

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 2, 2019

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Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers with Mayor Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Bernard Haire
Jerry Hannah
Charles W. Jernigan
L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard F. Stroman

Mayor Butler recognized Girl Scout Troop #628.

A motion was made by Councilmember Knotts, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve the March 19, 2019, City Council Minutes as distributed. The vote was 6-0-1. Councilmember Haire abstained as he was not present at the last meeting.

Ms. Candice Roberson of Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association addressed Council. She stated "I was here previously giving you an update on DORA. Tonight, I wanted to let you know what is going on with our Strategic Planning. We are adding beautification to our vacant storefronts, so you may see window treatments and pictures in our windows. We are taking an inventory of vacant buildings and rating them as to what work is needed in any of them or what state the building is in. We are creating a downtown shopping and dining guide for downtown activities which will be in electronic version and paper. We are engaging with our merchants the first Wednesday of the month. Tomorrow's meeting will be at Thelma's. We will serve coffee and you can order breakfast as well to engage the merchants in activities and receive feedback on what they want to see in the downtown area. We are also working with our Memberships and engaging our volunteers. As far as events, we have the Street Dance on May 3. Riptide will be playing, and Presley Aaron will open for them. The car show will be May 4. We will have our Farm to Table dinner on June 6 and it will be moving to the 1300 block of Russell Street. Our Food and Craft Beer Festival will be September 21. I would like to ask permission to serve beer and wine at the Street Dance, the Farm to Table Dinner and the Food and Craft Beer Festival."

A motion was made by Councilmember Jernigan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve DORA's request to serve beer and wine at the Street Dance, the Farm to Table Dinner and the Food and Craft Beer Festival. This motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt stated, "I like that you are getting the merchants involved and we will try to get to these meetings."

Councilmember Jernigan stated, "I applaud what you are doing in Orangeburg and I think it is because of your leadership."

Ms. Roberson stated, "It takes a team and that includes the City of Orangeburg as well."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Have you taken into consideration that South Carolina State University (SCSU) has a football game on September 21?"

Mr. Roberson stated, "Yes we have and with all football schedules it is hard. Our event starts at 11:00 AM so you can come here first and tailgate and then go to the game that afternoon."

City Administrator Yow addressed Council regarding a Resolution granting a Fire Sprinkler System Tax Credit to Longwood Plantation. He stated, "On March 3, Mr. Clay Fowler, owner of Longwood Plantation came before Council asking for a tax credit for installing a fire sprinkler system in a building that was not required by law to have the system. Council took this under

advisement and now we are bringing this back before Council for your consideration of this Resolution. I would like to state that this credit would be for one year and it will be in the approximate amount of \$7,600.00.”

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Mayor Butler stated, “I am in agreement with this. They are providing a service to the community and helping the elderly and those with dementia and I feel this is a good move.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve the Resolution granting a Fire Sprinkler System Tax Credit to Longwood Plantation. This motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Yow addressed Council regarding a previous request from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Benton of 752 Banning Street, Cope, SC from March 5, 2019. He stated, “They have requested water service and are willing to sign the covenant but were not able to get all the family members to sign. It is now up for your consideration.”

Councilmember Stroman asked, “Can we waive this and give them the water as they live 16 miles out?”

Mayor Butler stated, “We would have to change the terms and conditions and more people would be coming in for the same reasons.”

Councilmember Haire made a motion to deny the request and not waive the conditions of the covenant as spelled out in the Terms and Conditions of DPU, seconded by Councilmember Jernigan. The vote was 6-0-1, Councilmember Stroman abstained.

Ms. Evelyn Disher, Executive Director of the Community of Character, accepted the April 2019 Character Trait Proclamation, “Determination.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh addressed Council. He stated, “The Fair Housing Month Resolution is an annual Resolution. It is an important one, not only for procedural purposes, but it is also for grants. Our most recent Comprehensive Plan stated we need to provide safe and clean housing, and this also reiterates that.”

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Haire to approve a Resolution declaring April 2019 Fair Housing Month in the City. This motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Yow addressed Council regarding the FY 2019-2020 proposed Budget Calendar. He stated, “I want to make mention several dates to bring to your attention. Tuesday, June 25 and Wednesday June 26 for our Planning Retreat. Tuesday, July 9 and Wednesday, July 10 for our Budget Workshops. Also, Tuesday, July 2 and Tuesday, July 16 for cancelling our regularly scheduled Council Meetings. If needed, we can call a special meeting if business dictates. There is no action needed tonight, I just want to bring this to your attention and see if anything needs to be changed or updated and for you to check your calendars before the next meeting.”

Mayor Butler asked, “Is it possible for us to have the meetings during the day? Can we possibly have it earlier instead of 5:00 PM? I think most of us do not work and I would like to see if we could meet earlier.”

City Administrator Yow replied, “It is up to Council. We would just need to adjust our calendar. Please discuss it and get back with me on the times. We will place the budget calendar on Council’s April 16th meeting for official action.”

DPU Manager Harley updated Council regarding a re-appointment and two new appointments to the Grievance Committee. He stated, “The terms of three of our members have expired we would like to reappoint, Willie Wearing of the Electric Division and two new appointments of Yamira Nevarez of the Administrative Division and Jordan Miles of the Wastewater Division.”

Councilmember Haire asked, “On the two others, did their time expire or did they not wish to serve?”

Manager Harley stated, "Their time expired."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Haire to reappoint Mr. Willie Wearing and appoint Yamira Nevarez and Jordan Miles to the DPU Grievance Committee. This motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire and seconded by Councilmember Knotts to enter into Executive Session for Legal Matter concerning City Fire District, Contractual Matter concerning Piedmont Development Company, Railroad Corner and Personnel Matter concerning DPU – Employee Grievance Matter. This motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to return to open session. This motion was unanimously approved.

Council returned to Open Session.

A moment of silence was taken for the young lady who was killed in Columbia at Five Points.

No action was taken on the Legal Matter of City Fire District and Contractual Matter of Piedmont Development Company, Railroad Corner.

Mayor Pro Tem Keitt stated, "As we have discussed in Executive Session, we accept the recommendations from the Grievance Committee and confirm their decision and uphold the termination." This motion was seconded by Councilmember Haire. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to adjourn. This motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie Johnson
City Clerk

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