

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 5, 2012
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-Smith, Vice Chairman
Clyde B. Livingston**

**Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Harold M. Young, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

NO COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS – OTHER ITEMS

NO COMMENTS

1. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD AND FINAL READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000) BY ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Chairman Wright opened the Public Hearing for comments from the audience. No comments forthcoming from the public. Public Hearing closed.

Chairman Wright asked the County Administrator to give a summary of the ordinance for any one present who might not have been present for the two previous readings of the ordinance. Mr. Young stated the County has found it necessary to purchase ambulances, tow trucks, cars for the Sheriff Department, as well as inspection vehicles.

Motion by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith, seconded by Councilman Owens, to give final third reading to the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

2. ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND PROJECT SUNRISE; AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT IN FAVOR OF PROJECT SUNRISE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Chairman Wright asked the County Administrator to give a briefing on the ordinance. Mr. Young stated the ordinance is being proposed by a local company looking to take advantage of the tax code under Title 12 Of The Code of Laws to be able to use the fee-in-lieu mechanism of taxes for an industry looking to take advantage of the special source credits. It is his recommendation it be approved by County Council.

Motion by Councilman Clyde Livingston, seconded by Councilman Owens to approve second reading of the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

3. RECOMMENDATION OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY TAX & TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman Wright asked the County Administrator to brief Council on the action of the Tax & Tourism Committee. Mr. Young explained the Advisory Committee met November 27, 2012 to review the two requests for funding received. The Norway Cotton Festival requested funding to purchase flags and/or banners for street light poles to improve Main Street during the holidays and other events such as the Christmas Parade. The request was denied because it did not meet the criteria to receive Tax & Tourism funding under state law.

Mr. Young stated an old application form was used by the Norway committee; only the new Administrator's name was added. He has suggested to the Advisory Committee they revamp the form, using the back portion to explain the criteria for funding and listing those activities allowable for funding. There are enough funds available for the Norway Festival committee to resubmit an appropriate request for funding during the next quarter. Councilman Heyward Livingston stated he would look for alternate sources of funding to help the Norway Cotton Festival.

The Xpress Youth Basketball Organization was funded in the amount of \$16,342.00 to assist with expenses directly associated with hosting an Amateur Athletic Union Super Regional Championship in Orangeburg from May 3 through May 5, 2013. The tournament held last year was an overwhelming success with over flowing crowds using hotels and motels in Orangeburg and Santee. The Chamber of Commerce estimated the monetary impact of the visitors to the area as \$275,000. The tournament will be expanded in 2013 to include additional teams and female divisions. It is the recommendation of Administrator Young County Council approve the recommendation of the Tax & Tourism Advisory Committee.

Motion by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Owens to approve the recommendation of the Tax & Tourism Advisory Committee to Fund the Xpress Youth Basketball Tournament in the amount of \$16,342.00 for FY 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. AN OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO PURCHASE REAL
PROPERTY**

Chairman Wright asked Mr. Young for a briefing. Mr. Young stated the County has been approached about a piece of property the owner wishes to donate to the County. The County has looked into it and feels as though this is a piece of property the County can accept as it may have a use for County purposes. It is his recommendation County Council accept the property. Chairman Wright questioned whether there were any questions from members of Council.

Councilman Wimberly asked if all due diligence had been done with regard to the property. Mr. Young indicated yes, but all the information requested by the County has not been received. Attorney Jerrod Anderson indicated there is a 90 day option in the contract which gives the County an opportunity to look at everything carefully, and make sure all is well.

Motion by Councilman Wimberly, seconded by Councilman Owens authorizing acceptance of the Official Action as it is the County's intent to accept the property for a nominal fee of \$10. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS (1) ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND (2) PROPERTY ACQUISITION.**

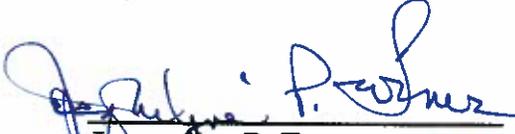
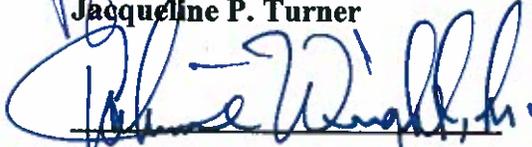
Motion by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Ravenell to adjourn for an executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Cooper-Smith thanked Council, the Administrator, Treasurer, Auditor, Horry County and any other county that was helpful in supporting the County's installment tax payment plan. Citizens have received their tax notices with the information inside, but she questioned if people were even looking at the inserts in the tax bills after first looking at high tax bills. She is hopeful citizens have looked at the information explaining how they can prepay taxes beginning in 2013. She asked Administrator Young if anyone had applied to pre-pay their taxes? Mr. Young stated he had not checked with the Treasurer yet. She asked about having the notices more accessible, so they will be more prominently visible to those opening their tax notices. Mr. Young indicated he is in the process of having the information put on the County's web page. The Chairman clarified people must pay 2012 tax first; they can apply now, but cannot make a payment for 2013 taxes until 2012 taxes have been paid. Additionally, people must apply between December 15, 2012 and January 15, 2013. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith asked about those who do not have access to the County's website. Mr. Young stated they can get an application from his office and from the Treasurer's office, and everyone should have received pre-installment payment information in their tax notices.

Councilman Owens stated in order to call attention to the prepayment tax option, perhaps something could be put in the paper; perhaps a squib in the T&D would help. Mr. Young stated that with the thoroughness of the current T&D reporter who attends Council meetings and his coverage of Council meetings as of late, he would be shocked if something was not in the paper based on pre-installment payment of taxes. Applications will be accepted from December 1, 2012 to January 15, 2013, based upon State statute, section 1245 and as part of Orangeburg County Ordinance 2011-10-3-16. Five installments are stretched out for pre-payment of taxes; you can pay more but you can't pay less, you must keep current in making pre-installment payments, with the final payment being billed on or around November 13, 2013. First payment is February 15, second would be April 15, third would be June 15, fourth would be August 15, and the fifth payment would be October 15, 2013. Councilman Owens asked about the average amount due on delinquent taxes, and Mr. Lloyd indicated it varies, based on the amount and size of property.

Motion for adjournment made by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.


Jacqueline P. Turner

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman