

**City Council Minutes**  
**June 18, 2024**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

**PRESENT:**

**Michael C. Butler, Mayor**  
**Jerry Hannah**  
**Dr. Kalu Kalu**  
**L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Sandra P. Knotts**  
**Richard F. Stroman**

**PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

**Annette Dees Grevious**

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the June 4, 2024, minutes. The motion was 6-0-1. Councilmember Knotts abstained.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the June 11, 2024, Special Council minutes. The motion was approved 5-0-2. Councilmember Knotts and Councilmember Kalu abstained.

Mr. Lin Hair, President, Orangeburg County Fair Association appeared before Council concerning an update of the Orangeburg County Fair. He stated, "The fair began in 1911 as a way for local citizens to display their crops, crafts, goods, food conservation, and livestock. We continue that tradition today. We are lucky to have our 4-H and FFA groups help with showing livestock. The petting zoo is a big draw as children and adults of all ages enjoy interacting with the animals. Lunch during the Fair week is free admission. Last year approximately 3,000 students from Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, and Calhoun Counties attended the Fair during the school days. We will have the same carnival company back this year with 24 rides and games. Last year, over 26,000 people attended the Fair. One of the bigger events at the Fair grounds is the Grand American in January bringing lots of visitors and dollars into the City and County. Last year, over 30,000 visited. Last year 15,000 attended the Foodies Event with 60 food trucks. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is a free event for the community to include bounce houses, a foam tent and entertainment by Men of Distinction. Mike's Fireworks will begin the fireworks at 9:00 pm. Thanks to the City of Orangeburg and the Department of Public Utilities for their partnership for this event. The Fair this year will be October 1 – 6, 2024. We will have the youth safety policy again this year which requires 16 years and younger to have a wristband. We worked with Chief Austin and Sherriff Ravenell to implement this."

A motion was made by Councilmember Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve third reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 2: Administration of the City Code, by amending Section 2-5.2.b to clarify the City Administrator's authority to adopt and enforce City-wide non-discrimination policies and procedures. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance consenting to the closure of, and relinquishment of any claim or right, title, or interest in or to, a portion of the public way now or formerly known as Arthur Street and/or Fersner Street as more fully described as "Tract B" in CRE Holdings LLLP v City of Orangeburg – 2024-CP-38-00383: reserving utility easements and other public uses to the City. He stated, "This ordinance before you for your consideration would close in a public way portion of road formally known as Arthur Street and/or Fersner Street. There is a utility easement that will remain in place allowing DPU to service the utilities."

Councilmember Kalu asked, "Are there any residents living in that area that would be affected?"

Mayor Butler stated, "There are no residents affected. It is a little road that goes into that business."

A motion was made by Councilmember Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve third reading of an ordinance consenting to the closure of, and relinquishment of any claim or right,

title, or interest in or to, a portion of the road in a public way now or formerly known as Arthur Street and/or Fersner Street as more fully described as "Tract B" in CRE Holdings LLLP v City of Orangeburg – 2024-CP-38-00383: reserving utility easements and other public uses to the City. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler presented the Diamond Youth Baseball World Series July 25 – 30, 2024 proclamation that will be presented at the DYB opening ceremony at South Carolina State University football field on July 25, 2024.

Mr. Kevin Gantt, Carolina Transportation Engineers & Associates addressed Council concerning the South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) \$1.7 million grant award for stormwater drainage improvements on Adden Street. He stated, "My firm was selected by SCOR to perform a drainage study. We had a community meeting at the City Gym a couple of years ago and identified 22 locations with drainage issues in the City. Six of those advanced through the committee with City representation, SCOR and my firm. We did a full investigation of those for the drainage study. Adden Street ranked high with the SCOR criteria which pushed it forward among the projects that were listed in the City of Orangeburg. Those projects that were selected from our study advanced to compete around the state for additional funding and that is how you received this money to make the drainage improvements on Adden Street. One of the strongest components is the benefit cost ratio which we were able to help a lot of people with maximize benefit, but the cost of the project was not as much. That helps you to get to this point and win the award. The section of Adden Street is from Windsor to Riverside in front of the Spray Park which gets a lot of flooding at that lower end. It is two houses away from Riverside and they must blow out that pipe so it can drain. There are valley gutters there so the water traps out to the side of the road and runs down to that low point and crosses, goes through a pipe and ends up in the Sunnyside Canal. In the study, we recommended larger pipes and installing more catch basins which will pull the water off the road quicker, more efficiently, and will make it safer for the public to travel so the water would not be standing in the road. Another benefit of the project is the outlet pipe that pulls the water out into Sunnyside will be upsized so it will make it operate more efficiently. SCOR will administer and oversee these grant funds. SCOR Program Manager Ms. Felicia Lewis' office will give full oversight to it and follow it from this point forward."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "It will not take \$1.7 million to do this project. What happens to the excess funds?"

Mr. Gantt stated, "The estimate includes taking the plans to a final state. We developed in the study conceptual plans and came up with an estimate for the project to do the benefit cost ratio and qualify it for funding. The plans are about 10% complete and now an engineering firm will be assigned to complete the plans. Working with a lot of state and federal funding, you have a nice number here to complete the work, get the engineering completed and maybe some for the inspection. There is a lot of concrete pipe underground that is proposed in this project, the catch basins must be installed. Looking at the market and projects we have bid on that are comparable, this is a good number because it does include the engineering required to finish the plans."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "I am certain these problems exist elsewhere in the City. Is there a possibility that future funding could be provided to address other areas or how often is this type of funding made available?"

Mr. Gantt stated, "This specific funding became available because of the floods in 2015, 2016 and a subsequent flood in 2018. Funds were identified for specific areas of low to moderate income residents. SCOR would manage funds that may come from various sources that would be able to help you with other drainage issues in your community. You have to keep trolling around to see when those funds are available and the criteria for the funding. This was specific to the areas damaged by the floods and was outlined through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) mitigation. I think it would be good for Sidney to stay in touch with SCOR for future funding that may come available."

City Administrator Evering stated, "We are in contact with federal agencies about applying for additional funding as we have issues with flooding in different areas of the City."

Mayor Butler stated, "Many of the projects we are completing are not coming from City funds, but from grant funds. Sidney, I want to recognize and thank you and your staff for bringing these grant funds to the City."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning appointments to Hillcrest Golf Commission. He stated, "Two Hillcrest Golf Course Commissioners terms are expiring 07-01-2024. They are Mr. Derrick Simpson and Mr. Francis Faulling and both are willing to serve an additional term if Council wishes. We did not receive any additional nominations from Council."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve Mr. Derrick Simpson and Mr. Francis Faulling to serve on the Hillcrest Golf Commission for terms ending 07-01-2027. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning authorizing the acceptance of a \$1,000,000 Grant Award from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) for the Northwood Estates Wastewater Line Replacement Project. He stated, "As you recall, we received ownership of the Northwoods Estate sewer system some time ago. The City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities have been operating that system and we have solved the problems of the citizens on that system. They are now the recipients of a stable rate. They are not subject to the fluctuating cost but the problems that caused the fluctuating costs still exist. Since we have owned the system, we have been targeting efforts to address that first by using funding that Orangeburg County has provided \$700,000 to begin to address the issues the system has and now we have successfully competed for a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority to continue that work and move us into a better direction to assist in sealing up the system and making it a better system long term. We ask that you authorize the acceptance of \$1,000,000 grant from South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority for the Northwoods Estate Wastewater System."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve authorizing the acceptance of a \$1,000,000 Grant Award from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) for the Northwood Estates Wastewater Line Replacement Project. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to go into Executive Session concerning discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – Project Substation Tax Map # 0151-15-11-001.000 – SC Code Sec. 30-4-40(a)(2). The motion was unanimously approved.

Council did not return from Executive Session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McDaniel  
City Clerk

