

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 2, 2014
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**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Clyde Livingston

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Harold Young, County Administrator
Megan Dangerfield, Clerk to Council
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 19, 2014

Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEMS

None

John Bateman asked Council why there was going to be a millage increase for the second year in a row. He said that we have several closed businesses, county population seems to be shrinking and unemployment seems to be increasing. He asked if Council could cut some programs or decrease funding for something in the budget rather than increase taxes.

Chairman Wright thanked him for his comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OTHER MATTERS

Jennifer Hoelsing, Executive Director of D.O.R.A, told Council that her organization was working on a Community Vision Plan for Orangeburg. They will hold a four day planning exercise June 16-19 and during that time there will be several opportunities for public input. On Monday June 16, they will host a public input session at the Bluebird Theater for the general public. They will be working with a team of seven community planners to help them develop recommendations in the areas of retail analysis, marketing and branding, and a physical assessment of the downtown area. The team will also develop implementation strategies that will help guide them in making the proposed changes and how they might fund those changes. Mrs. Hoelsing also shared a website that the public could go to and complete a short survey regarding their impressions of the downtown area and retail opportunities.

1. RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF ORANGEBURG TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Harold Young stated that the county is required to provide a resolution that complies with the Federal Transit Authority's and the South Carolina Department of Transportation's program statutes and regulations. It's necessary to continue to receive funding to operate the Cross County Connection Bus system.

Chairman Wright read the Resolution in its entirety. Councilman Owens moved to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Wimberly. Motion carried.

2. RESOLUTION HONORING MR. JAMES WIGFALL, SENIOR

Chairman Wright read the Resolution in its entirety. Councilman Ravenell moved to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston. Motion carried.

3. RESOLUTION FOR NEW PERSPECTIVES MEDIA ASSOCIATION

Chairman Wright read the Resolution in its entirety. Councilwoman Cooper-Smith moved to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion carried.

4. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, FOR THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY BUDGET FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE COUNTY MAY LEVY A TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PERSONAL AND REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY FOR ALL COUNTY PURPOSES, INCLUDING SUFFICIENT TAXES TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY MATURING DURING THE FISCAL YEAR; TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS

RELATING TO ORANGEBURG COUNTY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING TO THE COUNTY DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

Chairman Wright opened the floor for the Public Hearing, no comments made.

Councilman Owens moved to approve the Ordinance for second reading, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith. Prior to voting, Councilman Owens stated that during his time on the Council, he has never known Council to want to raise taxes. They are given the choice of increasing taxes or cutting services and in his district, no one wants him to cut services. He doesn't see a way to maintain and increase those services without raising taxes. He is hopeful, however, that at some point in the future, taxes may be lowered. He also stated that when each department submits their budget requests, they are more than the previous year and a good percentage of those departments will not receive all that they have requested. Chairman Wright added that the large majority of the increased funding is going toward law enforcement, the solicitor and public defenders. The citizens made this request for more visibility and Council is trying to balance everything out and meet this request. Harold Young pointed out that the numbers quoted in the paper were only requests by organizations and in most cases, those will not be fully funded.

Motion carried.

5. ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, FOR ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD, THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION WORKSHOP, AND FOR OTHER PUBLIC AND SPECIAL EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES COMING TO THE COUNTY DURING THE FISCAL YEAR FOR SUCH PURPOSES

Councilman Heyward Livingston moved to approve the Ordinance for second reading, seconded by Councilman Ravenell. Motion carried.

6. ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$6,750,000 RELATING TO THE REFINANCING OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND THE PURCHASING OF NEW EQUIPMENT, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Harold Young stated that this ordinance involved a lease agreement for the refinancing of some vehicles and equipment that were purchased with a 2013 BAN. A lease purchase is being done to preserve the County's GO Bond capacity.

Councilman Ravenell moved to approve the Ordinance for second reading, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried.

7. ORDINANCE – THIRD AND FINAL READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,500,000; FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING THERETO; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Harold Young stated that in 2003 the County issued a General Obligation Bond Series 2003A and the interest rates on those bonds were between 3 and 4%. The total aggregate principal of the outstanding 2003A Bonds is \$4,825,000. With the refinancing, it's estimated that the County will pay 2.6% interest on its general obligation refunding bond and will save approximately \$394,762.

Councilman Wimberly moved to approve the Ordinance for third and final reading, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried.

8. SECOND LEASE RENEWAL OF 1032 CHESTNUT SQUARE, ORANGEBURG FOR USE BY THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (PURSUANT TO WHICH SYMBION INVESTMENT CORPORATION SHALL BE THE LANDLORD AND ORANGEBURG COUNTY SHALL BE THE TENANT)

Mr. Young stated that Council had asked that the use of the Way Building downtown be analyzed for replacement of the substation. After gathering more information, Council decided to preserve that building for another purpose. He stated that the county has met with the owner of the unit on Chestnut Street and they have presented a second lease renewal for that property.

Councilman Owens moved to approve the Lease Renewal, seconded by Councilman Ravenell.

Councilman Owens asked if the rate was reasonable. Mr. Young stated that it was the same rate from the previous year. Councilman Ravenell asked if this was a building the County had considered releasing in the past. Mr. Young stated that the County had considered using the Way Building instead of the Chestnut Street location. After evaluating the cost of updating the building with computer equipment and customer privacy, it was decided to keep the Chestnut property for at least one year.

Council then voted and the motion carried.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING AN UPDATED DRUG POLICY FOR THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY HANDBOOK

Administrative Committee Chairman Harry Wimberly stated the Committee met that afternoon and invited all elected officials to attend. Those that were able to attend, did so and those that were not, spoke with members of the committee by telephone. All seem to be agreeable with the revised drug policy that the Committee is recommending. When adopted, all county employees will be under the same policy. He stated that it was the recommendation of the Administrative Committee that Council accept the revised drug policy and made a motion to do so. Seconded by Councilwoman Cooper-Smith.

Council voted and the motion carried.

10. PROCUREMENT

1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FY14-0414 INMATE TRUST FUND ACCOUNTING AND/OR COMMISSARY SERVICES

Mr. Young stated that at the last meeting, Council had requested more information regarding the price of the items sold at the Commissary. The proposed contract would allow the County to receive a higher percentage off items sold to the inmates. Based on last year's profits this would give the county an additional \$50,000 in revenue. Councilman Wimberly stated that Council had requested to see the numbers to make sure the items did not have a high markup in order for the County to receive 40% of the profits. After reviewing the prices, he believes they are fair and in line with any convenience store. Councilman Owens moved to approve the proposal, seconded by Councilman Wimberly. Motion carried.

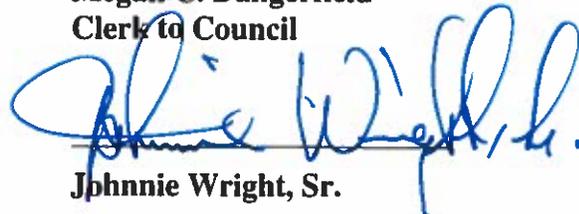
11. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilwoman Cooper-Smith moved for Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT



Megan C. Dangerfield
Clerk to Council



Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Chairman, County Council

