



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 4TH, 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
Clyde Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Janie Cooper-Smith**

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 4th day of May, 2015, Chairman Wright called to order a regular session of the Orangeburg County Council at 5:30 pm.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 20th, 2015

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular session of the Orangeburg County Council held on April 20th, 2015 as written. Councilman Owens motioned to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Motion carried. (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Ms. Delores Frasier took the podium and addressed the Council. Ms. Frazier stated she was speaking on behalf of the senior citizens of Edisto Drive. Ms. Frazier advised that on Tuesday, April 21st, 2015 a meeting was held at the John W. Stroman Citizen Senior building on Edisto Drive. Ms. Frazier described the meeting as being chaotic and hostile. Ms. Frazier advised that the members were given hand written financial statements by Mr. Ray, Chairman. Ms. Frazier advised that this statement was written during the course of the meeting. Ms. Frazier referred to the financial statement which recorded that Mr. Stroman received \$59.00 for the rental of county equipment described as tables and chairs. Ms. Frazier stated that "they" witnessed Mr. Stroman collecting cash money from a person (unnamed) during a fundraiser held on April 11th, 2015 for the rental of the tables and chairs. Mr. Stroman did not present receipts for the rental and the members were not advised that the furniture in the center was being rented by individuals. Ms. Frazier advised that this lack of transparency is harmful to the taxpayer. Ms. Frazier referenced a letter that she sent to Chairman Wright on January 27th, 2015 in regards to this subject and expressed that the center is still continuing to experience a lack of financial as well as operational transparency. Mr. Stroman and Mr. Ray continue to display disrespect when asked about the centers finances and refuse to share keys which limits access to the building. Ms. Frazier expressed that the following would be beneficial for the center:

1. A full audit of procurement procedures during the implementation and operation of the center for the past three years
2. Appointment of county personnel to advise the center in creating a transparent accounting system
3. Investigation into the use of public lands and facilities for personal use and storage
4. An audit of the USDA Youth Summer Feeding Program
5. An audit of financial transactions of the center for the past three years
6. Assistance with the adoptions of rules and regulations regarding operational procedures and usage of the center
7. Re-naming of the center to reflect the name of the community
8. Sharing of the keys to all doors including the "man cave" (Ms. Frazier advised that four sets of keys were given to the unauthorized board members last week.)
9. The telephone number in the telephone book to be listed as John W. Stroman Center not John W. Stroman. (Ms. Fraizer advised that his personal phone number is listed).

Ms. Frazier thanked Councilwoman Cooper-Smith and Councilman Clyde Livingston for their attendance at the last meeting. Ms. Frazier advised that assistance from County Council is necessary in this matter. Ms. Frazier advised that she is hopeful that these problems may be resolved so the center can provide meaningful activities to its members.

Ms. Frazier asked the citizens of the Edisto Drive community to stand (two rows, unnamed persons) who attend the meeting in support of change at the center.

Councilman Owens was recognized by the Chairman Wright and made a point of personal privilege. Councilman Owens recommended to the Council that County Administrator Harold Young attend the next meeting of the John W. Stroman Center and give a report as well as recommendations to the Council after attending the meeting. After some discussion and guidance from County Attorney D'Anne Haydel, Chairman Wright acknowledged Councilman Owens point of personal privilege.

Chairman Wright asked for any additional comments. Dr. M. Helen Frazier took the podium and addressed the council. Dr. Frazier advised that, at the request of Councilman Clyde Livingston, she went to the John W. Stroman Center to work with Mr. Stroman to resolve the issues that were stated previously by Delores Frazier. Dr. Frazier made some recommendations to Mr. Stroman that would allow the center to be open to more citizens. Dr. Frazier advised that she does not understand why her recommendations have not been followed. Dr. Frazier submitted to the Council information in writing. Dr. Frazier advised that she is a grant writer. She has already written a grant for the center but she cannot move forward with the grant until the finances become more transparent. Dr. Frazier advised that it is difficult to receive funding when the center is not transparent about their finances. Dr. Frazier asserted that something needs to be done to make the center more useful to the community. Dr. Frazier thanked the Council.

Chairman Wright thanked Dr. Frazier for her comments. Chairman Wright asked for additional public comments. Administrator Harold Young advised the Chairman and the public that the funds in question are funds that were raised by the organization and not county funds.

Chairman Wright asked for additional public comment. No additional comments. Chairman Wright closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

1. RESOLUTION HONORING WILBERT BOLIN

Chairman Wright acknowledged Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith read the resolution in its entirety. Chairman Wright acknowledged Rev. James Preveaux of Crestview Baptist Church.

Rev. James Preveaux addressed the Council. Rev. Preveaux advised that he has been the pastor at Crestview Baptist Church for 13 years. Rev. Preveaux advised the Council and the public that Mr. Bolin has been the same person since the first day he walked into the church and the last day he walked out of the church which happened to be last night. Rev. Preveaux advised the Council that he appreciated Mr. Bolin and thanked the Council for this honor. Chairman Wright thanked Rev. Preveaux for this comments and wished Mr. Bolin the best.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the resolution honoring Mr. Bolin. Vice-Chairwoman Cooper-Smith motion that the resolution honoring Mr. Bolin be approved. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion Carried (7-0).

**2. RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 4TH, 2015 THROUGH MAY 10TH, 2015
“NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK”**

Chairman Wright read the resolution in its entirety. Chairman Wright asked all the Correctional Officers to please stand (several rows, unnamed). Applause.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the resolution declaring the week of May 4th, 2015 through May 10th, 2015 National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Councilman Clyde Livingston motioned that the resolution be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried (7-0).

Chairman Wright addressed the group of Correctional Officers in attendance. Chairman Wright stated that he appreciated the work of each individual in their capacity as Correctional Officers. Chairman Wright acknowledged the difficulties associated with being a Correctional Officer and appreciated the integrity with which each employee conducted themselves.

Chairman Wright recognized Vernetia Dozier, Deputy Director of the Orangeburg County Detention Center. Ms. Dozier thanked the Council and the Chairman for recognizing the officers. Ms. Dozier advised that the officers work hard on a daily basis.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens addressed the Correctional Officers in attendance. Councilman Owens expressed the amount of self-discipline that is needed to perform the job is immense in order to not take advantage of the people who are incarcerated. Councilman Owens advised that this is very important and is often a quality that is not seen in public servants in their position. Councilman Owens thanked the officers for what they do and how they do it.

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Ravenell. Councilman Ravenell addressed the Correctional Officers. Councilman Ravenell advised that the daily routine is not always easy. Councilman Ravenell thanked the Correctional Officers and stated that he appreciated them.

Chairman Wright thanked Ms. Dozier for her work. Chairman Wright recognized Administrator Harold Young. Mr. Young advised that Ms. Dozier has worked very hard and he appreciates her efforts. Mr. Young advised that the message of appreciation should be communicated to the officers who were not present for the meeting as they were currently working.

3. ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2011-09-06-14 ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$820,000) WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2011A (TOWN OF VANCE), OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO"

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation of the ordinance from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young yielded to County Attorney D'Anne Haydel advising that the ordinance relates to legal matters in regards to closing out of a loan. County Attorney D'Anne Haydel advised the Council that agenda items three and four differ only in that item three relates to the Town of Vance and item four relates to County Phase I. Ms. Haydel advised that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development has asked that the bond ordinance be changed to alter the payment schedule from monthly to annual payments.

Chairman Wright opened the floor for public hearing on agenda items three and four. No comments. Chairman Wright closed the public hearing for agenda items three and four.

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve agenda item numbers three and four. Councilman Ravenell moved that agenda item numbers three and four be approved as printed. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

4. ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2011-09-19-15 ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2011, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,830,000) WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2011B (PHASE I), OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO"

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5. ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY PROCUREMENT CODE REGARDING MUNICIPAL PROJECTS FUNDED BY PROCEEDS FROM A CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator Harold Young. Administrator Young advised that the County is asking for a change to the procurement code in light of the number of projects conducted under on the Capital Project Sales Tax. Administrator Young advised during the course of these projects the question has arisen which procurement process should be followed. Administrator Young advised that it is a necessary change that allows the towns to utilize their procurement procedures in regards to funds which were allocated to them through the Capital Project Sales Tax. Administrator Young advised that it is recommended that the procurement ordinance be revised.

Councilman Wimberly motioned that the ordinance be approved. Councilman Clyde Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

6. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- 1) APPROVAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND PIEDMONT COMPANIES, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 75,000 SQUARE FOOT SPECULATIVE BUILDING**

Chairman Wright asked for an explanation from County Administrator Harold Young. Mr. Young advised that as part of the construction for the Sigmalex building in the St. Matthews Industrial Park, it has been requested that a project management company be on record for that specific project. The County of Orangeburg is being a conduit for the

funds that are coming through Santee-Cooper so in essence we have to hire the firm to work for Sigmalex because the money is coming directly to us. This is a request that we approve Piedmont Construction to conduct the construction observation for Sigmalex located in the St. Matthews Industrial Park. Administrator Young yielded to the Attorney for Economic Development, Mr. Jerrod Anderson.

Deputy County Attorney Jerrod Anderson addressed the Council. Mr. Anderson advised that this agreement is specifically for the shell building which is the second constructed building and not the Sigmalex building per se. However, Piedmont Construction will be involved in both.

Councilwoman Cooper-Smith advised the Council and the public that the speculative building and the shell building are the same building. Deputy County Attorney Jerrod Anderson advised that the shell building is a building that can be customized later.

Councilman Clyde Livingston moved that the professional services agreement between Piedmont Construction and Orangeburg County, South Carolina be approved. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

Councilmen's Comments:

Chairman Wright recognized Councilman Owens. Councilman Owens advised that Pastor Gainey of Edisto Fork United Methodist Church was in attendance. Councilman Owens advised that Pastor Gainey has been transferred out of the community. Chairman Wright appreciated Pastor Gainey's community efforts and his commitment to Orangeburg County. Councilman Clyde Livingston asked Pastor Gainey where he would be transferred. Pastor Gainey advised that he will be moving to Ridgeville, SC located in Dorchester County.

7. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright asked for a motion that the Council move into executive session for contract negotiations in reference to the West Edisto Sewer System Transfer and a legal briefing regarding H. 3579 in reference to the transfer of roads from state to local government.

Councilwoman Cooper-Smith moved that the Council move into executive session for contract negotiations in reference to the West Edisto Sewer System Transfer and a legal briefing regarding H. 3579 in reference to the transfer of roads from state to local government. Councilman Ravenell seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1) CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WEST EDISTO SEWER SYSTEM TRANSFER**

**2) LEGAL BRIEFING REGARDING H. 3579 (TRANSFER OF
ROADS FROM STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)**

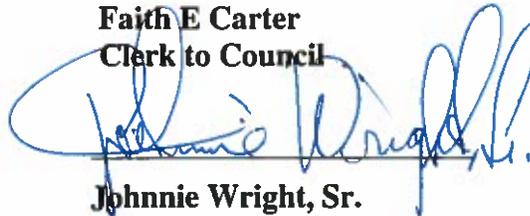
9. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wright asked for a motion that the meeting of the County Council be adjourned. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith moved that the meeting of the County Council be adjourned. Councilman Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0). Chairman Wright thanked the public for attending.

10. ADJOURNMENT



**Faith E Carter
Clerk to Council**



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