

**City Council Minutes
September 15, 2026**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 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
Sandra P. Knotts

ABSENT:

L. Zimmerman Keitt

A motion was made by Councilmember Grevious, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve September 1, 2026, City Council Minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins to approve June 30, 2026, DPU Budget Workshop Minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Michelle Green, Reclaiming Our Youth Services appeared before Council to recognize DPS Officers for their service of positive community policing through the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Summer Camp. Certificates were presented to Sergeant Delores Edmunds, Sergeant Eric Free, Corporal Devin Gilmore, Lieutenant Henry Jennings, Corporal Jefry Rivas, PSOI Casey Smith, and Lieutenant Mitchell Timmons.

Dr. Jimmie Winningham, Reverend Larry McCutcheon, and Ms. Cammie Grate appeared before Council concerning correspondence regarding City Council.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning appointment to Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. He stated, "This Committee is tasked with making recommendations for the distribution of accommodations tax. It is required to have seven on the Committee. We are recommending the Interim Parks and Recreation Director, Marty Kinard, fill the vacancy held by the former Parks & Recreation Director for the unexpired term ending June 2027. We will work to bring forth a nominee for the lodging industry vacancy for Council's consideration."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins to approve Interim Parks and Recreation Director Marty Kinard to fill the unexpired vacancy ending June 2027 on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

City of Orangeburg Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Chairperson Rogers Ideozu addressed Council concerning review and approval of Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee recommendations. He stated, "A-Tax is part of the 2% tax that is collected by restaurants and hotels in the City of Orangeburg. This money is sent to the state treasury who on a quarterly basis returns the money back to either the county or city. This year the A-Tax Committee received \$100,229 for distribution. The City advertised and received ten applications totaling \$373,884. The A-Tax Committee recommends distributions as follows: Orangeburg County Fair \$11,500, Orangeburg Fine Arts Center \$14,000, City of Orangeburg Parks and Recreation Department Rose Festival Entertainment \$6,000, 2027 DYB World Series baseball marketing promotions and facilities \$15,202, the SAFE Organization two-day Empowerment Summit \$11,500, D.O.R.A. Rose Festival Street Dance \$5,527, Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce \$10,000, Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce/Claflin University Patriots to Freedom \$10,000, Life Through Lens, Civil Rights Museum \$15,000, and the SC Theatre Association \$1,500."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Will \$15,000 be enough on Item D 2027 DYB World Series as we were told expectations are 50,000 visitors?"

Chairperson Ideozu stated, "The Committee took into consideration that the City has funds appropriated for running the park facilities. This money assigned is for advertisement."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Can you explain Item G, Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce/Claflin University request?"

Chairperson Ideozu stated, "The Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce spent nearly \$35,000 to print brochures promoting Orangeburg. They requested a portion of the total spent. Also, there is a historic program showing at Claflin University theater in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce."

Councilmember Hawkins asked, "What was incomplete on the Grand American Coon Hunt, Inc. application?"

Chairperson Ideozu stated, "The Grand American Coon Hunt Inc. did not attend to present their request. It was considered incomplete and the committee voted to assign no funds."

Councilmember Hawkins asked, "Was anyone advised to attend the meeting? Have they applied for A-Tax before?"

Chairperson Ideozu stated, "Yes they have applied before and attended. It was advertised and is in the guidelines that they should be present. All other organizations were present at the meeting."

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to accept the recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee as follows Orangeburg County Fair \$11,500, Orangeburg Fine Arts Center \$14,000, City of Orangeburg Parks and Recreation \$6,000, 2027 DYB World Series \$15,202, S.A.F.E \$11,500, D.O.R.A. \$5,527, Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce \$10,000, Orangeburg County Chamber/Claflin University \$10,000, Life Through Lens, Civil Rights Museum \$15,000, and SC Theatre Association \$1,500. The motion was approved 4-0-2. Councilmember Grevious and Councilmember Hawkins recused.

Public Works Director Epting addressed Council concerning Code Enforcement and Building Permits Update. He stated, "In July, 56 permits were issued with \$1.15 million construction value. In August, 29 Building Permits were issued with \$1.21 million construction value. There is a lot of money coming back into Orangeburg with renovations, new construction, and repairs in commercial and residential projects. In July, we had one single family dwelling that was completed. In August, we had three multi-unit dwellings completed. Inspections for building codes for July were 104 and 26 for August. In July, we completed two plan reviews, one for commercial renovation and one for a single-family dwelling. In August, we completed one plan review for a single-family dwelling. In Code Enforcement, 145 letters were sent and 56 of those complied. Fifteen citations were issued during the months of July and August. Twenty-three work orders were issued, and we have 14 lots that are on contract with the City to cut twice a month."

Mayor Butler asked, "Does the City collect money for cutting the weedy lots? Also, are we hearing from abandoned property owners?"

Public Works Director Epting stated, "Contracted lots are required to pay in advance at the first of the year. On Code Enforcement lots, we send out invoices. If they do not pay, it is attached to the tax bill. We have been able to contact several owners of dilapidated houses, and we are working with them to sign the consent forms to take the properties down."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to go into Executive Session concerning Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging the location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by the public body. SC Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(5) – Project Orange

Council did not return to open session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McDaniel
Linda McDaniel
City Clerk



VOID

VOID

VOID

Recusal Statement

Member Name: Councilmember Annette Dees Grevious

Meeting Date: September 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations

Nature of Conflict:

I wish to recuse myself from the vote regarding the approval of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's recommendations for funding due to a potential conflict of interest as an employee of Claflin University.

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No 91-37) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Date: 9/15/2026



Member



Received by Recording Clerk: _____

Recusal Statement

Member Name: Jordan E. Hawkins

Meeting Date: September 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations

Topic: City Parks & Recreation - \$6,000 for Rose Festival Entertainment/Music Arts

Nature of Conflict:

Potential appearance of conflict: the City of Orangeburg Parks & Recreation Department oversees/administers the

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee while also being a recommended recipient of accommodations tax funds. I have no

personal financial or economic interest in the proposed allocation.

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No 91-37) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

As I am a member of Orangeburg City Council, there may be a potential conflict of interest and I therefore, recuse myself from all discussions and actions in this specific matter.

Date: 09/21/26

Jordan Hawkins


Member

Received by Recording Clerk: 