

**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 4, 2011
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**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT

**Bill Clark, County Administrator
D'Anne Haydel, County Attorney
Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk to Council**

CALL TO ORDER

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Clark opened the meeting by announcing the death December 31, 2010 of former Orangeburg County Administrator Gary A. Smoak, and calling for a moment of silence.

Mr. Clark announced the first order of business would be to administer The Oath of Office to Council members re-elected to Council Districts No. 1, No. 6, and No. 7. The Oath was administered by Circuit Judge Ed Dickson to Council members Johnnie Wright and Willie Owens. Councilman Clyde Livingston was not present when the Oath was administered to Messrs. Wright and Owens. Upon Councilman Livingston's arrival at the meeting, County Attorney Haydel, administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Clyde Livingston.

The next order of business announced by Mr. Clark was the election of Chairman of County Council for the next two year period. He called for nomination. Motion by Councilman Ravenell

nominating Johnnie Wright as chairman. Councilman Wimberly moved nominations come to a close. Motion seconded by Council Owens.

Motion approved by a vote of 6-0 for Johnnie Wright as Chairman for a two year period carried.

Chairman Wright thanked his colleagues for their vote of confidence in allowing him to continue as chairperson. He asked for their prayers and support that he will be able to represent Council and the citizens of Orangeburg County to the best of his ability, which he is committed to do. With mutual respect between he and Council members, their work as a unified team effort is required in today's economic climate to move forward to face challenges ahead of Council. Additionally, he thanked the County Administrator, staff and employees for working with Council.

Chairman Wright opened the floor for the election of Vice Chairman of Council. Motion by Councilman Wimberly to nominate Ms. Janie Cooper as Vice Chairman. Councilman Owens seconded the motion.

Motion nominating Ms. Janie Cooper as Vice Chairman carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wimberly to amend the agenda to include a formal welcome to coon hunters who will be coming to Orangeburg County this weekend. Motion passed carried. The amendment will follow after the Public Comments section of the agenda.

Motion by Councilman Owens, seconded by Councilman Wimberly, that minutes of December 20, 2010 be approved as written. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

David Coleman, President of the Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce, thanked Council for its continued support of the event and presented members with parking passes. He stated this is a national show and one of the County's top economic event, with approximately 25,000 in attendance, spending at least \$200 a day. Councilman Wimberly asked if it had been determined the Show's economic impact on the County. Mr. Coleman conducted his own informal survey counting cars and people, estimating at least 20,000 attendees spent at least \$200 a day.

Councilman Ravenell inquired about the coon population in Orangeburg County. Mr. Coleman stated hunters draw lots to determine where they are assigned across the state, with Orangeburg remaining as the base of operations. Perhaps 375 hunt over the course of the weekend, the other people are in town to be here and see the dogs and the vendors. It's an event about championship dogs.

Ms. Cooper gave a welcome to the coon hunters from County Council, commending Mr. Coleman on the great job he does with the Chamber of Commerce promoting the County and making it stand out.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Don Tribble issued an invitation to Council to attend an upcoming event at Clafln College recognizing 5th graders in a mentoring program initiated through the Community of Character program at Mellichamp school.

1. ORDINANCE – THIRD READING

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

Mr. Clark stated there was no change between second and third reading of the ordinance to convert water to a town resident.

Motion by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Ravenell to approve third and final reading of the ordinance. Motion carried.

2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET CALENDAR FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 20, 2012

Motion to adopt budget calendar as written made by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried.

3. APPOINTMENTS

A. LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Two Orangeburg County Board of Directors appointments expire in December 2010 that need to be filled. There are two categories of Appointments, one for elected officials and one for public appointees. Ms. Cooper's previous position as a public appointee has expired. Ms. Cooper is slated to serve as Vice Chairman and Chairperson of the COG Board in 2011-2012. The recommendation is to nominate Ms. Cooper to the vacant elected official position, serving a eriod of time concurrent with her term in office.

The second position was occupied by Silas Seabrooks in an elected official position. He is no longer an elected official; he would be eligible to be appointed as a public appointee, if this be the will of Council.

Motion by Councilman Ravenell, seconded by Councilman Owens, to appoint Janie Cooper to the vacant elected official position and Silas Seabrooks to the vacant public appointee position as recommended by LSCOG. Motion carried.

B. THE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES – COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 5

Motion made by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Councilman Owens, to nominate Reverend Caesar R. Richburg from District 5 to The Regional Medical Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Councilman Owens asked for clarification about a headline in the T&D regarding the County being sued over euthanizing a pet. Mr. Clark while details could not be discussed because of the lawsuit, the County had offered a settlement, which the attorney declined, seeking a larger amount. The dog in question had no identification, staff was unable to determine ownership, the dog was offered to the SPCA for adoption, but was not accepted. The dog escaped from the owner's place of business. Due to no space availability in the County's shelter and the dog's unsuitability for adoption, the dog was euthanized.

4. VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATED TO A THREATENED CLAIM CONCERNING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION OF ORANGEBURG AND CALHOUN COUNTIES

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - PROJECT REPORT

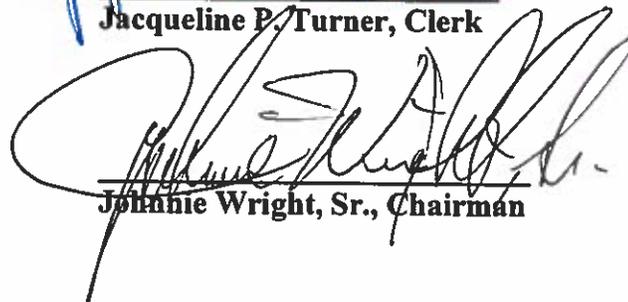
Motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Councilman Ravenell, to adjourn for an executive session. Motion carried.

5. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment made by Councilman Heyward Livingston, seconded by Councilman Owens. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.


Jacqueline P. Turner, Clerk


Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman