

**City Council Minutes**  
**May 19, 2026**

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 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**  
**L. Zimmerman Keitt**  
**Sandra P. Knotts**

Mayor Butler opened Public Hearing 1 An ordinance amending, restating, striking and replacing Chapter 12 of the City Code – Animal Control.

Ms. Laura Moore, 1191 Dantzler Street stated, "I am dealing with 16 or more cats. I have a petition with nine signatures that I would like to turn in for the record. I also have pictures of the cats in my yard. They are digging holes in my yard. They are pooping in my garden and yard. The odor of the cat urine and poop is awful. It is getting hot now and that is all I smell when I walk out my door. I have a copy of health risks from cat poop and urine. I also have health risks of dogs eating cat poop. Today my dog was attacked by a cat. It cut his chin and ear. I have pictures of when he was attacked before. This has been going on for a while. They are getting too close to the gas line as they are digging holes beside it. I think if you want to feed cats, they should be your cats. I do not want them in my yard. I have not enjoyed my yard since I moved in three years ago. I wear booties on my feet when I am in my yard. It is a health risk as I got E.coli."

Ms. Paula O'Neal, 1205 Dantzler Street, stated, "I am pro-animal and their rights and support the state laws against animal cruelty. I am speaking on behalf of some suggestions about cats. Looking at the proposal that was up for discussion, Section 2.3 prohibits the cruelty of animals according to statistics and the Humane Society in Columbia and Worldwide, this is exactly what will happen if the community cats do not receive the food, water, and care that they are used to receiving from neighborhood caretakers. The failure to provide routine care and necessities the caregivers have been providing could equate to the abandonment under Section 12.7. The proposed feeding ban is at odds with the other sections of the proposed ban. As a result, it puts both the caregivers and the community cats in a very difficult position to support your laws. I have learned that Lexington, Richland, Charleston, Greenville counties and I am sure Orangeburg City and County are trying to get people and businesses to move here and there are animal lovers in all of them. All of those have had people against animals, cats, or community cats, feral cats, alley cats. You can refer to them what you want as they are all the same. Nobody owns them. They all have community cat programs in place which have been very successful. You can feel free to get literature from there or I can send it afterwards. Here are some things that I have done to keep them on my property. We feed and water the cats on the right-hand side of the property and pick up the food after feeding time We installed an eight-foot wooden fence to prevent the cats from jumping over a chain link fence hoping that it would not be as easy to climb. There is sandbox in our large Catio location for them to use the restroom and to scratch in. I have documents showing we have paid for over 66 cats in that neighborhood alone to be spayed or neutered. Of those 66 cats, only 21 remain. So, we have done our part in cutting down in the reproduction. My husband is home getting ready to capture the three new cats that showed up to get them spayed and neutered. There are things a homeowner can do to keep them off their property such as put grass in open dirt piles as cats love to scratch in the dirt, yard spikes for flowerbeds, plant citrus plants or place eco-friendly eggs or balls (boride) in flowerbeds and yards which are non-toxic to humans and other animals. Lastly, use an Aqua Joe sprinkler system that turns on when the pets are near as cats hate water. I too have a gas line; they live predominantly on my property, and I have had no issues. I have had no issues with E coli. My husband is in the yard more than anybody I know he and my daughter have never gotten sick from them. We have been around for seven years in the house I am in now and I lived next door before then. Those cats have been there for a while and still more will come. I am in favor of community cat programs, and I hope the Humane Society was able to email you today and if not, they will follow up with you."

“Individual did not state name” 110 Huddle Market Road, Vance. stated, “I work at the cat shelter. I feel for the lady with the cat issues in her yard. Bless the lady that got all the cats fixed as 66 down to 21 is amazing. We all know if you take cats away, any animal away, another one will come take its place. Please do not decide for all animals based on this one issue. There are a lot of other cat colonies and feral dogs. I would hope people would not stop feeding and taking care of feral animals. I hope we can come up with some solutions. Are feral colonies a problem everywhere? Are you receiving a lot of complaints? Changing this law is harsh. They are not going to disappear. They will go somewhere else or die a terrible death.”

Ms. Deborah Jamison, off Dantzler Street, stated, “I wondered what happened to all the cats that used to be in the neighborhood. We stopped feeding them and they disappeared. There are 3 or 4 around now. She is right, the smell is awful. I cannot go outside in my yard at certain times. It is bad for people not to be able to enjoy the property that you own and pay taxes. I do not want the cats to be hurt but at the same time, we are suffering because we must endure the smell. We must endure the cats coming when you do not invite them. I watched a cat jump on a squirrel, skin it and drag it across my yard. I cannot entertain because of the smell. I love animals and I am for animal rights, but when it starts to infringe on the rights of people and the health of people, we must do something. When we stopped feeding them, they did not stay in our yard.”

Ms. Marcia Jenkins, 1190 Dantzler Street, stated, “There is feces and urine in my yard from the cats. When I go to the shed or sit on my step in the backyard, the stench is so strong, I stay inside now. We had a bird feeder in the yard. When the cats started coming around, they killed the birds. We stopped feeding the birds and that was something my husband enjoyed. They have taken over the neighborhood. They sit on top of my car, under it, on my step, in the backyard, under the sheds and pass through the sheds. There was a fight in my backyard once and I had to listen to it outside my bedroom window. I do not want to hurt them, but I do not want them on my property.”

Mayor Butler opened Public Hearing 2 An ordinance amending, restating, striking and replacing Section 30 of Chapter 5 of the City Code – Smoking in public places.

Dr. James B. Stukes, 213 Cottonwood Drive, stated, “I teach at South Carolina State University (SCSU). This issue is important to me because of the increase in cancer incidents in the local area but also in the state of South Carolina. We have established an undergraduate program in cancer research at SCSU. We are the only HBCU where you can get a bachelor’s degree with a concentration in oncology. We see in the newspapers, and the internet that smoking including secondhand smoke increases your risk of getting cancer. We think this ordinance will help with the health of citizens in Orangeburg. Lung cancer is one of the most prevalent types of cancer. You can have other issues like emphysema and asthma. My church, SCSU, and Claflin University are all smoke free campuses.”

Dr. Celestial Haynes Price Davis, 1164 Magnolia Street, stated, “I am in support of everything Dr. Stukes stated. It is important for our youth to have clean spaces and areas. Anything to encourage good, healthy habits and behaviors. I have a family member that died a few years ago because of secondhand smoke from her husband smoking. An example is going to the grocery store and getting in and out of my car, my children and I are inhaling it. This is something we should not be privy to because of the decision of others.”

Mr. Vandy Gaffney, 1831 Old Riley Street, stated, “I am here on behalf of the Fire Squad, an award-winning national organization of young high school students, who came before you to present the damages of tobacco and vaping. We need to have a safe, clean environment and clean air so we can go out without inhaling tobacco products. No one is exempt from being affected by secondhand smoke.”

Dr. LaShandra Morgan, Breathe Easy SC, 1031 Middleton Street, stated, “There were some things that I noticed in the policy under exemptions. I want you to think about the impact that your policy will have. In the exemptions section, it talks about not being able to smoke at different places except these places, exemptions 3, 4, 5, and 6. Tobacco retail stores, even though they sell tobacco products such gas stations, Family Dollar, General Dollar, it is saying it is okay for people to smoke outside of those buildings. People complain at certain establishments there are people outside smoking, and they are trying to go inside and are having to deal with secondhand smoke. With religious ceremonies, Native Americans who use tobacco in their rituals is not commercial tobacco. Also smoking by performers during a theatrical event that requires smoking in the context of the

performance is putting other people at risk. People that smoke are affecting other people's health. Under Medical Research Facilities, it talks about cessation, which is people that are trying to quit, they are inhaling other people's smoke. You want your policy to be impactful."

Ms. Wanda Harrison, 1252 Nelson Street, stated, "I advocate for a smoke-free environment. I think the facts and statistics speak. Secondhand smoke is people who do not smoke being affected by those who are smoking. Secondhand smoke claims roughly 1.29 million lives every year which equals one person every 24 seconds. One death from secondhand smoke happens every 10 – 12 minutes. I think we need to take this into consideration as it is for the greater good of the community, environment and the air here is very thick. If you are someone with asthma or a breathing problem, think about the fact that someone is smoking, you are encountering their smoke. So now you are more compromised. I think if people who smoke are educated and care about their fellow man, woman, and children, they should consider a smoke-free environment because no one is saying you cannot smoke, it is saying be considerate of the public."

The Public Hearing portion of the meeting was closed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve May 5, 2026, City Council Minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning third reading of an ordinance authorizing the transfer of approximately 0.28 acres of real property with improvements, if any, located at 1125 Russell Street TMS #0173-13-34-013.000, and approximately 0.33 acres of real property with improvements, if any, located at or about 1067 Amelia Street TMS #0173-13-33-004.000. He stated, "As a reminder, these are properties the Hexagon Development Group is interested in purchasing. The property at 1125 Russell Street is known as the old Braxton Shoe Store. They are looking at placing 37 one and two-bedroom apartment units at market rate prices of \$1,350 - \$1,850 at that location along with a sports bar. It would be marketed to young professionals. This is zoned for B2. There is no parking space requirement in B2. There is adequate parking across the street and behind the buildings on Russell Street. At 1067 Amelia Street property they are offering 37 one and two-bedroom apartments at the same price point. On the first floor, they are proposing a restaurant with a parking structure. This is currently zoned B1 which requires 73 parking spaces. Diagonally across the street there are about 90 spaces and 200-some-odd spaces within the area. They are proposing to purchase at 5% of the tax market value which for the Amelia Street property would be a little less than \$2,000 and for Russell Street, it would be approximately \$7,800 as an incentive to help them locate to our downtown."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "Are there clawbacks in the agreements?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "Yes, there are clawbacks in the agreement that require the developer to begin the development within a two-year period and substantially complete within a four-year period. If these requirements are not met, the City can repurchase the properties at the price that they were sold including any improvements."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve third reading of an ordinance authorizing the transfer of approximately 0.28 acres of real property with improvements, if any, located at 1125 Russell Street TMS #0173-13-34-013.000, and approximately 0.33 acres of real property with improvements, if any, located at or about 1067 Amelia Street TMS#0173-13-33-004.000. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning second reading of an ordinance amending, restating, striking and replacing Chapter 12 of the City Code – Animal Control. He stated, "This is an extensive ordinance. When we first got started there was a lot of language related to exotic animals. That language has been removed, and it is now more focused on domestic animals, feral cats, and dogs that are roaming. It prohibits animals from running at large and allows for empowerment of those animals. Under penalties, if a person is found to have a nuisance animal, the first offense is \$300. The second offense is \$400 and a third and subsequent offense is \$500. Those offenses are taken within a 12-month time frame. It requires animals to be treated humanely; be confined and restrained or subject to impoundment; and receive sufficient food and water. If they are owned by someone, they are required to provide adequate shelter and adequate veterinary care."

Mayor Butler stated, "I think that we should be considerate of our neighbors so they can enjoy their houses and property. This has been a problem. If I put myself in that situation, I would not want that many cats on my property. I would like to see if we could work with the cat rescue people that are here tonight to help with picking the cats up. Even if we do not have a place to put the animals, I think we should put this in place."

Councilmember Hawkins asked, "In Section 12-48 a-4 it states, an animal that has been determined to have been abandoned is subject to seizure. Have we figured out what we are going to do with those animals or where they will go?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "As you all know, we currently do not have adequate space to impound a lot of animals. Chief can better speak to this. We have had conversations with the County to expand their current space but that is an issue."

Ms. Jane Singh with For the Love of a Paw stated, "There is no way we can pick up all the feral cats in the City of Orangeburg. We could help possibly with some, but we are never going to rescue our way out of a situation. That is why we believe in TNR which is trap, spay, neuter and return because science and studies have shown that the cat population will reduce if you stop them from reproducing. The lady tonight stated the population reduced from 66 to 21 because she is helping to spay and neuter the cats. We cannot pick them up, but we can help with solutions."

Councilmember Hawkins stated, "Section 12-51 feeding of a feral animal. We must remember that these animals are feral. They are wild animals. When you feed them, it brings them into the community. These animals have survived for thousands of years without us, and they can survive for thousands more years without us. We need to be cognizant of our citizens. I think we have heard some good complaints and problems that need to be addressed. I think this ordinance is good, we just need to figure out where the cats need to go."

Councilmember Keitt stated, "We need to think about these citizens that must deal with issues with these cats. It is unfair to them. They have purchased homes and are unable to use all the areas of their property. Something must be done. The people that are feeding the cats, need to make sure that those cats remain with them."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "There was a conversation with the County as you mentioned to expand their location. I have spoken with people at the County of Orangeburg, and they are ready and willing. I think as soon as we can work out the ratio of cost, we could get the facilities. Where are we on that?"

Chief Austin stated, "We are still having conversations with representatives from the County. We have one quote for a stand-alone facility, but we still want to know what it would cost to add to the County's facility. As it is right now, we do not have kennels. If we pick up the cats, we do not have any place to hold them. We will get that information as quickly as possible. In the meantime, we are still trying to ensure that we handle the situation in a humane way."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "Will you have this information in a month or two months? This is an issue concerning the citizens of Orangeburg and it is an ongoing situation. To satisfy the citizens of Orangeburg, we need to come up with a timeline that this can be done. Do you have an estimation of the cost?"

Chief Austin stated, "For a stand-alone facility, we are looking at approximately \$38,000 - \$45,000."

Councilmember Hannah asked, "How many would that house?"

Chief Austin stated, "Ten. I would encourage you to keep in mind that this is a citywide problem. Ten might address the problem on Dantzler Street but throughout the rest of the City, we have a community cat issue that needs to be handled."

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu stated, "I think the main goal is population control of the feral cats. If we allow the population to grow more, then we need to look at health issues. The young lady spoke about having E coli and salmonella. Cat scratch is another very infectious disease that we have heard some patients die from. If your immune system is low the treatment is not simple. I

understand those that love and want to keep animals but at the same token, we need to have a law in place that will help us control the population and keep the citizens of Orangeburg safe. If not, the cost of health care will keep rising.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Hawkins seconded by Councilmember Grevious to approve second reading of an ordinance amending, restating, striking and replacing Chapter 12 of the City Code – Animal Control. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning second reading of an ordinance amending, restating, striking and replacing Section 30 of Chapter 5 of the City Code – Smoking in Public Places. He stated, “This ordinance will require all employers to maintain smoke-free workplaces. It would prohibit smoking in all city-owned leased to operated buildings and vehicles, outdoor property adjacent to City buildings and any areas under City control. It also expands public smoking restrictions to restaurants, bars, retail establishments, health care facilities, public transportation areas, waiting areas, and outdoor public gathering spaces. The restrictions would include a prohibition of smoking within 25 feet of public building entrances or exits or near outdoor public events, public transportation stations. Exceptions to the band which were highlighted earlier in the public comment section include private residences, private clubs, retail tobacco stores, religious ceremonies, medical or scientific research involving smoking. Penalties or fines are as follows: first violation, a fine not exceeding \$100, second violation, a fine not exceeding \$200 and for each additional violation not to exceed \$500 for each additional violation. Also, smokeless tobacco was removed from the ordinance.”

Councilmember Hawkins asked, “Who will enforce this?”

City Administrator Evering stated, “Department of Public Safety will be required to enforce it.”

Councilmember Hawkins asked, “Does this still include the vape smoke?”

City Administrator Evering stated, “Yes.”

Councilmember Hawkins stated, “I think we need to take into consideration that a lot of people use vape products to try to stop smoking cigarettes to get milligrams down. Also, there is a statement in the ordinance that you cannot smoke in your own car in a drive-through. In my opinion, this is a bit of government overreach, and I wanted to state it for the record.”

Councilmember Knotts asked, “In terms of violations, how are we going to monitor? How do we know if this is the persons, first or second offense?”

City Administrator Evering stated, “They are given a citation so there is a record.”

Councilmember Grevious stated, “I recommend under the exceptions striking number three, the retail tobacco stores as it was pointed out in the public hearing, this could be gas stations, vape shops, tobacco shops, etcetera.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “That would be Section 5-30.4 Item 3.”

Mayor Butler asked, “Are you saying that this is service stations?”

Councilmember Grevious stated, “Yes, it could be included as it is written, ‘any retail tobacco store’, is vague and could be considered a gas station, an actual vape store or an actual tobacco store. As it is written, I recommend that it is excluded from the exceptions.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “I will read the definition of retail tobacco store. ‘It means any establishment which is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale to consumers, but not for resale, tobacco products and paraphernalia in which the sale of other products is merely incidental and in which the entry of persons under the age of 18 is prohibited at all times.’”

Councilmember Grevious stated, “I still move that it is excluded from the exceptions.”

Mayor Butler asked, “You said under 18?”

Councilmember Grevious stated, "They have to be 18 to enter."

City Administrator Evering stated, "I think they were trying to specifically target shops that sold tobacco products solely."

City Attorney Mosser stated, "Mr. Evering is correct. The purpose of that is to address cigar stores and businesses whose primary purpose is to sell tobacco. You must be over 18 to enter these establishments. It would essentially be a cigar store, for example, that you must be 18 to enter which would not apply to a gas station. Obviously, you can be under 18 to enter a gas station."

Mayor Butler stated, "Councilmember Grevious, please state your reason you want to strike this."

Councilmember Grevious stated, "Mr. Evering has clarified. However, I do not agree with allowing them to smoke in front of a retail tobacco or vape shop as you are still in a public place. To me it is counterintuitive to what we are trying to do with the ordinance."

City Administrator Evering asked, "For clarity, if we strike that, would that eliminate cigar bars or lounges as well?"

City Attorney Mosser stated, "Yes, you would appear to be attempting to put those businesses out of operation which would be problematic for other purposes."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "It is a retail store, correct? A cigar lounge would be considered a retail store? Are we not talking about outside of these places? I need more clarity. I am not trying to put anyone out of business, but I am trying to protect the health and wellbeing of our citizens that do not want to be exposed to that type of smoke in a public environment."

City Attorney Mosser stated, "The exceptions are inside so most of the restrictions pertain to a 25-foot perimeter. If you look at Section 5-30.4, it says smoking may be permitted in the following places and under the following circumstances. So, you can smoke in a private club, and you can smoke in a retail tobacco store."

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannah, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu to approve second reading of an ordinance amending, restating, striking and replacing Section 30 of Chapter 5 of the City Code – Smoking in Public Places. The motion was approved 6-1. Councilmember Hawkins opposed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Grevious to go into Executive Session concerning discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, proposed sale or purchase of property and the receipt of legal advice. Section 30-4-70(a)(2) a) Cameron Water System, b) Civil Rights Museum, c) Airport Hangar Lease 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

