

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2010
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, Vice Chairman
Clyde B. Livingston
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marion Lloyd, Sr. Deputy Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Ruth Van Faussien, Acting Clerk to Council

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Johnnie Wright, Sr.

INVOCATION:

Councilman Johnny Ravenell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Vice Chairman Janie Cooper, seconded by Councilman Johnny Ravenell, that the minutes of the December 6, 2010 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – OTHER MATTERS:

None

1. ORDINANCE – THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND DON'S CAR CRUSHING INC. PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 44 OF TITLE 12, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, AS AMENDED, AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO

A motion was made by Councilman Willie B. Owens that the third and final reading of the Ordinance to Authorize the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement Between Orangeburg County, South Carolina, and Don's Car Crushing Inc. be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Heyward Livingston, and the motion carried.

2. ORDINANCE – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ORANGEBURG COUNTY TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO THE TOWN OF NORWAY FOR PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING UTILITIES

No one spoke during the public hearing portion of this meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Heyward Livingston that second reading of this ordinance be approved. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Janie Cooper. The motion carried.

3. AN OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM BOWMAN ACADEMY, INCORPORATED

Chairman Wright explained that this property is being purchased in conjunction with the broadband project as one of their storage areas. Negotiation for the property has been taking place, and the timing was just right for this project with the broadband initiative. Councilman Johnny Ravenell reiterated that the timing was just right for the property that is available. Councilman Harry Wimberly remarked that this was a former manufacturing facility, it has high ceilings and a loading dock on the back, and again, the timing was just right.

Councilman Heyward Livingston questioned if this property was to be purchased with broadband funds. Chairman Wright said that some of the purchase money would be coming from broadband and some would be coming from the capital project sales tax funds.

A motion was made by Councilman Ravenell that this purchase be approved. Councilman Harry Wimberly then stated that he would be abstaining from voting on this matter due to a possible former conflict of interest. Councilman Heyward Livingston then asked if this property (10.14 acres) was being sold for \$25,000.00 per acre. The question was clarified by Councilman Ravenell who said that the purchase price included the building which was a former sewing plant. Councilman Heyward Livingston said he just wanted it clarified that the County was not paying \$25,000.00 per acre to purchase property. Councilman Willie B. Owens said he would like to know the appraised value of the property. County Attorney D'Anne Haydel interjected that the appraised value for the building was \$225,000.00. Councilman Heyward Livingston said he had no problem with the

property purchase after clarifying that the price included the building and land. The motion was seconded by Councilman Willie B. Owens that this purchase of property be approved. All voted in favor with the exception of Councilman Harry Wimberly who abstained.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL:

A. TRANSIT FACILITY – Sr. Deputy Administrator Marion Lloyd explained that the County of Orangeburg, in collaboration with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, is moving forward with plans to construct a Transit Center on Carolina Avenue to support the operation of the fixed route and Call for Ride bus system that presently operates in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties. In order to proceed with the construction of the project, the dilapidated structure that exists on the site must be demolished. There is evidence of asbestos in this building, so that needs to be addressed. An invitation to bid was prepared and advertised with a total of four bids being received. The low bid was submitted by Emerald, Inc. of Sumter, South Carolina, in the amount of \$29,883.00. The low bidder is qualified to perform the service, and it is the recommendation of Administration to accept the low bid from Emerald, Inc. The funding for the contract and the construction of the transit facility is being provided through a grant from the Federal Transit Authority, and the grant is being administered by the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. Councilman Willie B. Owens asked for clarification on who owns the building and how the cost of remodeling is being handled. Deputy Administrator Harold Young replied that the County already owns the building, and the construction of the facility is being funded by a grant. The cost of asbestos removal for this building is \$29,883.00 which will be paid by Orangeburg County as their grant match for this project.. The County of Orangeburg will continue to own the building. A motion was made by Councilman Harry Wimberly that this bid be approved. Vice Chairman Janie Cooper seconded the motion. Mrs. Cooper also remarked that this would be another state-of-the-art building for Orangeburg County. The architect for this project is the same one that designed the Aquatic Center, so we are looking for a beautiful building and it should be completed by the end of calendar year 2011.

B. HOLLY HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL – Sr. Deputy Administrator Marion Lloyd explained that the County of Orangeburg, in collaboration with the Town of Holly Hill and DHEC, is moving forward with plans to renovate the former Holly Hill Middle School facility into a regional government service center. The first phase of the construction activity requires demolition of the former gymnasium and several auxiliary buildings. Again, we have evidence of asbestos in these buildings. An invitation to bid was prepared and advertised with a total of two bids being received. The low bid was submitted by Emerald, Inc. of Sumter in the amount of \$77,983.00. The low bidder is qualified to perform the required services, and it is the recommendation of Administration to accept the low bid from Emerald, Inc. The funding for this contract is provided through the Capital Project Sales Tax. Chairman Wright commented that this project has been in the

making for years. This facility was turned over to the County by Orangeburg Consolidated School District Three to be used as a center to include DHEC, the Town of Holly Hill, and selective offices from Orangeburg County government. A motion was made by Councilman Johnny Ravenell that this bid of \$77,983.00 be accepted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harry Wimberly. The motion carried.

5. REQUEST TO ABANDON MAINTENANCE – CAPPS LANE (OC-1684) – CORDOVA AREA

A motion was made by Councilman Harry Wimberly that this request be referred to the Public Works Committee for evaluation. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Janie Cooper. The motion carried.

6. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FROM THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009

Sr. Deputy Administrator Marion Lloyd informed Council that the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the year ending June 30, 2009, has been awarded to the County of Orangeburg by the Government Finance Officers Association for the County's comprehensive annual financial report. This certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the government and its management when this award is presented. He also mentioned that this is the twenty second year that we have received this award (starting with 1988 and each consecutive year thereafter). Ms. Gloria Breland, Finance Director, was present at the meeting and she and Ms. Denise Altman, Accounting Manager, along with the staff members of the Finance Department, were commended for their hard work in attaining this accomplishment. *The Times & Democrat* reporter present at the meeting was requested to mention this noteworthy accomplishment in the article reporting the proceedings of this County Council meeting.

7. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL

Councilman Clyde Livingston, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee will meet with the County Treasurer, the County Auditor, and the County Assessor to review all the ramifications involved with implementing the installment payment of property taxes. No action is required by County Council at this time.

8. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright, Sr. reported that there was no need for an Executive Session this evening.

9. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Willie B. Owens, seconded by Vice Chairman Janie Cooper.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Van Faussien
Acting Clerk to Council



Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman
Orangeburg County Council