

**City Council Minutes
October 15, 2024**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday October 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, 933 Middleton Street with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Annette Dees Grevious
Dr. Kalu Kalu
L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard Stroman

PRESENT VITUALLY:

Jerry Hannah

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to approve the October 1, 2024, minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized Miss Tammy L. Byrd with a Retirement Resolution for twenty-five years and four days service rendered the City of Orangeburg.

Parks and Recreation Director Shawn Taylor addressed Council concerning review and approval of Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee recommendations. He stated, "In your packet are the recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for your review and approval. We received six submission requests with the Committee approving five totaling \$90,050 including Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association (DORA) \$7,000, SC Theater Association \$5,000, Orangeburg County Fair 25,000, Orangeburg Fine Arts Center \$30,000, and S.A.F.E Self-esteem, Advocacy, Faith, and Education - Girl Empowerment \$23,050."

Councilmember Kalu asked, "The minutes list Rachelle Holmes as absent, but it states she seconded two motions. Is this correct?"

Parks and Recreation Director Taylor stated, "No, there is an error in two of the motions. Rachelle Holmes was absent. I have the corrected minutes to distribute tonight. The two motions with errors are the SC Theater Association and Orangeburg Fine Arts Center. The correct motions on both were made by Shawn Taylor and seconded by James McQuilla."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee recommendations totaling \$90,050 as listed by Parks and Recreation Director Taylor. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Administrative Director Josh Nexsen addressed Council concerning first reading of an ordinance amending the millage rate for property taxes for the City of Orangeburg, SC for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025, and thereafter. He stated, "The County mailed notices of reassessment regarding real property. By state law SC Code 12-43-217 mandates that once every five years each county of the state shall appraise and equalize properties under jurisdiction in accordance with this mandate, Orangeburg County implemented reassessment programs intact years in 1998, 2003, 2008, 2014, 2019 and 2024. Orangeburg delayed 2013, 2018 and 2024 program as one year is allowed by state law. This is a reassessment of properties that have not changed hands during those five years so if you did not buy or sell your house in this period, you received one of these notices. Council did not want a tax rate increase, so to ensure that we do not have a large tax increase on properties that were reassessed, we are changing the millage rate as recomputed based on the South Carolina Department of Revenue formula from 115 mills down to 109 mills. The assessment changed by \$2,517,000 million or by approximately 7% on real property in the City limits. Even with this adjustment, there could be citizens that end up with a tax increase. The state law is designed to not have a windfall by the City."

Councilmember Kalu asked, "For citizens with homestead exemption, will it change?"

DPU Administrative Director Nexsen stated, "On the homestead exemptions, the state reimburses the County, and the County reimburses the City therefore it should not affect the reassessment. We do not believe there will be any dollar change associated with the City budget on taxes collected. If there are, we will let you know."

Councilmember Grevious stated, "To clarify for citizens, we are not increasing property taxes."

DPU Administrative Director Nexsen stated, "That is a great point to make. The County by state law reassessed properties. The City reduced our millage rate to try to offset any tax increase."

A motion was made by Councilmember Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to approve first reading of an ordinance amending the millage rate for property taxes for the City of Orangeburg, SC for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Warren Harley addressed Council concerning proposed updates to the General Terms and Conditions – Information Only. He stated, "As you may recall during our last budget retreat, we discussed that we would be updating some of the information in our General Terms and Conditions. The updated draft is included in your packet for your review, and we will bring this back to you for approval by ordinance. We wanted to give you an opportunity to review it, ask any questions ahead of time as it is a lot of information. A lot of it is updating language, there are some updates on fees or how we bill our fees, and some of it is definitions. Please review it and feel free to give me a call if you have any questions regarding this information."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to go into Executive Session concerning discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and/or the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement or legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) a) Property Insurance RFP b) Sale of Property and c) Hillcrest Lease. 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





RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Tammy L. Byrd faithfully served the City of Orangeburg for twenty-five years and four days with a retirement date of October 5, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, she, through her long and faithful service, contributed greatly to the successful operation of the City of Orangeburg's Hillcrest Golf Course; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council, in recognition of the fine contribution rendered the City of Orangeburg, wants to inscribe on the records its appreciation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Members of Council, in Council assembled, do officially recognize the faithful service rendered to the City of Orangeburg in the capacities in which she served the City, and we take pride in commending her for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, in appreciation for her devotion of duty to the City of Orangeburg, be placed in the Minute Book of the City and a copy furnished to Miss Byrd in recognition of her services.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this fifteenth day of October 2024.

Michael C. Butler

MAYOR

[Signature]

Wanda P. Knotts

[Signature]

L. Jimmie Keitt

Richard F. Stone

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL



ATTEST:
Linda McDaniel

CITY CLERK