

**City Council Minutes**  
**March 17, 2026**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 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**  
**Dr. Kalu Kalu, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**L. Zimmerman Keitt**  
**Sandra P. Knotts**

**ABSENT:**

**Jordan E. Hawkins**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve March 3, 2026, City Council Minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering introduced Mr. Ty Davenport as the new Orangeburg County Development Commission Executive Director.

Reverend Larry McCutcheon, 695 Pike Street, addressed Council concerning Clean Air is Fair. He stated, "We are here to talk about improving the quality of life in Orangeburg. We are talking about clean air. You were provided with a survey of a list of churches and community organizations. Overwhelmingly, people are in favor of creating a better environment, a smoke-free environment. We recognize that there are some people who smoke and special spaces will be allocated. We added since the last presentation, a section that focuses on law enforcement and assisting law enforcement to enforce certain things. The link between vaping and public safety support of a vape free policy for public spaces. I think the City has approved some regulations for some of the vaping businesses in the City. We stress the importance of providing police officers and the Police Chief with adequate resources, legal backing and community support to effectively enforce laws related to vaping and associated with criminal activity. We encourage the City to do all you can to regulate smoking with the spaces that you can regulate. We respect the rights of those who smoke but we also respect the right of people who do not smoke, and we realize the danger of secondhand smoke."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "In looking at the map you provided, it looks like Orangeburg has an ordinance. Is this correct?"

Reverend McCutcheon stated, "You have things that relates to the vape agencies. To my knowledge, you do not have an ordinance that relates to smoke free."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "So your goal is to have the City develop an ordinance that will address spaces that may not be covered in what exists?"

Reverend McCutcheon stated, "That is correct."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "MUSC – Orangeburg is a smoke free zone. But I see individuals go somewhere else to smoke. You cannot stop people from smoking except in a crowded place. I think your point is well taken for the City to pass an ordinance for no one to smoke in a crowded place."

Reverend McCutcheon stated, "The two universities in the City are smoke free campuses. If people see the emphasis that we want to be a smoke free environment, they will understand that we want to be a healthier community."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "I have a question for the City Attorney. The towns of Livingston and Vance have adopted smoke-free ordinances. Do you see any issues or limitations with the City of Orangeburg adopting such an ordinance?"

City Attorney Kozlarek stated, "I would like to research the state law and look at those ordinances as well. I believe there was an amendment to the Clean Air Act of 1990 in 2023 that allows for cities to enact legislation that may be more restrictive on the areas in which people may use smoking products, but I would like to do a little more research on that before anything is presented to Council for action."

Chief Chris Watts, Rock Hill Chief of Police and the Chair of the South Carolina Accreditation Council stated, "Thank you for allowing this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety, Chief Austin and staff on successfully completing reaccreditation assessment process for state accreditation where they were unanimously approved by the state of South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation council. This is their third award. Orangeburg DPS is a dual accredited agency by achieving and maintaining both national and state accreditation. The national accreditation is through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies commonly known as CALEA. This is their eighth award. This is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the professionalism of the agency, and it shows that Orangeburg DPS is a leader in law enforcement not only in this community but across South Carolina. Law enforcement accreditation ensures that agencies meet national recognized best practices in policy, training, and operations and that those policies are consistently followed. This commitment reflects professionalism, accountability, and transparency and a deep dedication to the people they serve. South Carolina has over 300 law enforcement agencies. Only 30 agencies hold dual accreditation. Orangeburg DPS truly shines in the law enforcement community here in South Carolina."

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance approving a license agreement between the City and WF Media Group, LLC. He stated, "This ordinance would allow the City to enter into an agreement with WF Media Group to lease Stevenson Auditorium for a period of two-year to provide certain services, live comedy performances, television production and specials, talk shows, town halls, and live podcasts, record recordings, holiday inspirational music programming, feature film project and an annual comedy festival beginning in 2027. In exchange, they agree to pay the City 20% of all gross ticket sales. They will provide payment for any cleaning services required. Payment for utilities exceeding base levels and of course be responsible for any damage beyond normal wear. We think this is a great opportunity to continue to activate and reactivate Stevenson Auditorium. As you all know, we have been diligently trying to continue to have that facility be an economic driver and anchor for our downtown and this falls in line with that intent."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, "Who is in charge of scheduling?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "Currently, the City schedules all events. Any events that WF Media Group will have will be in coordination with this scheduling and will not conflict with anything that the City has scheduled."

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve third reading of an ordinance approving a license agreement between the City and WF Media Group, LLC. The motion was approved 5-0-1. Councilmember Grevious abstained.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning four appointments to the Employee Grievance Committee. He stated, "There are four expiring terms as of June 4, 2026. As you are aware, all departments throughout the City except Administration have employee representation on this committee. The appointments will be for three-year terms ending on June 4, 2029. The following employees have been recommended Julie Spell, Finance Department re-appointment, Albert Black, DPS Alternate re-appointment, Betty Baker, Public Works Department and Daniel Fogle, IT Department."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve the following Employee Grievance Committee reappointments of Julie Spell, Finance Department and Albert Black, Department of Public Safety as an alternate and new appointments of Betty Baker, Public Works and Daniel Fogle, IT as an alternate. The motion was unanimously approved.

Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Kinard addressed Council concerning the Players League. He stated, "We are excited to announce we will be bringing a collegiate summer wooden bat team

to Orangeburg who will play their games at Mirmow Field. They are members of the players league which play in the Palmetto State League. They will play against teams out of Greer, Easley, Mauldin, and Anderson. They will play 20 home games in June and July. If they make the playoffs, there will be additional home games. The name of the team is the Garden City River Ducks. The American Legion will work together with this league to make sure we still have American Legion baseball at Mirmow Field.”

Councilmember Knotts asked, “Are the folks that live adjacent to Mirmow Field still having issues with baseballs going into their yard?”

Parks and Recreation Director Taylor stated, “We have installed additional netting on both sides of the complex. I am not aware of any complaints in the last two years.”

Councilmember Grevious asked, “What are the dates of the season?”

Deputy Director Kinard stated, “These are collegiate players. Currently, we do not know the roster. The City of Orangeburg does not own the team. They will have a head coach who selects the players. Those players will come in late May, early June for two or three practices and then they will play games in June and July. The schedule should be released at some point this week. There will be 20 home games and 20 away games.”

Councilmember Grevious asked, “Have we polled the collegiate players to see if those collegiate players will be available to play?”

Deputy Director Kinard stated, “Collegiate baseball players are always looking for opportunities to play during the summer to continue to get better. There will be a lot of interest from local colleges such as Claflin, Voorhees, and Denmark Tech.”

Councilmember Grevious asked, “Has a coach been identified?”

Deputy Director Kinard stated, “The league has offered the position to an individual.”

Councilmember Hannah asked, “What are the financials of this?”

Director Taylor stated, “We are renting the space to league.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, 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 businesses in the area served by the public body. SC Section 30-4-70 (a)(5) – a) Project French and b) Project Sunrise, Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property and the receipt of legal advice. Section 30-4-70(a)(2) – Columbia Road Property and Performance Evaluations Discussion – City of Orangeburg City Administrator and Municipal Judges SC Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1) The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda McDaniel*

Linda McDaniel  
City Clerk

