

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 16, 2019

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Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers with Mayor Pro Tem L. Zimmerman Keitt presiding.

PRESENT:

Bernard Haire

Jerry Hannah

Charles W. Jernigan

L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem

Sandra P. Knotts

Richard F. Stroman

ABSENT:

Mayor Butler

Mayor Pro Tem L. Zimmerman Keitt welcomed and recognized students from Claflin University.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the April 2, 2019, City Council Minutes as distributed. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Martha Ford of 506 Azalea Drive and Edward and Carrie Lewis of 494 Azalea Drive addressed Council regarding a ditch on Azalea Drive. Mrs. Ford stated, "On August 15, 2017, we came to the Council Meeting to discuss a ditch that runs between two residences. There still hasn't been anything done to get this resolved and there is still eroding, and the ditch is breaking down. We would just like to know what has or will be done?"

Mrs. Lewis stated, "This ditch is dangerous. There are snakes in this ditch. One even was on my porch. There is water everywhere and kids cannot go into the yard. I cannot even use my yard. We have to call several times before the ditch is cut."

Mr. Edward Lewis stated, "What is going on here is not right. This was voted on and Mrs. Keitt, you seconded it. Now I am told it is not in the minutes now. God made us equal, no man is better than the next. The lawyer's ditch was closed and piped. We need to know what progress is being made on the ditch."

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt asked, "Who did his?"

Mr. Lewis replied, "The City did."

City Administrator Yow replied, "Some of what Mr. Lewis is stating is accurate and some of it is different. At the last meeting concerning this item, the Mayor stated he would get with former SCDOT Commissioner Glover and I know he did that and there was no grant available. The City has this ditch on a schedule to mow at least four times a year. The other ditch in question, there were two grants, a Soil and Water Conservation grant and a SCDOT grant. That ditch was much larger than this one and SCDOT had an easement on that ditch. There is no SCDOT easement on the Azalea ditch."

Mr. Lewis stated, "What about the sewer pipe?"

CA Yow replied, "Is there something wrong with the pipe?"

Mr. Lewis stated, "It is eroding, and they will need to get permission to go in my yard to work on it."

Mr. Lewis asked, "My representative, Mr. Hannah, what can you do to help us?"

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Councilmember Hannah replied, "I understand what you are saying, and you are trying to protect your family, yourself and the City. This is a precarious situation. I can't tell you everything that was said. If mowing was to be done, we have done that. If something else was to be done, I will need to check on that. I know that I have talked with you about this. We have to find out what was said. Secondly, we are going to take this spaghetti that you have given us, and we are going to work on this and turn it into a meatball. If I come to you, and say this is it, then that is all. If not, we will let you know. You know what we will do. I am not apologizing for the City or myself, I applaud you for standing up and trying to get something done."

City Administrator Yow stated, "We have contacted SCDOT and you have to understand if there is not an easement, the City cannot do anything about it. That ditch was there long before those houses were there. We have to look at the history behind this. We have inquired more than one time to the State about this ditch and the drainage box. The street and box are SCDOT property."

Mr. Lewis asked, "What about the pipe?"

City Administrator Yow asked, "Is there a problem with the pipe?"

Mr. Lewis replied, "Isn't it supposed to be covered?"

City Administrator Yow replied, "I would have to refer that to DPU Manager Harley."

MPT Keitt stated, "We are going to look into it and I am not sure what will be done, but we are going to take this into consideration."

City Administrator Yow asked, "What schedule is that ditch on Mr. Roger Brant?"

Service Department Director Brant stated, "That ditch was cut four times last year. That ditch is cut more than any other ditch in the City. Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Ford call me requesting the ditch be mowed. With the rain, the yard is not dry, and we cannot cut it until the rain stops. This ditch takes water from state streets that the state owns."

Mr. Lewis stated, "I can fill up the ditch with dirt."

Service Department Director Brant stated, "The grading of that property runs rain from the property to the ditch and the problem is with the design."

Mr. Jason Bair of Orangeburg addressed Council. He stated, "My father used to build roads and worked for the County and one of his issues was they used the road as a ditch. The water runs down the yards to the end of the road. There are flowers and a tree in Mrs. Ford's yard that have died for lack of oxygen as her yard is so saturated with water. She moved here and doesn't know about the grading situation or how things work. I just wanted to put in my point there is a lot of issues and water is running around her house and her house has a crack in the foundation now."

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt said Council would look into this further.

Councilmember Stroman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Haire to adopt the Budget Calendar for Year 2019-2020. The vote was unanimous.

City Administrator Yow overviewed the authorization for the City Administrator to accept a Department of Commerce grant to help offset costs of obtaining a vendor to assist in the structuring of a competitive Opportunity Zone Prospectus. He stated, "The grant is \$25,000 with a City match. We had our proposal in the very first day. Mr. Singh has done a great job on this and we are happy to bring this before Council."


Councilmember Haire made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to authorize City Administrator Yow to sign acceptance of SC Department of Commerce Opportunity Zone Grant Award. The vote was unanimous.

DPU Director Harley overviewed the proposed budget calendar for Fiscal Year 2012²⁸⁰⁵ He asked Council to review their calendars and DPU would bring this item back to a Council Meeting in May for approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire and seconded by Councilmember Knotts to enter into Executive Session for Legal Matter concerning James Westly Garvin vs. SC Electric Gas. This motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

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