

City Council Minutes
September 16, 2025

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, 933 Middleton Street with Mayor Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor

Annette Dees Grevious

Jerry Hannah (arrived 6:01p)

Dr. Kalu Kalu

L. Zimmerman Keitt, Mayor Pro Tem

Sandra P. Knotts

Richard Stroman

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve September 2, 2025, minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. Councilmember Hannah was not present for the vote.

The Fearless Individuals Reaching Excellence (FIRE) is a youth coalition that aims to reduce youth substance abuse in Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun counties. The student group addressed Council concerning the new school year initiatives.

Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) Field Representative Ms. Desiree Fragoso presented Council with the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government 2025 Honor Roll plaque.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 5 (Police Regulations of the City Code, by adding Section 5-31 (Hate Intimidation). He stated, "As you may recall, Richland County was the first local government in the state of South Carolina to pass the hate crimes ordinance in the state. South Carolina is only one of two states in the nation that does not have hate crime legislation. Orangeburg County subsequently passed an ordinance about a month ago. We have before you an ordinance amendment that would add language to recognize hate crimes here in the City of Orangeburg. Basically, it would be unlawful for any person to cause fear of harm, injury, or damage to a victim or property because of the victim's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity. It would provide for up to \$500 fine. It will be a misdemeanor or 30 days in prison or both to be at the discretion of the judge."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "Given the situations that occurred last week, do political affiliations fall under this hate crime ordinance?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "It does not specify political affiliation. If that is something Council would like to add, we could research it."

City Attorney Mosser stated, "I would appreciate the opportunity to look into that if that were something Council would seek to add."

Councilmember Kalu asked, "On this ordinance, we need to make the narrative between free and hate speech to be within the law."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "Can we table third reading until we receive more information?"

City Attorney Mosser stated, "If the item is tabled and Council fails to take it off the table at the next meeting, then the ordinance would die. I would suggest Council make a motion to postpone to the next meeting."

Mayor Butler asked, "Can we adopt third reading and come back and amend it?"

City Attorney Mosser stated, "You can certainly adopt an ordinance and later amend the ordinance but then that would be three readings for the amendment."

A motion was made by Councilmember Grevious, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to postpone third reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 5 (Police Regulations) of the City Code, by adding Section 5-31 (Hate Intimidation) until the October 7th Council meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning first reading of an ordinance amending the Business License Ordinance of the City of Orangeburg to update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020. He stated "As a reminder, this is an update that is required by law every two years. The Municipal Association consolidates this update. I want to highlight a few of the changes that would affect the City. Manufacturing changes from Class 9.8 to Class 3 which is a higher rate. Transportation and warehousing changes from Class 1 to Class 2 which is a higher rate. The following are moving to classes with lower rates: Real Estate and Rental Leasing changes from Class 7 to Class 6, Professional Scientist and technical services changes from Class 5 to Class 4. and Health care and social assistance changes from Class 4 to Class 3."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "This will take effect for the Business Licenses that are acquired March of 2026, correct? Have we done an assessment in terms of how this will affect the budget that was just passed?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "Yes, that is correct, and we have not done an assessment, but I do not think there will much effect because the changes are minimal that effect businesses located in the City."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to approve first reading of an ordinance amending the Business License Ordinance of the City of Orangeburg to update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020. The motion was unanimously approved.

Municipal Airport Manager Betty Baker addressed Council concerning approval of a resolution approving one or more United States Department of Transportation Grant(s) related to City Airport improvements. She stated, "The airport applied for two grants this year and received both. We received the Airport Infrastructure Grant for \$948,647 and the Airport Improvement Program Grant for \$4,388,494 both to rehabilitate runway 17/35. The City is required to match 2.5%, which is \$140,045. This year, the grant is funded 95% by the FAA, 2.5% by the City and 2.5% by the State."

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to approve a resolution approving one or more United States Department of Transportation Grants (s) related to City Airport Improvements. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Kalu to go into Executive Session concerning Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice, or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) a) Joke Farm – Stevenson Auditorium Lease Agreement and b) Sale of Property, Receipt of legal advice S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) – Political signs and petitions and Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual agreements and/or receipt of legal advice S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) – Duke Energy of South Carolina. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Councilmember Stroman to return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Manager Harley addressed Council concerning authorizing the DPU Manager to sign an amended contract for Firm Capacity and Energy between the City of Orangeburg, SC and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC. He stated, "If you recall, on our last meeting, you approved an agreement between Duke and the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities. This is part and parcel to that agreement. It amends the contract for our firm capacity and extends some benefits that are currently received by the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities in that current contract. It just extends those benefits through the life of the contract, and we would ask that you give me authorization at this time to sign that agreement."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Hannah to authorize the DPU Manager to sign an Implementation Agreement with Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering stated, "In accordance with the disclaimer on our agenda that Council may elect to return to open session and vote on any matters discussed in executive session, a matter of the sale of property was discussed in executive session. I am asking for your authorization to enter an engagement with a realtor to sell certain city property."

A motion was made by Councilmember Grevious, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to authorize the City Administrator to enter an engagement with a realtor to sell certain city property. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kalu, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Keitt to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda McDaniel
City Clerk



VOID

VOID

VOID



**RESOLUTION APPROVING ONE OR MORE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT(S) RELATED TO CITY
AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER RELATED
MATTERS.**

WHEREAS, the City is a body politic and corporate and a municipal corporation and possesses all powers granted to municipal corporations by the Constitution and general laws of South Carolina;

WHEREAS, the City has owns and operates a municipal airport;

WHEREAS, to assist the City with the airport's ongoing construction and maintenance operations, the City applied to the United States Department of Transportation ("DOT") for one or mores from the Airport Improvement Program and the Airport Infrastructure Grant program, as more fully described on Exhibit A, which is attached to this Resolution and incorporated herein by reference (collectively, "Grant");

WHEREAS, subject to certain conditions, as described in this Resolution, the DOT has agreed to provide the Grant to the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, as the governing body of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina ("City"), in meeting duly called, with a quorum present:

Section 1. Approval of Grant; Authorization to Execute Documents. For funding the construction and maintenance operations as described on Exhibit A, the City hereby accepts the Grant and agrees to such general terms and conditions of acceptance as may be necessary or prudent to accept and administer the Grant and authorizes the City Administrator to execute and deliver such forms and documents as are necessary or prudent to facilitate the acceptance and administration of the Grant.

Section 2. General Repealer. All resolutions, orders, policies, and parts thereof in conflict with this Resolution are, to the extent of that conflict, repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force upon adoption by the Council.

ADOPTED BY the City Council on September 16, 2025.

Mayor

Michael C. Boehl

Members of Council,

W. S.

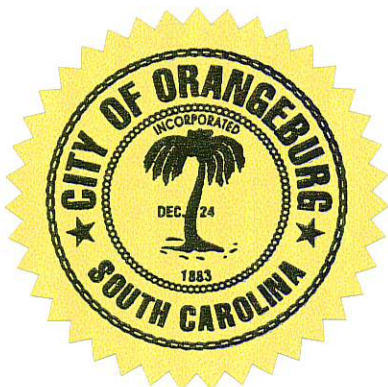
Santha T. Purnas

L. Benjamin Keith

Richard T. Stum

W. S.

W. S.



Attest: Linda McDaniel
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A
DESCRIPTION OF GRANT

Date: 8/19/2025
Grant: FY25 AIG
Project: Orangeburg Municipal / OGB / 3-45-0045-031-2025
Locality: Orangeburg, South Carolina
Applicant: City of Orangeburg, South Carolina
Grant Amount: \$948,647
DOT Agency Disbursing Funds: Federal Aviation Administration

Description: This project rehabilitates 5,399 feet of existing paved Runway 17/35 to maintain the structural integrity and minimize foreign object debris to extend its useful life. This grant funds a portion of the final phase, which consists of construction. This grant is associated with an Airport Improvement Program grant that funds the remaining eligible portion of the project.

Date: 8/20/2025
Grant: FY25 AIP
Project: Orangeburg Municipal/OGB/3-45-0045-030-2025
Locality: Orangeburg, South Carolina
Applicant: City of Orangeburg, South Carolina
Grant Amount: \$4,388,494
DOT Agency Disbursing Funds: Federal Aviation Administration

Description: This grant funds a portion of the final phase, which consists of construction. This project rehabilitates 5,399 feet of existing paved Runway 17/35 to maintain the structural integrity and minimize foreign object debris to extend its useful life. This grant is associated with an Airport Infrastructure Grant that funds the remaining eligible portion of the project.