation of the ordinance. Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve agenda item number five (5) in second reading. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that agenda item number five (5) be approved in second reading. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

6. ORDINANCE SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF UNINCORPORATED ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION FOR THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS TMS # 0324-10-01-011.00 FROM RS (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT) TO RC (RURAL COMMUNITY DISTRICT); AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve agenda item number six (6) in second reading. Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number six (6) be approved in second reading. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

7. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND FLS ENERGY, INC.; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES RELATED TO THE PROJECT

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to table agenda item number seven (7). Councilman Owens motioned that agenda item number seven (7) be tabled. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

8. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE AND SALE BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND PIEDMONT COMPANIES, INC. PERTAINING TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ORANGEBURG COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE LEASE AND SUBSEQUENT SALE OF SUCH REAL PROPERTY BY THE COUNTY TO PIEDMONT COMPANIES, INC.; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from the County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that this ordinance is in reference to a property that is being developed for economic development purposes within the Matthews Industrial Park. Administrator Young yielded to the Attorney for Economic Development, Deputy County Attorney Jerrod Anderson. Attorney Anderson advised the Council that what is before Council is a lease agreement and contract for sale with the developer of the Sigmatex's building. Attorney Anderson advised that it is an arrangement that satisfies the requirements from Santee-Cooper and the contract/lease agreement are all standard agreements.

Chairman Wright advised that the Council had heard the explanation of the Administrator and Deputy County Attorney. Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve agenda item number eight (8). Councilman Ravenell motioned that agenda item number eight (8) be approved in first reading. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

9. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE AND ACQUISITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY;

AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PRESCRIBE THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING OF THE EQUIPMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that this ordinance will provide the financing for the purchase of vehicles that were approved as part of the budget in the debt-service fund to provide public safety vehicles and other vehicles within the public safety arena for the County.

Chairman Wright asked for questions from the Council. No questions. Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve agenda item number nine (9). Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that agenda item number nine (9) be approved in first reading. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

10. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY") AND A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT RELIABILITY, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (THE "COMPANY"), PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (COLLECTIVELY, THE "PROJECT")

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator, Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young yielded to the Attorney for Economic Development, Deputy County Attorney Jerrod Anderson. Attorney Anderson advised that agenda item number nine is an inducement resolution with a prospect who wishes to remain anonymous at this time. There is a promise of 12 new jobs, a minimum investment of \$15 million, and the company has been working in the community for over 20 years. The client also desires to place the industry in a Multiple County Industrial Park.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens asked if the prospect was involved in an existing industry in Orangeburg. Attorney Anderson advised that this was correct. Councilman Owens asked for clarification on the amount of investment. Attorney Anderson advised a minimum of \$15 million.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that agenda item number ten (10) be approved. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

11. COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Wright yielded to the Chairman of the Public Works Committee, Councilman Johnny Ravenell. Chairman Ravenell advised that the Public Works Committee met on August 17th, 2015 at 4:00 pm. Chairman Ravenell advised that the committee met and discussed an irrigation system that was crossing a county road which may not be in the best interest of the citizens. Chairman Ravenell advised that the committee decided that the Councilman from that district, Councilman Ravenell, and the Public Works Department officials from the County would meet with the landowners in order to make the system safer for the public.

Chairman Ravenell motioned that the Council accept the recommendation of the committee in this matter. Motioned was seconded by Councilman Harry Wimberly, Public Works Committee Member. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

Chairman Ravenell advised that the committee received a request to abandon maintenance on a road listed as OC#3200. Chairman Ravenell advised that the Committee agrees with the request for abandoning maintenance on OC#3200 because the landowners have requested it.

Chairman Ravenell motioned that the Council accept the recommendation of the Committee and abandon maintenance on a road listed at OC#3200. Motioned was seconded by Councilman Harry Wimberly, Public Works Committee Member. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

Chairman Ravenell advised that the Committee received an update about a mandated change to the street signage within the County. Chairman Ravenell advised that by 2018 all street signage is required to be updated. Chairman Ravenell advised that the Committee recommends that the Public Works Department be allowed to take steps necessary in order to update and upgrade the street signage within the County in order to be in compliance by 2018.

Councilman Owens inquired about the need to update the street signage. Chairman Ravenell advised that the County has been mandated to do so in order that the signage is more reflective and promotes higher visibility to the citizens.

Councilman Owens motioned to accept the recommendation of the Committee and that the Public Works Department be allowed to take steps necessary in order to update and

upgrade the street signage within the County in order to be in compliance by 2018. Motioned was seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

12. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS 2014 REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT – GRANT NUMBER 4-RP-14-005

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator, Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that agenda item number twelve (12) is a regional planning grant that the County has applied for under the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. Administrator Young advised that planning grant funds are utilized to help with regional projects that include transportation, housing, and the comprehensive language plan. The regional planning grants require that one county be the lead county. The Lower Savannah Council of Governments selected Orangeburg County to be the lead county on this project which requires the County to sign off on the funds.

Chairman Wright asked for questions. Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Clyde Livingston. Councilman C. Livingston asked what region the grants will be utilized in. County Administrator, Harold Young advised that the grant is for the Lower Savannah region. Administrator Young advised that it includes projects such as bike and pedestrian trail studies throughout the region or transportation systems. Administrator Young advised that the County applies for a grant to pay the County share of these studies.

Chairman Wright asked for additional questions. No additional questions. Councilman Owens motioned that the Council approve agenda item number twelve (12). Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

13. PROCUREMENT

A) REQUEST TO PURCHASE A VEHICLE

Chairman Wright asked County Administrator, Harold Young for an explanation. Administrator Young advised that the County was awarded additional funds for a workforce development route for the Transit System. This route will provide transportation to and from work for the citizens by establishing routes to the five largest industry clusters within the County. Administrator Young advised that the County was given an approved vendor list from the state and the FTA which have strict requirements on what vehicles need to have in terms of wheelchair access and accessibility concerns. Administrator Young advised that there were two vendors close to the County; one in Columbia and one in Charlotte. The vendor in Columbia did not have a vehicle available that met the FTA specifications without special ordering. The vendor in North Carolina had a vehicle in stock that passed the FTA specifications and was approved. Administrator

Young advised that vehicle being considered has been approved by the FTA to be purchased with FTA funds and be utilized in the transit system.

Chairman Wright asked for questions. Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly asked if grant funds would be utilized to purchase the vehicle. Administrator Young advised that the FTA has strict requirements on wheelchair ramps, lifts, and clearances. Assistant Public Works Director Henry Summers made a site visit to ensure that this vehicle met those requirements.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on agenda item number thirteen (13). Councilman Owens moved to approve the purchase of the vehicle under consideration. Councilman Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

14. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright asked for a motion. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith motioned that the Orangeburg County Council move into Executive Session to discuss agenda items 15A, 15B, 15C, and 15D. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A) DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(a)(2) CONCERNING CPST IV.
- B) LEGAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(a)(1) RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING PENDING LAWSUIT : Raven Walker v. Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office, 2014-CP-38-1362
- C) LEGAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(a)(1) RELATED TO A POTENTIAL CLAIM REGARDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND.
- D) DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(a)(2) CONCERNING TIPPING FEES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY

Councilman's Comments:

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Johnny Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell commended the Lower Savannah Council of Governments for helping to secure needed funding for the intersection at Five Chop Rd and Hwy 276 for safety reasons. Councilman Ravenell advised that he was informed that the state DOT and federal government did not have the funds necessary to complete this project so by Lower Savannah stepping up to the plate the funding was secured to make changes at that intersection. Councilman Ravenell advised that he runs a towing service and in a given month he would work three to four accidents at this intersection. Councilman Ravenell stated that he applauds Orangeburg County for working diligently on this project. Councilman Ravenell thanked his peers on the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, the Orangeburg County Council, and the citizens they serve.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Wimberly. Councilman Wimberly advised that Orangeburg County received an honorable mention for the Orangeburg County Broadband Project at the Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties this July. Councilman Wimberly advised that Barnwell County won the overall award, however Orangeburg County won in their division.

Chairman Wright recognized County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that Orangeburg County has placed with this award 12 out of the last 14 years that it has been held with the Association of Counties and Orangeburg County has won the overall award twice.

Chairman Wright stated that this deserves a hand. (Applause). Chairman Wright advised that winning the award is a big deal and there are many counties who do not even apply. Chairman Wright advised that Orangeburg County has always put forth a project and he applauds the Administrator and Staff for working diligently on those projects.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith commended the County Administrator, Harold Young for all of his hard work and dedication. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised that Administrator Young and Mr. Metts did an outstanding job with the presentation at the conference.

Chairman Wright recognized County Administrator, Harold Young. Administrator Young thanked all the staff who participated in the project and stated that the staff makes the difference in making the County better.

Administrator Young advised that the Community of Character PACK did an excellent job with the Back to School Bash. Administrator Young advised that the Department Heads contributed to the Back to School Bash and the county employees who signed up left with book bags that were stuffed full of supplies for school. The Back to School Bash was done with donations from the Department Heads and employees. Administrator Young advised the employees who received were appreciative and happy with the event.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith thanked the Clerk for keeping the Council up to date at the Conference.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens advised that public the Council does not take the incidents that have occurred at the Pit Stop Pub lightly. Councilman Owens advised that it is important that something be done and the Council

will be pushing for relief. Councilman Owens advised that he would not like to live in a community like that and he would not wish that on everyone.

Chairman Wright recognized County Administrator, Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that ownership has a responsibility as well; for the owners to reopen for business after the death of a young man speaks to the mindset of the owners.

16. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

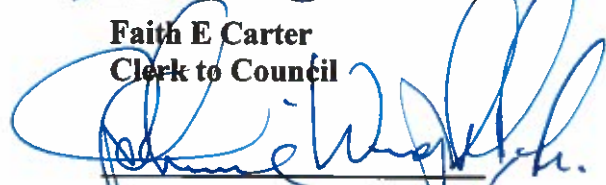
Chairman Wright asked for a motion that the Orangeburg County Council stand adjourned. Councilman Owens motioned that the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council of August 17th, 2015 be adjourned. Councilman Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

Chairman Wright thanked the public for attending.

17. ADJOURNMENT



Faith E Carter
Clerk to Council



Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman, County Council