



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
February 20, 2018
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.**
- Johnny Ravenell**
- Harry F. Wimberly**
- Ray W. Sabalis**
- Heyward H. Livingston**
- Willie B. Owens**
- Janie Cooper-Smith**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Harold M. Young, County Administrator**
- D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney**
- Connie N. Portee, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr. Chairman

On the 20th day of February 2018, Chairman Wright called to order a regular session meeting of the Orangeburg County Council at 5:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 05, 2018 (RS)

Chairman Wright asked for a motion on the minutes of the Orangeburg County Council on the above dates be approved as written. Vice-Chairwoman Janie Cooper-Smith made the motion. Councilman Willie Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

Chairman Wright advised the citizens of the purpose of public comments agenda items and public comments of other matters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Harvey Elwood, Jr. with New Perspectives Media came before Council to express his concern about I-26 not having any signs to indicate there are restaurants and hotels off of exit 145.

Dexter Clark came before Council to express his concerns about the local hotels in Orangeburg County off of I-26 not having complementary newspapers for traveling visitors so they would know what is going on in Orangeburg County and with the expansions and growth that will be coming off of I-26 the County should consider this.

Miss Orangeburg County Cadra Salley came before Council to express her interest in running for Miss South Carolina and her platform to make people more aware of Human Trafficking not only in Orangeburg but everywhere.

Miss Orangeburg County Teen Zaria Sumpter came before Council to express her interest in running for Miss South Carolina Teen and her platform is to focus on fighting pancreatic cancer and it is inspired by her grandfather who died from pancreatic cancer.

Chairman Wright closed public comments of other matters at 5:48 p.m. and went into the regular agenda.

1. PRESENTATION FROM MELINDA JACKSON PRESIDENT, ORANGEBURG COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chairman Wright recognized Melinda Jackson President of Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce. Melinda Jackson along with Whitney Thomas presented to Council a workforce initiative packet. What the chamber has come with is a Soft Skills training program. The program would give high school students soft skills training. They are already at Edisto High School in the 12th grade, 9th grade, and 10th grade class rooms. 12th grade is like a boot camp it is a three week course that training them on the different soft skills in the packet. There will be 17 seniors who will have paid internships with participating companies like Allied Air, Country Club of Orangeburg, Chamber of Commerce, and Jimmy Jones Toyota. With the 9th and 10th graders they meet with them 1hour a 3 times a week working on the same soft skills and they will have the same opportunity as the seniors when they turn 16 years of age. This training can be modified to fit any age group.

Vice-Chairwoman Janie Cooper-Smith asked Ms. Jackson was she familiar with Lower Savannah Council of Government because Dr. William Molnar the director of Lower Savannah Council of Government was in attendance.

Melinda Jackson advised yes and the chamber works with them and would like to enhance what they are already doing. The chamber is not trying to take anything away from anyone, if they are not able to get into the high schools they came. This is just another effort to try to streamline.

Councilman Willie Owens advised he would like to commend Economic Development and The Chamber of Commerce for working together this is an excellent idea now we can maximize our resources once they start working together. Two individuals spoke and they had some excellent ideas in terms on what we can do to maximize the taxes we have in Orangeburg County. He hope Ms. Jackson could be a part of making this become into fruition and thanked her for all she do for Orangeburg County.

2. ORDINANCE THIRD READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENT, BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT EAGLE, AS SPONSOR, AND ONE OR MORE SPONSOR AFFILIATES TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE AND CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS FOR THE BENEFIT OF A SOLAR FARM PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED 1,000 ACRES AND FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED THE LEASE TERM OF THE PROJECT'S LEASE AGREEMENT(S), WHICH ARE ANTICIPATED TO BE THIRTY (30) YEARS; (2) THE AMENDMENT OF 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 LOCATED IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA NOW OR TO BE HEREAFTER OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY PROJECT EAGLE, OR ONE OR MORE COMPANIES RELATED THERETO; AND (3) OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Chairman Wright yielded to Attorney Haydel for a brief summary Attorney Haydel advised Project Eagle is construction of a solar farm southeast of the of Orangeburg. This project is before Council for public hearing and third reading. If Council passes the ordinance and agree with the agreement it would authorize the County to enter into agreements with a company that reflect the material terms from the executive summary you have as well as standard terms that go with economic incentives transactions. There has not been any changes between second and third reading. According to the Executive Summary, the company agrees to invest \$87.9 million in a solar farm in Orangeburg County in exchange for which the County will allow the company to access the following State-allowed economic development incentives: The company will pay a Fee (in-lieu-of-taxes) for 30 years using a millage rate fixed at the lowest in effect during the maximum statutory period and a fixed assessment ratio of 6%. The prospect will receive a special source revenue credit against the Fee for 30 years. (\$225,000 annualized fee for the entire project.) The project will be included in the Orangeburg-Dorchester Industrial Park. Director Robinson is in attendance and can help answer any questions during the public hearing. At this point, the matter is currently before Council for public hearing.

Chairman Wright open the floor for public hearing.

Lee Hendren of The Holly Hill Observer asked was the County ready to announce the name of the prospect at third reading in the consideration of the incentives?

Director Gregg Robinson advised they are currently coordinating it Department of Commerce will be release very soon.

Lee Hendren asked does this reflect a change in policy because he had been told until this point that the projects have been named at the public hearing so the public has an understanding of the name of the company.

Director Gregg Robinson advised yes and we are currently coordinating with our Department of Commerce and it will be release by the end of the week.

Chairman Wright asked, the Council if they had any questions?

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised in our guidelines the terms of the fee-in-lieu is supposed to reflect the contract that the Solar Farm has with the land owner this one is for thirty (30) years but he it also read or length of the contract. This is something we need to specify that it be the length of the contract in case the contract twenty-five (25) years and they renegotiate with the land owner then that fee-in-lieu should be renegotiate also at that point. So the SSRC (Special Source Revenue Credit) should follow the term of the lease agreement.

Director Gregg Robinson advised this does match up for thirty (30) years term of the contract with the land owner. He apologize for the confession but it is thirty 30 years for the fee-in-lieu and thirty (30) years for the term of the contract.

Chairman Wright entertained a motion to pass the ordinance for third and final reading. Councilman Harry Wimberly made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnny Ravenell. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

3. ORDINANCE SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE AND ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT TO BE USED BY ORANGEBURG COUNTY FIRE SERVICES; 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 yielded to Administrator Young to give a summary. Administrator Young advised for the record the Orangeburg County Fire Services is in need of purchasing a new aerial apparatus truck for the Fire District because of the rules and regulations that go along with the equipment that deals with fire and ISO ratings. The aerial truck we have in service is not accurateable for what the County needs do anymore so it has been recommended that we purchase a Pierce Manufacturing Aerial Truck in the amount of \$951,222.00.

Chairman Wright open the floor for public hearing. There were none.

Chairman Wright asked, the Council if they had any questions?

Councilman Johnny Ravenell asked what would happen to the old aerial truck.

Administrator Young yielded to the Director of Fire Service Chief Teddy Wolfe. Chief Teddy Wolfe advised it is an old steel aerial truck so there is some value in the medal. As far as it being use in the Fire Service anymore if anyone cares about the NFDA and OSHA standards they would not use it anymore.

Councilman Johnny Ravenell asked so it will be taken out of service completely.

Chief Teddy Wolfe advised yes sir.

Chairman Wright entertained a motion to pass the ordinance for second reading. Councilman Willie Owens made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harry Wimberly. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

4. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND AN ENTITY KNOWN FOR THE TIME BEING AS "PROJECT GLOBAL" WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT IN A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Chairman Wright yielded to Attorney Haydel for a brief summary Attorney Haydel advised Project Global is a company facility in Orangeburg County that manufacturing and distribute packaging. The material terms are in your executive summary at this time. The prospect has promised a minimum of investment over \$6,000,000.00 million dollars and a minimum of 124 new jobs in the expansion. The prospect will pay a fee-in-lieu of taxes each year for thirty (30) years using the fix millage rate at 6% as of June 30, 2017. Reach year for ten (10) years the company is going to be entitled to take a SSRC (Special Source Revenue Credit) of 35% out of the fee. The company wants to place this in the Orangeburg County & Dorchester County multi-county industrial park. At this point, the matter is before Council for first reading.

Chairman Wright entertained a motion to pass the ordinance for first reading. Councilman Johnny Ravenell made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Willie Owens. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

5. UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chairman Wright yielded to the Chairman of the Public Works Committee Chairman Councilman Johnny Ravenell to give an update. Councilman Ravenell advised that the Public Works Committee had three items on the agenda for recommendation to Council. The first recommendation was for procurement of milling asphalt and we ask the

Administrator to identify the funding to purchase the milling asphalt. The second recommendation was district one drainage improvements there are ditches that need to be clean out and the committee asked the Public Works department to go out to see if they can get the right-a-ways so the ditch can be cleaned out. The third discussion was about road maintenance we have identified some subdivision that have some problems the recommendation from the Public Works committee is for the Public Service Department would identify what it would cost to repair the roads in a particular subdivision.

6. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright read the item for executive session and entertained a motion. Vice-Chairwoman Janie Cooper-Smith made the motion. Councilwoman Ray Sabalis seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

S.C. CODE §30-4-70(A)(5) (DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY THE PUBLIC BODY)

- a. PROJECT RECYCLE
- b. PROJECT HALO
- c. PROJECT GLOBAL
- d. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
- e.

2) LEGAL BRIEFING. EXEMPTION §30-4-70(A)(2)(RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING CLAIM)

A. AMICK, BLAKE, ET AL V. THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; COUNTY OF ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA; SCOTT WOODLANDS, LLC; JIMMY L. BEHLING; ROGER LEE; CAROLYN LEE; JOSEPH M. REED; W. MILLER DAVIS FAMILY LIMITED PATNERSHIP; RUFUS T. BROWN, JR.; NAOMI WALKER-JOHNSON; HELEN STILL WILLIAMS; WILLIE C. WALKER; ROSA LEE BROWN; RUTH MCMICHAEL; ERNEST SUTTON; LARRY BLOOME; ANTHONY SMITH; LOUISE SMITH; KEVIN SMITH; MARK S. SHORTEN; LYNN S. EVANS A/K/A LYNN SCARBOROUGH; PHILIP L. INGLIS; MICHAEL H. INGLIS; DELCIE C. INGLIS; HEIRS AT LAW OR DEVISEES OF RALPH B. INGLIS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS ENTITLED TO CLAIM THROUGH HIM; ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, AND IF ANY OF THE SAME BE DECEASED, ANY AND ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO CLAIM UNDER OR THROUGH THEM, AND ALSO

ALL OTHER PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST OR LIEN UPON THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN; ANY UNKNOWN ADULTS BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS JOHN DOE, AND ANY UNKNOWN INFANTS OR PERSONS UNDER DISABILITY OR PERSONS IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS RICHARD ROE, IN RE: CLOSING ALL OF BABE DRIVE AND A PORTION OF NINETY-SIX ROAD FROM THE INTERSECTION OF HEBRON ROAD AND NINETY SIX ROAD, 2017-CP-38-000811

Chairman Wright asked for any comments from any council member before he asked for a vote to adjourn.

Councilman Johnny Ravenell advised he had an area in his district that were requesting some trash bags for litter pick up by the end of the month.

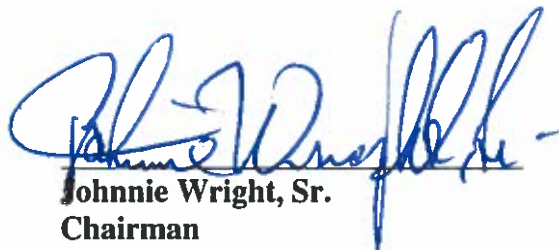
Councilman Willie Owens advised what will comment on may not be a local issue but it is an issue in America. Recently we have seen in the news where the incident happen in Florida. When the kindergarten kids were killed if the United State Congress did not do anything about that we never will since then we have had enormous of shootings in public schools systems but he believe the time has come when this must come to an end, he will personally stand with the kids in Florida and march on Washington with them to end the shootings in our schools and to stop the carrying of hand guns. He asked people who think sanely to respond to this kind of shooting in our public schools.

VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright entertained a motion for adjournment. Councilman Willie Owens motioned that the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council of February 20, 2018 stand adjourned. Councilwoman Ray Sabalis seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0-0).

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



**Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman
Orangeburg County Council**



**Connie N. Portee
Clerk to Council
Orangeburg County Council**