

**City Council Minutes  
October 20, 2020**

**2953**

Orangeburg City Council held a Regular Council Meeting on Facebook Live via Zoom on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 9:00 AM with Mayor Butler presiding.

**PRESENT IN PERSON:**

**Mayor Michael Butler**

**Dr. Kalu Kalu** (Joined meeting at Item 2)

**PRESENT BY TELEPHONE:**

**Bernard Haire**

**Jerry Hannah**

**L. Zimmerman Keitt**

**Sandra P. Knotts**

**Richard F. Stroman**

Mayor Butler called the meeting to order with a roll call of Councilmembers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stroman, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve the October 6, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was approved by roll call vote. The vote was 4-0-2, Mayor Butler and Councilmember Hannah abstained, Mayor Pro Tem Kalu was not present at time of voting.

Interim City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning extending Emergency Ordinances number 2020-02, 2020-03 and 2020-04 dated April 16, 2020, June 4, 2020 and June 30, 2020. He stated, "This is on our agenda today because the Emergency Ordinances expire on November 14, 2020 and we will not have another meeting before they expire. We are extending the Emergency Ordinances 61 days from November 14, 2020. This extends everything except the curfew."

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve the Emergency Ordinance extending Emergency Ordinances numbers 2020-02, 2020-03, and 2020-04 dated April 16, 2020, June 4, 2020 and June 30, 2020. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Haire to approve the Resolution ratifying the purchase of properties of KumKum Singh for the purchase price of \$150,000 and \$7,500. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Interim City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning celebrating Halloween in the City. He stated, "The City will observe Trick or Treating on Halloween, Saturday, October 31, 2020 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM. The Department of Public Safety will be providing extra patrols for the purpose of safety and security. All participants should wear proper PPE and engage in social distancing when possible. Only go to houses that are well lit and accepting trick or treaters for the safety of all."

A motion was made by Councilmember Haire, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to cancel the November 3, 2020 City Council Meeting due to Election Day. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Interim City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning Standardized Business License Ordinance update. He stated, "In past Municipal Association Meetings you will remember that in State Legislation sessions there has been a lot of discussion about standardizing business licenses throughout South Carolina. The State Legislature approved a standardized business license process that will go into effect in January 2022 which allows Counties and Cities a period of time to adjust their licenses. We have already done that process on the legal side of it with the help of the Municipal Association. We have used Mr. Lawrence Flynn, an Attorney in Columbia, working with Melissa Harrill and our Finance Director. They have done a tremendous job in getting that process done. The effect of the new standardization would not provide too many ill effects to the revenue of the City, but it also standardizes the licenses. There will be winners and losers. There will be winners in how much they pay and there will be losers. Meaning they may pay a little

more than they have been paying. This standardization will make it easier for businesses throughout the State getting licenses as they will be able to obtain them from a portal. This will be on your agenda as first reading at the next Council Meeting, so I wanted to give Council an overview today.

2954

Mayor Butler asked, "This Standardized Ordinance will be for all Cities and Counties?"

Interim City Administrator Singh stated, "Yes, for every City and County in South Carolina. If you are an Air Conditioning company in Greenville, you will be able to realize licensing will be the same setup throughout the State."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Is this only dealing with financial rates?"

Interim City Administrator Singh stated, "No, it is also dealing with codes. This standardization will use the NAICS code which is what is used in our Code Enforcement and Building and Zoning Departments. It is designed to be as business friendly as possible across the board. We will give you more information that will clarify this before you make a decision."

Interim City Administrator Singh addressed Council concerning the South Carolina Breakfast Club at Orangeburg Municipal Airport. He stated, "Our Airport has a rich history and part of that rich history is a Breakfast Club that is held at our Municipal Airport every year. This year the fly-in date is Sunday, November 1, 2020. You do not have to fly-in, you can arrive in your cars. You will get to see a lot of neat airplanes. It starts about 8:30 AM and ends around 10:00 AM. There will be breakfast served during that time."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "I have two items concerning the Department of Public Utilities. First, a few meetings ago, we talked about a DPU customer water issue. I understand this has not been settled. I think DPU should admit they made an error when they did not read the meter and settle this with the DPU customer. Second, I think we should appoint three Councilmembers to serve on a board with DPU. When they make new positions, these Councilmembers on the board would be in the meetings. I recommend Dr. Kalu to oversee it."

Councilmember Haire stated, "I would like to address that. It did not negate the fact that the customer had a leak on their property. It is not the responsibility of DPU. I can see making arrangements with the customer of a payment plan, but I do not see making any adjustments. I am not in agreement in making any type of adjustments for a problem that existed."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "The only reason I think we should make an adjustment is DPU failed to read the meter for one month. I am just saying adjust that one month because they would have caught it a month earlier if they would have read the meter."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "At this point, I would like to ask Mr. Harley where we are with it?"

DPU Manager Harley stated, "If you will recall at our last meeting, I gave you information detailing a number of meters we did not read in that period of time. Mainly from March to now, that number has increased because of COVID and inclement weather. I told Council I did not have the authority to reduce her bill but only to extend payments as Mr. Haire stated. At the last meeting, Council did not give me instructions to settle this. Council instructed me to let Ms. Porter know that Council was not going to reduce the bill. This is following the General Terms and Conditions. It is Council's decision and not the Manager of DPU as to whether we reduce a bill because of a leak unless it is the fault of DPU. Our General Terms and Conditions allow us when operationally necessary to estimate a meter reading. We are following the General Terms and Conditions. If that is an issue to estimate a reading, then, I think we should amend the General Terms and Conditions to address that concern. Simply put, we are following industry standards."

Mayor Butler stated, "As stated in our General Terms and Conditions, we can setup payment plans with a customer, but we cannot dismiss a charge."

Councilmember Haire stated, "Council has already made a decision on this. I think if we reduce this bill, we will be opening up the Northwood Estates situation. I do not think we need to keep bringing this issue up because Council has made a decision at a previous Council meeting."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "If DPU made a mistake I think they should admit it. I think they should hire more meter readers instead of hiring new positions. The other item **2955** set up concerning establishing a board to work with DPU, I think we should put this on the next agenda."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "Many months ago, I made a recommendation for DPU to give Council a monthly summary just like the City does a financial report. For six months reports were done. But since then, there has not been a single summary of financials attached to our Council packets. We have in this packet financial documents from the City but none from DPU. I do not understand. DPU has an Administration Director, Controller and Budget Director and none of them could come up with a summary of monthly financials. If Council asks them to do something and they can not do it, then it is time for them to go. If they can not do their job, its time for them to go so we can get other people that will adhere to the policies of Council."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "Mayor Butler, we have digressed from the agenda."


DPU Manager Harley stated, "Dr. Kalu to address your request to have the financial documents sent to Council monthly and quarterly. There are usually around 45 days in a financial month. I wanted to send quarterly reports to Council so you would have a more complete picture. I have currently instructed staff to work on a new financial document for Council that is more concise and gives you a better summary of the financial picture."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to enter into Executive Session for Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and sale of property – Former First Citizens Bank Building at 1099 Russell Street. S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-7 (2) The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to return to open session. The motion was approved by roll call vote. The vote was 6-0, Councilmember Hannah was not online.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to adjourn. The motion was approved by roll call vote. The vote was 6-0, Councilmember Hannah was not online.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carrie Johnson  
City Clerk

/lrm



2956

VOID

VOID

VOID



**RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES OF KUMKUM SINGH  
FOR THE PURCHASE PRICES OF \$150,000.00 AND \$7,500.00.**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Orangeburg wishes to improve and develop properties in or near "Railroad Corner" in the City of Orangeburg, and
- WHEREAS,** the City finds that "Railroad Corner" is a blighted area resulting in the unmarkedability of the properties for development and inadequate private investment for the development of said property, and
- WHEREAS,** the eradication of blighted areas and improvement of the area by redevelopment is a public interest and public purpose, and
- WHEREAS,** the City's timely ownership may enable it to obtain additional development funding, and
- WHEREAS,** the additional funding has time limitations thus preventing other means of obtaining ownership, and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Council authority Mayor Michael C. Butler has entered into contracts for the purchase of the properties of KumKum Singh.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by City Council that the Contract of Sale dated October 1, 2020 between the City of Orangeburg and KumKum Singh for the purchase of the first described property for One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars and the Contract of Sale dated October 1, 2020 between the City of Orangeburg and KumKum Singh for the purchase of the second described property for Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$7,500.00) Dollars are hereby ratified by Council and Mayor Michael C. Butler is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents and to take any and all actions necessary to complete said purchases in compliance with the said Contracts of Sale.

**Property of KumKum Singh:**

Tax Map #: 0173-14-10-014

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with improvements, situate, lying and being in Orangeburg County, State of South Carolina, on the corner of East Russell and Treadwell, being bounded and measuring as follows: Northwest by lands of now or formerly, A C Walker, 91.3 feet; Northeast by Treadwell Street, 100 feet; Southeast by East Russell Street, 89.10 feet; Southwest by lands of now or formerly, Dr. M. G. Salley, 100 feet. All measurements more or less.

Tax Map #: 0173-14-10-013

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land together with improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the City of Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, State of South Carolina, being bounded and measuring as follows: Northeast by Treadwell Street, 63 feet; Southeast by Lot #1 on plat hereinafter set forth, 91.25 feet; Southwest by lot of the Estate of Dr. M.G. Salley, 56 feet; and Northwest by lot of Louella R. Funchess, 92.2 feet; and being designated as Lot #2 on a plat of survey of property of Walker & Bowman, dated March 18, 1964 by H. Frank O'Cain, C.E., and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Orangeburg County in Plat Book 18 at page 88.

**PASSED BY** the City Council of the City of Orangeburg, South Carolina, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.



Attest:

City Clerk

Michael C. Butler

Mayor

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

Members of Council