

**City Council Minutes
October 7, 2025**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 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
Jordan E. Hawkins
Dr. Kalu Kalu, Mayor Pro Tem
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P. Knotts

Mayor Michael C. Butler accepted the Oath of Office for Mayor of the City of Orangeburg for term of Office 10-01-2025 – 09-30-2029 administered by Judge Pandora Jones-Glover. Councilmember Jordan E. Hawkins accepted the Oath of Office as Councilmember for District #1 for the City of Orangeburg administered by Judge Derrick F. Dash. Councilmember Jerry Hannah accepted the Oath of Office as Councilmember for District #3 for the City of Orangeburg administered by Judge James Rickenbacker. Councilmember Liz Zimmerman Keitt accepted the Oath of Office as Councilmember for District #5 for the City of Orangeburg administered by Judge Pandora Jones-Glover.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to appoint Councilmember Kalu as Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve September 16, 2025, minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Butler recognized Integrity as the October Orangeburg County Community of Character Trait.

Mayor Butler and Council recognized James M. Hiers with a Retirement Resolution for twenty-five years, one month and thirteen days service to the City of Orangeburg.

Mayor Butler and Council recognized Arney Lucas with a Retirement Resolution for thirty years, six months and six days service to the City of Orangeburg.

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, "This is the hate crime ordinance that you have reviewed for the past two Council meetings. As a reminder, it would make it unlawful for any person to cause fear or harm, injury, or damage to a victim or property because of the victim's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, natural origin, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity. It would provide a \$500 fine. It would be a misdemeanor of 30 days in prison or both. At the last Council meeting, Councilmember Grevious had a question regarding if political affiliation would also be covered under this ordinance. I will turn it over to the City Attorney who has been researching this."

City Attorney Kozlarek stated, "As I indicated previously, First Amendment type situations are very thorny as there is probably two hundred and thirty approximately years of precedent about First Amendment law. My recommendation is Council give this third reading while we continue to research those issues. When we come back with potential updates, if Council wishes, could act at that point to make amendments. Obviously, Council can make amendments tonight but those would be without the benefit of the 230 years of First Amendment precedent."

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

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning second 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 I indicated to you all at the last meeting, this is an update that is required by state law every two years. The Municipal Association sets forth the ordinance that will update the business license schedules. Again, to highlight a few of the changes. Manufacturing from Class 9.8 to Class 3, Transportation and Warehousing changes from Class 1 to Class 2, which are both higher rates. The following classes are moving to classes with lower rates. Real Estate and Rental Lease from Class 7 to Class 6; Professional Science and Technical Services from Class 5 to Class 4 and Health Care and Social Assistance from Class 4 to Class 3."

Councilmember Hawkins asked, "You stated Real Estate goes from Class 7 to Class 6. Is there a percentage or estimation of that reduction?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "I will get Council a copy of the changes."

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve second 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.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning Community Chat update. He stated, "I want to update you and the public on a new forum, Community Chats, that was the brainchild of Councilmember Grevious. The intention is to educate and update the community on items related to the operation of City government. We have scheduled quarterly forums to be held in Stevenson Auditorium that the public will be invited to attend, and members of our staff will be providing educational information. The first one, entitled Money Matters, will be next week, October 14, 6-7:30pm. The public will be provided with information on what makes up utility bills and property taxes, and they will have an opportunity to submit questions before hand that we will do our best to answer. The following future forums are scheduled February 24 Safety First, understanding Public Safety and emergency services; May 12 Living Well, provides information regarding our parks, recreation, and community services; and July 28 Building Orangeburg, learning about City planning and infrastructure."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Are you considering reactivating our public relations department?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "Yes, we have engaged a public relations firm, Foresight Communications. They have been instrumental in helping us put together this information."

DPU Electric Division Director Holmes addressed Council concerning approval for the DPU Manager to accept and sign the agreement for a Federal GRID Resilience Grant in the amount of \$689,721. He stated, "We are pleased to be awarded this grant through the Department of Energy to be used for the upgrading and building of portions of our DPU transmission lines and poles. I am requesting your permission to allow DPU Manager Harley to sign the agreement."

Councilmember Hawkins asked, "Is there a match required of DPU?"

DPU Electric Division Director Holmes stated, "Yes, it is a 25% match which will be \$229,000 either in cash or in-kind services."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Grevious for approval for the DPU Manager to accept and sign the agreement for a Federal GRID Resilience Grant in the amount of \$689,721. The motion was unanimously approved.

DPU Electric Division Director Holmes presented Council a resolution recognizing October 6 – 10, 2025 as Customer Service Week.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Daniel
Linda McDaniel, City Clerk





OATH

As Councilmember of the municipality of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, I will equally, fairly, and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to the law, the purposes for which I have been elected. So, help me God.

I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of the State, to exercise the duties of the office, to which I have been elected, and that I will to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and of the United States of America. So, help me God.



Councilmember Jordan E. Hawkins

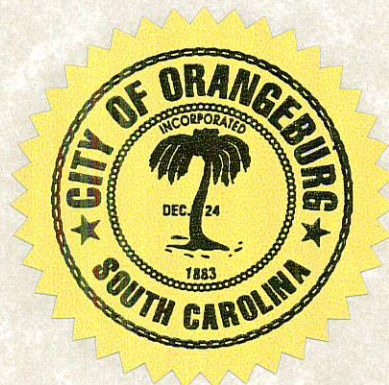
10-07-2025

Date

Sworn before me this 7th day
of October 2025



Judge Derrick F. Dash
Notary Public
My Commission expires 04-30-2028





OATH

As Mayor of the municipality of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, I will equally, fairly, and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to the law, the purposes for which I have been elected. So, help me God.

I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of the State, to exercise the duties of the office, to which I have been elected, and that I will to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and of the United States of America. So, help me God.

Michael C. Butler
Mayor Michael C. Butler

10-07-25
Date

Sworn before me this 7th day
of October 2025

Pandora Jones-Glover
Judge Pandora L. Jones-Glover
Notary Public
My Commission expires 06-13-27

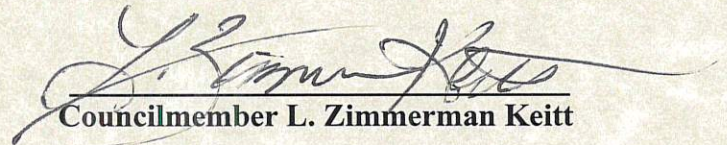




OATH

As Councilmember of the municipality of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, I will equally, fairly, and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to the law, the purposes for which I have been elected. So, help me God.

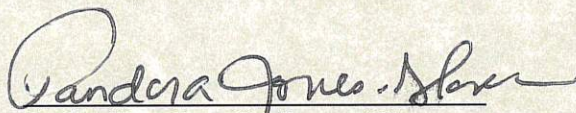
I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of the State, to exercise the duties of the office, to which I have been elected, and that I will to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and of the United States of America. So, help me God.


Councilmember L. Zimmerman Keitt

10-07-2025

Date

Sworn before me this 7th day
of October 2025


Judge Pandora L. Jones-Glover
Notary Public
My Commission expires 06-13-27





OATH

As Councilmember of the municipality of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, I will equally, fairly, and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to the law, the purposes for which I have been elected. So, help me God.

I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of the State, to exercise the duties of the office, to which I have been elected, and that I will to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and of the United States of America. So, help me God.


Councilmember Jerry Hannah

10-07-2025

Date

Sworn before me this 7th day
of October 2025


Judge James Rickenbacker
Notary Public
My Commission expires 04-30-2028





RESOLUTION

WHEREAS,

Arney Lucas faithfully served the City of Orangeburg for thirty years, six months and six days with a retirement date of April 11, 2025; and,

WHEREAS,

he, through his long and faithful service, contributed greatly to the successful operation of the City of Orangeburg; and,

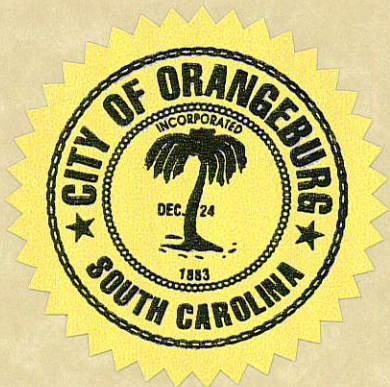
WHEREAS,

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 he served the City, and we take pride in commending him for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, in appreciation for his devotion of duty to the City of Orangeburg, be placed in the minute book of the City and a copy furnished to Mr. Lucas in recognition of his services.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 7th day of October 2025.



Michael C. Butch
MAYOR

Richard F. Stroman

Kelvin A. Hood

B. Zimmerman-Kitt

A. S.

D. S.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Linda McDaniel
CITY CLERK



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, James M. Hiers faithfully served the City of Orangeburg for twenty-five years, one month and thirteen days with a retirement date of September 22, 2025; and,

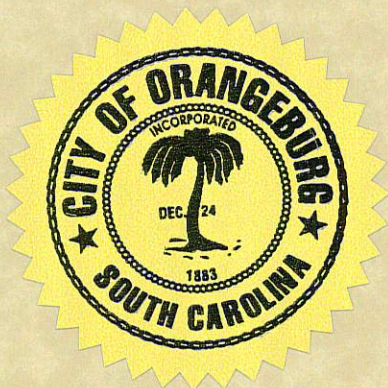
WHEREAS, he, through his long and faithful service, contributed greatly to the successful operation of the City of Orangeburg; and,

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 he served the City, and we take pride in commending him for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, in appreciation for his devotion of duty to the City of Orangeburg, be placed in the minute book of the City and a copy furnished to Mr. Hiers in recognition of his services.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 7th day of October 2025.



Michael C. Butler
MAYOR

Richard F. Stone

[Signature]

L. Zimmerman-Kent

[Signature]

James A. [Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Linda McDaniel
CITY CLERK



RESOLUTION
Recognizing October 6 – 10, 2025 as Customer Service Week

WHEREAS, the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities provides utility services within the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina; and the greater Orangeburg area; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities is to provide safe and reliable utility services at competitive prices, while delivering a positive return on investment; and

WHEREAS, providing excellent customer service is an essential component of successfully operating in accordance with the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities' mission statement and an expectation of our customers; and

WHEREAS, throughout the organization our employees strive to deliver excellent customer service and are always willing to go the extra mile to serve our customers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities will encourage employees to take initiative and continue to provide new and more efficient ways of providing excellent customer service.

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that the Mayor and Members of Council in Council assembled, do officially recognize the week of October 6 – 10, 2025, as **"Customer Service Week"** to honor the City of Orangeburg and its staff for the continued commitment to providing excellent customer service.

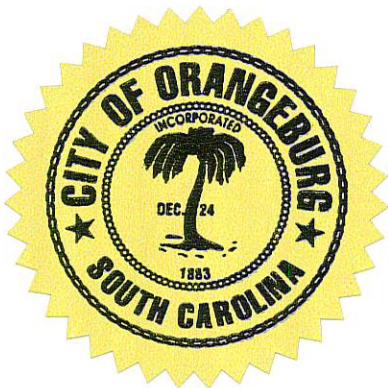
PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, this 7th day of October 2025.

Mayor

Michael C. Butler

Members of Council

[Signature]
Shandra D. Roberts
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]



ATTEST:

Linda McDaniel

City Clerk