

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 13, 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.
Janie Cooper-Smith
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, Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

Motion by Councilman Ravenell, seconded by Councilman Owens, to approve minutes of July 16, 2012 and July 23, 2012, with corrections, if any. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Sarata, T&D asked about the nature of the executive session items published on the agenda. Chairman Wright stated relative to the Sheriff's Department it was a general update on how the Department is functioning, and receiving input on issues he might have, nothing specific. With regard to the voting update, County Administrator Young stated this is related to developing a better understanding of procedures required and what it takes to have votes on certain issues; these are things asked for by the Election Commission to make certain they have in place things

needed prior to an election that were not placed in the budget. The matter requires movement of funds and action by Council.

Ms. Jeffrey distributed some material to Council which she wanted put in the minutes and read aloud by her that was given to her by a concerned citizen, and Ms. Jeffrey stated she wanted an answer before she left the meeting tonight. Chairman Wright and Councilman Wimberly indicated what was contained in the material distributed was not an agenda item, which Ms. Jeffrey contended was an agenda item, referring to an executive session item #10. Chairman Wright stated an executive session item was not part of the public comments format. Ms. Jeffrey objected to Council adjourning for any executive session discussion specifically related to the Sheriff's Department which was not brought before the public prior to adjournment. Ms. Jeffrey then began to address the public.

Chairman Wright cautioned Ms. Jeffrey that she could not address the public, that she was to read what she had distributed to Council, and they would listen, receiving this as information, as there was not anything they could do about the matter. Ms. Jeffrey took issue, stating they had to do something about the issue and voiced her objection to Council going into an executive session to discuss what is on record as public matters, especially those issues related to the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Wright again cautioned Ms. Jeffrey she was not to address the public, but read her statement. Ms. Jeffrey then stated she would speak again during the Public Comments, Other Matters segment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Ms. Jeffrey asked what Council was doing relative to the Sheriff's budget, was Council doing anything about matters being investigated in the Sheriff's office, was Council taking over the Sheriff's budget until the matter under investigation of Sheriff Leroy Ravenell not being legally elected, and wasteful spending by the Sheriff. Chairman Wright explained to Ms. Jeffrey Council had no authority to do anything regarding ethic issues about the Sheriff and voter registration laws.

1. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO POSTPONE REASSESSMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith, seconded by Councilman Owens, to approve first reading of the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

2. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY AUTHORIZING A WATER SYSTEM OPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA AND ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AGREEMENT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Motion by Councilman Ravenell, seconded by Councilman Owens, to give first reading approval of the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION – ORANGEBURG COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION PRESENTATION OF FLAGS – VOTER REGISTRATION HONOREE

The Legislative Delegation through the Voter Registration and Election Commission honored two Commission members, Patricia Gibson and Rut Thomas, Jr., with a state flag and resolution for their services to the Commission. Ms. Gibson was not present, but Mr. Thomas and his family was in attendance.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Wimberly to adopt resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION HONORING THE LATE RONALD J. SARJEANT

Motion honoring the late Ronald J. Sarjeant, South Carolina State University Marching 101 band director read.

Motion by Councilman Clyde Livingston, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith to adopt resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

5. CONTRACT REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICES – SCHOOL DISTRICT 3

6. CONTRACT REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICES – SCHOOL DISTRICT 4

7. CONTRACT REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICES – SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

County Administrator Young stated the School Districts 3,4, and 5 have contracted with the Orangeburg County Sheriff’s Department to provide school resource officers for the 2012-2013 school year, with the Districts assuming the costs of \$51,762 for each Deputy to cover for taxes, health insurance and retirement benefits, uniforms, vehicle maintenance and fuel, cell phone and training.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Clyde Livingston to accept the contracts proposed for School Districts 3, 4, and 5 for the 2012-2013 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CODE ENFORCEMENT APPOINTMENTS – LITTER CONTROL

County Administrator Young stated Ms. Amanda Larrimore, due to her work ethics, desire to learn, capabilities and dedication, impressed Litter Control Manager Bishop and the Administrator. Because of the workload of the Litter Control Department, Ms. Larrimore has been promoted to Litter Control, and the Administrator and Mr. Bishop are recommending Ms. Larrimore's appointment as a Code Enforcement Officer.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Ravenell, to accept recommendation of Mr. Young to appointment Ms. Larrimore as a Code Enforcement Office. Motion passed unanimously.

9. ORANGEBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT COMMISSION – AIRCRAFT PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION INITIATIVE

County Administrator Young indicated the City of Orangeburg has responded by letter to the County's request wanting to know the City's position on the request of the aviation community for Orangeburg County to initiate imposition of taxes relative to the Aircraft Property Tax Reduction Initiative sponsored by the SC Aeronautics Commission and the SC Aviation Association. The City of Orangeburg has responded in writing they fully support the SC Aeronautics Commission and the SC Aviation Association Aircraft Property Tax Reduction Initiative as both strongly feel that this reduction is critical to leveling the tax playing fields with other states and counties competing for industrial growth.

Discussion followed with the Administrator indicating while changes in the state law reduces aircraft property tax assessment from 10.5 percent to 4 percent, Council would need to determine if Council can approve the reduction or if a voter referendum is required

10. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (1) UPDATE – SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT-SHERIFF LEROY RAVENELL, (2) LEGAL BRIEFING-PENDING LITIGATION, (3) VOTING UPDATE

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Wimberly, Council would have an executive session as clarified by Attorney Haydel as the Sheriff's Department election issue as opposed to an investigation issue, (2) is an update on pending litigation on Ivadella Walters and South Carolina Federal Credit Union, and (3) a legal briefing on the referendum process, how things become a

referendum versus just being something you talk about. Motion passed unanimously.

11. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Wimberly. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman